

Review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention

Informal note by the Chair

I. Introduction

A. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its eighteenth session, adopted the eight-year Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention and decided that it would be reviewed in 2020.¹ COP 25 requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its fifty-second session, to launch the review of the implementation of the Doha work programme; and, following the review, to consider future work to enhance implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, collectively referred to as Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), and to prepare a draft decision for consideration and adoption at COP 26.² In addition, it decided on the following actions, which were completed in 2020, needed for the review to be undertaken:³

(a) Parties and observers to make submissions on steps taken to implement the Doha work programme and ACE, as well as recommendations and views on future work to enhance ACE implementation;

(b) The secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on progress and effectiveness, as well as emerging gaps, needs and recommendations, in relation to the Doha work programme and ACE; and an information note presenting options and ways for future work to enhance ACE implementation following the review of the Doha work programme;

(c) The secretariat to organize the 8th ACE Dialogue to advance discussions on future work to enhance ACE implementation.⁴

2. In the scenario note published on 7 May 2021,⁵ I indicated that a note would be shared prior to this sessional period to facilitate Parties' considerations. The aim of this note is to reflect possible structures and elements that may be taken into consideration by Parties in their deliberations.

B. Status of work

3. During the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020, I held the first virtual informal consultations following the 8th ACE Dialogue.

4. Following subsequent guidance from the COP Bureau, I convened a series of virtual informal consultations and expert group meetings, between 11 March and 19 May 2021, as an informal space for Parties and observers to advance discussions on the review of the Doha work programme and future work to enhance ACE implementation.⁶

¹ Decision 15/CP.18, paras. 1–2.

² Decision 15/CP.25, para. 1.

³ Decision 15/CP.25, annex.

⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/education-youth/events-meetings/ace-dialogues/8th-dialogue-on-action-for-climate-empowerment>.

⁵ See para. 79 of the note, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/274035>.

⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/education-youth/events-meetings/ace-activity-series-2021> for information on the ACE activity series, including recordings of and presentations from the expert group meetings.

5. As part of this ACE activity series, three informal consultations were held with the aim of building on the first informal consultations referred to in paragraph 3 above and the expert group meetings referred to in paragraph 6 below.

6. Two expert group meetings were held with a focus on raising awareness and providing opportunities for technical discussion on specific elements in order to advance discussions at the subsequent informal consultations. The meetings were organized on the following topics, which were identified through submissions and other inputs as persistent gaps in and barriers to ACE implementation:

(a) Monitoring, evaluation and reporting of ACE activities;

(b) Support for ACE implementation, including climate finance, capacity-building, partnerships and peer-to-peer exchange.

7. In listening carefully to Parties' views during the informal consultations and expert group meetings, I am encouraged to see structures and elements emerging that are likely to benefit Parties' further deliberations during this sessional period.

8. So that all Parties and observers are aware of what has been previously discussed, I have listed below my high-level observations on the discussions. It should be noted that these points are not a summary or conclusion of those discussions and are without prejudice to the structure or elements of a future decision:

(a) Many elements of the Doha work programme, including some of the guiding principles and activities, such as inviting Parties to nominate national focal points for ACE and requesting the secretariat to organize the annual in-session ACE Dialogue, still hold value and could be included in a successor work programme;

(b) Inclusive engagement in ACE implementation needs to be maintained and potentially strengthened. A broad range of stakeholders at different levels and across sectors should be actively engaged in ACE implementation, which could take place systematically under a successor work programme through a virtual marketplace, hub or portal that connects stakeholders working on ACE under and outside the UNFCCC;

(c) A country-driven and flexible approach that reflects national priorities and needs should be maintained under a future work programme. Efforts should be made to advance knowledge and understanding of ACE and all its six elements and to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of Parties and other stakeholders to implement ACE, such as through capacity-building, partnerships and peer-to-peer exchange;

(d) However, there is also a need for more consistency and ambition at the international level, including in relation to monitoring and reporting, to facilitate national ACE implementation. In this regard, a future work programme may benefit from additional structure, such as an action plan or road map for collective and international action;

(e) Ideas have emerged on how Parties could use this additional structure to achieve a balance between the needs for a framework with long-term vision and perspective (e.g. over 10 years) and for immediate action through shorter-term clear and time-bound activities (e.g. within a five-year period). A regular review process could be put in place for assessing progress, identifying remaining gaps and challenges, and updating or renewing shorter-term activities at the midway point, guided by the long-term vision and perspective;

(f) A successor work programme needs to reflect the cross-cutting nature of ACE, especially within the workstreams and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The six elements of ACE need to be addressed in a balanced manner;

(g) Adequate financial resources from diverse funding sources need to be provided to support ACE implementation at all levels.

