



SUBMISSION TO THE CLIMATE FINANCE WORK PROGRAMME ON ARTICLE 9 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Introduction

Habitat Association welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Climate Finance Work Programme.

As a non-profit civil society organization advancing sustainable development for over 30 years, Habitat implements nationwide programmes across all 81 provinces of Türkiye while also developing and delivering initiatives in Azerbaijan, Jordan and Kazakhstan. Through collaboration with governments, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, Habitat contributes to international cooperation, knowledge exchange, capacity building and the localization of global sustainable development and climate agendas.

Habitat's recommendations are grounded in more than three decades of implementation experience and extensive collaboration with diverse stakeholders. Through multi-stakeholder partnerships and community-based programmes, Habitat has reached over five million beneficiaries and implemented initiatives on climate action, environmental sustainability, water stewardship, climate literacy, circular economy and youth engagement in partnership with organizations such as the UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, the European Union and WWF. This experience has demonstrated that climate action is most effective when global commitments are translated into locally led, community-driven solutions supported by strong partnerships and local capacity development.

Drawing on this practical experience, Habitat respectfully submits the following recommendations in support of a more inclusive, accessible and effective climate finance architecture that enables locally led climate action.

Key Recommendations

Based on its implementation experience, Habitat Association recommends that the next phase of the Climate Finance Work Programme should:

- Increase direct access to climate finance for local civil society organizations and community-based implementers.
- Recognize investments in capacity building, climate literacy, behavioural change and youth engagement as essential components of climate finance.
- Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships among governments, civil society organizations, international organizations and the private sector as a core delivery mechanism for climate action.
- Simplify funding application and reporting procedures to improve accessibility for local organizations, particularly in developing countries.
- Strengthen monitoring frameworks that measure not only financial inputs but also behavioural change, community participation, youth engagement and long-term resilience.
- Encourage knowledge sharing and the replication of successful community-based climate action models across countries and regions.

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1. Climate finance should invest not only in infrastructure, but also in people.

Article 9 of the Paris Agreement highlights the importance of providing and mobilizing financial resources to support climate action in developing countries. To maximize the effectiveness of these investments, climate finance should support not only technological solutions and infrastructure, but also the people who will drive and sustain climate action.

Greater investment in capacity building, climate literacy, environmental education and community engagement is essential to empower children, young people and local communities as active participants in the transition to a climate-resilient future.

Investing in people increases the effectiveness, sustainability and long-term impact of climate finance by strengthening local ownership and implementation capacity.

2. Local civil society organizations should have greater access to climate finance.

Local civil society organizations play a critical role in implementing climate action and reaching communities that are often underserved by large financing mechanisms. However, many organizations continue to face procedural, administrative and institutional barriers when accessing international climate finance.

Improving access requires simplified application and reporting procedures, dedicated funding windows for local actors, institutional capacity-building support and stronger partnerships between international institutions and local implementing organizations.

Strengthening local delivery mechanisms will significantly improve the effectiveness, inclusiveness and long-term impact of climate finance.

3. Multi-stakeholder partnerships should become a core element of climate finance.

Effective climate finance requires collaboration beyond governments alone. Our experience demonstrates that the most sustainable climate solutions emerge through partnerships among public institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations, academia and the private sector.

Climate finance should actively encourage partnership models that combine complementary expertise, strengthen local ownership and enable successful community-based initiatives to scale. Such partnerships mobilize additional resources while increasing innovation, accountability and long-term sustainability.

4. Children and young people should be recognized as climate actors.

Children and young people are often viewed primarily as beneficiaries of climate action. Our experience demonstrates that, when equipped with knowledge, practical skills and opportunities to participate, they become active contributors to climate action and powerful agents of behavioural change within their families, schools and communities.

Climate finance should therefore include dedicated support for youth participation, climate education, volunteer engagement and youth-led climate initiatives as essential components of implementation. Investing in young people strengthens both the social impact and the long-term sustainability of climate finance.

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5. Climate finance should measure transformational impact.

Transparency is fundamental to the effectiveness of climate finance. While financial reporting remains essential, progress should also be measured through meaningful indicators that capture tangible outcomes.

Monitoring frameworks should assess improvements in climate literacy, behavioural change, community participation, strengthened local capacities, youth engagement and long-term resilience alongside financial inputs and outputs.

Such an approach would provide a more comprehensive understanding of how climate finance contributes to sustainable development and supports the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Conclusion

Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement requires climate finance that is accessible, inclusive and responsive to local needs.

Strengthening local capacities, supporting community-led implementation and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships will be essential to ensuring that climate finance translates into meaningful climate action.

Habitat's experience demonstrates that climate action is most effective when global commitments are translated into locally led solutions through strong partnerships, community participation and sustained investment in people.

Habitat Association welcomes the continued evolution of the Climate Finance Work Programme as a platform for strengthening implementation, fostering collaboration and ensuring that climate finance reaches the communities where it can generate the greatest impact.

Habitat Association remains committed to contributing field-based evidence, practical experience and scalable partnership models to international climate policy processes while supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

About Habitat Association

Habitat Association (Habitat) is a non-governmental organization that produces social capacity-building and impact-oriented projects based on strong partnerships compatible with the digitalizing world and aimed at sustainable development. Founded in 1997 by young people who came together for the Copenhagen Social Development Summit in 1995 and the United Nations Habitat II Summit in 1996, Habitat's mission was to establish a communication bridge between the youth of the world and the youth of Türkiye.

Since 1997, Habitat has been carrying out activities for all segments of society with thousands of volunteers in 81 provinces of Turkey. Habitat supports Sustainable Development Goals by equipping disadvantaged groups with the digital skills required by the age to realize themselves, ensuring their access to opportunities, supporting their participation in decision-making processes, and increasing their social and environmental sensitivity. Habitat establishes multi-stakeholder partnerships with governments, local administrations, the private sector and civil society organizations in all its work.

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