II. Organizational matters and proposed approach

A. Organizational matters

9. Following the note by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies on the modalities for session organization,⁷ informal consultations will be scheduled during this sessional period for this agenda sub-item.⁸ I have asked Albert Magalang (Philippines) to act as co-facilitator for this agenda sub-item; a second co-facilitator will be announced in due course. I propose that the informal consultations be open to observers.

B. Proposed approach

10. I invite Parties to constructively engage in the informal consultations during this sessional period and I look forward to seeing progress, including through consideration of the relevant synthesis report⁹ and information note¹⁰ and the summary report on the 8th ACE Dialogue.¹¹

11. Parties may wish to use also this note as the basis for further discussion. To that end, in addition to my observations listed in paragraph I.B.8 above, I have captured some specific elements, actions and activities proposed during the informal consultations and expert group meetings in a non-exhaustive list contained in the annex.

12. The subheadings used in the annex were also used during the ACE activity series to focus the discussions on identifying specific and priority elements, actions and activities for future work on ACE. Parties may wish to continue using these subheadings to focus the discussions in the informal consultations during this sessional period:

- (a) Guiding principles;
- (b) Broad open-ended outcome-oriented activities at different levels;
- (c) Specific time-bound activities intended to support a particular ACE element at a particular level or in a particular sector;
- (d) Specific time-bound activities related to implementation of the ACE work programme;
- (e) Regular secretariat activities.

13. Neither my observations nor the annex captures all aspects that have been discussed. Nevertheless, I hope that Parties find this note useful.

14. It is my expectation that Parties will arrive at a common understanding on possible elements of draft conclusions and/or a draft decision on the outcome of the review of the Doha work programme, which I will capture in an informal note under my authority, which will provide the basis for further discussion with the aim of reaching agreement on this agenda sub-item at COP 26.

⁷ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/274043>.

⁸ Information on the schedule will be made available at <https://unfccc.int/SB2021/schedule>.

⁹ FCCC/SBI/2020/9.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBI/2020/INF.4.

¹¹ FCCC/SBI/2021/1.

Annex

Non-exhaustive list of possible elements, actions and activities proposed during the Action for Climate Empowerment activity series

This annex, including headings, is without prejudice to the structure/elements of the conclusions/decision or to the placement of any provision within that structure.

(a) Guiding principles

- Continue to be guided by the guiding principles identified in paragraph 14 of the Doha work programme, including a country-driven and flexible approach.
- Strengthen the role of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) in delivering on the key principles of the Paris Agreement, including human rights, just transition, gender equality, and the integration of indigenous peoples in climate action.
- Meet the needs of children and youth and integrate the needs and perspectives of children and youth across ACE activities and climate action.
- Take an approach based on human rights and climate justice.
- Continue and enhance engagement with non-Party stakeholders at all levels, including the scientific community, cultural and academic institutions, the private sector, local government, local communities and indigenous peoples, youth, vulnerable groups and people of all genders.
- Foster public participation of all stakeholders, especially vulnerable populations.
- Address the six ACE elements in a balanced/integrated manner.

(b) Broad open-ended outcome-oriented activities at different levels

- Develop a clear, flexible road map following an incremental approach with a strategic vision and key areas and milestones for each year.
- Include a robust and streamlined list of suggested or recommended activities that cover all six ACE elements in a balanced manner.

(i) Policy coherence

- Integrate ACE across/strengthen linkages with existing UNFCCC workstreams and processes, including capacity-building, gender, local communities and indigenous peoples, and loss and damage.
- Align activities under the ACE work programme with priorities and time frames under the UNFCCC process, including the submission cycle of nationally determined contributions and the global stocktake.
- Enhance the integration of ACE into the development and implementation of national climate policies, plans, strategies and action.
- Parties continue to develop and implement ACE national strategies.
- Parties continue to appoint and support ACE national focal points to implement ACE activities at the national and local level.
- Create synergies with other international processes outside the Convention, including the Sustainable Development Goals and Education for Sustainable Development for 2030.
- Integrate climate change education into all school curricula.

(ii) *Coordinated action*

- Foster coordination and engagement between the UNFCCC national focal points and ACE national focal points.
- Strengthen in-country coordination at different levels to avoid duplication of efforts and promote knowledge-sharing.
- Develop national institutional arrangements for coordinating and monitoring ACE activities undertaken by non-governmental organizations and civil society.
- Build long-term, strategic and operational multilevel, multi-stakeholder, intergenerational partnerships to bring together different expertise, resources and knowledge.
- Organize an annual in-session dialogue under the UNFCCC to share strategies, tools, activities, best practices and lessons learned.
- Establish a task force, expert group or advisory group to share information, produce guidance documents, facilitate financial support and monitor ACE implementation.
- Promote collaboration between actors at all levels and leverage the resources and expertise of entities under and outside the UNFCCC, including the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, UNFCCC observer constituencies and other United Nations agencies.

(iii) *Tools and support*

- Build capacity and raise awareness of Parties and non-Party stakeholders on ACE, including ACE national focal points, keeping in mind technological, language and other potential barriers.
- Share information and guidance documents and undertake peer-to-peer exchange with different stakeholders working on ACE.
- Enhance the understanding of ACE and fill the gaps in information about ACE implementation at different levels.
- Respect and integrate traditional and indigenous knowledge and knowledge systems, including to enhance communication and knowledge-sharing.
- Provide long-term funding for ACE activities at different levels (e.g. international, national, local).
- Recommend ACE as a transversal requirement for the climate finance projects of all relevant funds.
- Request the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other development financial institutions to allocate specific funding for ACE activities.
- Allocate national budget for ACE implementation.
- Use existing bilateral and multilateral initiatives and programmes related to ACE implementation.

(iv) *Harmonized reporting*

- Develop a standardized system for monitoring and evaluation of ACE activities for all Parties.
- Report on all six elements of ACE consistently through UNFCCC reporting mechanisms (national communications, biennial update reports, biennial transparency reports, etc.) to enhance sharing of good practices and lessons learned.

(c) **Specific time-bound activities intended to support a particular ACE element at a particular level or in a particular sector**

(i) *Coordinated action*

- Strengthen the network of ACE national focal points to exchange views, including via a platform or regular meetings.
- Organize formal and informal, in-person and virtual meetings, forums or consultations on ACE on a regular basis.

- Establish locally anchored networks of ACE stakeholders that provide information to national and international processes.
- Organize workshops on engaging children and youth in climate policy and action.
- Share best practices of engaging children and youth in all elements of ACE.
- Promote greater involvement of non-Party stakeholders, including youth, in monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Establish an accountability and monitoring mechanism to support the engagement of marginalized groups.
- Organize “focus years” on various ACE elements.

(ii) *Other activities for specific ACE elements*

- Build capacity of teachers and university educators to integrate climate change across all curricula, including through North–South cooperation.
- Train government officials from different ministries/departments at different levels and local communities to enhance institutional and technical capacity.
- Improve public access to information at the national and local level, using various methods and tools, bearing in mind the differentiated climate impacts on communities, groups and individuals.
- Develop guidelines for public participation in decision-making for local governments, citizens and young people.

(iii) *Tools and support*

- Draw on institutions and initiatives that can support ACE at all levels.
- Facilitate research on the implementation of all six ACE elements to generate baseline data.
- Build the capacity of youth, including via youth delegate programmes and national youth conferences.
- Develop an ACE platform, network, repository, database, workspace or clearing house to facilitate collaboration and information-sharing.
- Strengthen partnerships through South–South cooperation.
- Establish a clear distinction/definition of ACE financing.
- Produce a global report on funding for ACE, including information on baselines.
- Develop a centralized support platform, such as an ACE marketplace, which can connect Parties requiring support with donors and organizations offering support.
- Develop a dedicated ACE fund or a seed fund to facilitate ACE activities and monitoring.

(iv) *Harmonized reporting*

- Make information, knowledge and data more accessible and standardized for reporting.
- Invite other United Nations agencies to report on ACE implementation at all levels.
- Develop standardized methods and templates for reporting on ACE activities for all Parties.
- Develop a standardized evaluation process and presentation of results.
- Develop clear indicators and targets at the collective level to show progress and change.

(d) **Specific time-bound activities related to implementation of the ACE work programme**

- Organize joint meetings and events in connection with other workstreams and processes to promote knowledge-sharing and dissemination of good practices on the implementation of the work programme.

- Invite all constituted bodies to include in their regular reports information on progress and to participate in in-session dialogues.
- Facilitate inclusive and technical conversation on the implementation of the work programme through annual in-session dialogues or intersessional gatherings.
- Undertake a midterm review of progress and remaining gaps and challenges under the work programme.
- Ensure adequate and sustainable funding for the secretariat to support ACE, including under the work programme.

(e) Regular secretariat activities

- Prepare a report synthesizing the information provided by the constituted bodies on the integration of ACE into their respective workstreams.
- Prepare a regular report synthesizing the submissions from Parties and observers on their implementation of the ACE work programme.
- Prepare technical reports and background papers on the progress of ACE implementation.
- Prepare a synthesis report on the integration of ACE across national climate policy and action using information from reports and communications submitted by Parties.
- Prepare user-friendly and flexible guidelines/tools for ACE implementation.
- Organize international/regional training and workshops addressing different aspects of ACE implementation.
