Options and ways for future work to enhance the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, following the review of the Doha work programme

Information note by the secretariat
2020 Recap

February
- Submissions
  (FCCC/SBI/2020/9)

April
- Synthesis Report
  (FCCC/SBI/2020/9)

June
- Information Note
  (FCCC/SBI/2020/INF.4)

June - December
- 8th ACE Dialogue
  - Two global events
  - Four regional dialogues
    (FCCC/SBI/2021/1)

December
- First Virtual Informal Consultations

It is broadly agreed that **ACE is fundamental to achieving the objectives** of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. For enhanced climate ambition and action, Parties and non-Party stakeholders at all levels require a **better understanding** of the climate emergency and the **capacity and determination** to contribute to climate solutions.

Gaps and needs for ACE

• The **Synthesis Report** (FCCC/SBI/2020/9) and the 8\textsuperscript{th} **ACE Dialogue** both revealed some of the persistent gaps and needs for ACE implementation.

- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of commitment
- Lack of awareness
- Lack of capacity
- Lack of engagement
- Persistent gap in climate education
- Need for stronger international cooperation

→ Information note and the discussions made at the 8\textsuperscript{th} ACE Dialogue focused on identifying options and ways for overcoming these challenges.

• Following the terms of reference for the review of the Doha work programme adopted at COP 25 (2019), the information note synthesizes the proposals made by Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

◎ Information sources include:

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General observations

- It is recognized that the review must catalyse *a quantum leap* in enhancing implementation of ACE and mainstreaming it in climate policy.

- In general, Parties and non-Party stakeholders suggested the following *options* for a successive work programme to enhance implementation of ACE:
  
  (a) An **updated Doha work programme** that serves as a flexible framework with *no time-bound* activities for long-term engagement and implementation;

  (b) A **new work programme with an action plan or road map** that identifies *common priority areas* with key activities, targets and indicators.

Parties and non-Party stakeholders proposed a time frame of **5 or 10 years** for a successive work programme, with either **annual** progress review or **periodic** reviews of progress aligned with:

Purpose and guiding principles

Purpose

• A successive work programme could continue to serve as a flexible framework for country-driven action addressing the specific needs and circumstances of Parties and reflecting their national priorities and initiatives.

Guiding Principles

• A successive work programme could retain the guiding principles from the Doha work programme.

• Additional approaches, principles and target actions were also proposed:
  
  ❑ **To strengthen** certain aspects of existing principles, such as gender mainstreaming, youth empowerment, and stronger engagement and collaboration with all actors;
  
  ❑ **To add** new principles, including on human rights, indigenous peoples, just transition, addressing six ACE elements in a balanced manner, ‘lifelong learning’, and building a social mandate for climate action.

Scope and activities

Scope

- The Doha work programme set out the scope of and provides the basis for action on activities related to ACE.
- Parties and non-Party stakeholders proposed that a successive work programme **address the six ACE elements in a balanced manner** and that each element be defined or described.

Activities

- Parties and non-Party stakeholders proposed a non-exhaustive list of specific activities that can be undertaken at different levels under a successive work programme.
- Multiple good practices are also recorded in the Synthesis Report as well as through the annual ACE Dialogues.

Successive work programme could include an action plan or road map as well as priority areas with key activities, annual targets and indicators for measuring progress using gender-disaggregated data.

&lt;Potential priority areas and cross-cutting issues identified in previous ACE events&gt;

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## Priority areas (II)

### I. Policy Coherence

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<th>At the national level</th>
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<td>Enhance efficiency and avoid duplication of efforts by:</td>
<td>(a) <strong>Integrating ACE as an essential component</strong> of national education and climate change policies (such as NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS), and sectoral strategies and plans;</td>
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<td>(a) <strong>Mainstreaming ACE</strong> across the Convention and the Paris Agreement including in the work of technology, gender, local communities and indigenous peoples, adaptation and capacity-building;</td>
<td>(b) Developing and implementing <strong>national ACE strategies</strong> with an action plan and evaluating them regularly through a participatory process.</td>
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<td>(b) <strong>Establishing linkages with international frameworks</strong> including 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNESCO framework on ESD for 2030.</td>
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II. Coordinated action

**Coordination & Collaboration**

(a) Enhancing *in-country coordination*,
   between the education and environment sector,
   as well as with subnational and local governments;

(b) **Decentralizing the leadership** of ACE projects
   to local governments and organizations;

(c) Establishing **effective multi-stakeholder partnerships** at all levels for fostering implementation of ACE national strategies;

**Institutional arrangements**

(a) Establishing a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder **national coordination platform** for ACE;

(b) Establishing annual **national ACE dialogues**;

**ACE national focal points**

(a) Appointing ACE focal points and providing them with adequate training, mandates and resources;

(b) Strengthening national **institutional capacity beyond** the ACE national focal point;

### Priority areas (IV)

**III. Harmonized reporting**

- It was proposed to develop a clear tracking, review and reporting, which could include:

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<th>Robust indicators</th>
<th>Specific guidelines and templates</th>
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<td>❑ all Parties have the capacity to apply;</td>
<td>❑ to track progress of and reporting on</td>
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<td>❑ in line with the action plan of the work</td>
<td>action on the six ACE elements;</td>
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<td>programme;</td>
<td>❑ via communication and reporting by</td>
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<td>❑ based on a multi-stakeholder, inclusive</td>
<td>Parties under the UNFCCC.</td>
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<td>and participatory process.</td>
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Reviewing progress and reporting

• Monitoring
  ❑ With common targets and measurable indicators for the six elements, while ensuring country-driven action, accompanied by an annually assessed action plan that is linked to an enhanced ACE Dialogue as well as an overall periodic monitoring and review system.

• Review
  ❑ SBI could review the implementation of the work programme annually or biennially;
  ❑ Outcome could inform global stocktake, NDC revision, and voluntary national reviews under the 2030 Agenda.

• Targets and indicators
  ❑ Could be derived from SDG indicators and the UNESCO Education for SDGs Learning Objectives;
  ❑ Other specific indicators are also proposed for each ACE element.

• Reporting
  ❑ Through national communications, biennial reporting and other relevant reports.

Priority areas (V)

IV. Tools and support

(a) Strengthening **individual and institutional capacity** to foster ACE implementation;

(b) Developing **tailored materials, toolkits, guidelines and knowledge products**;

(c) Establishing **knowledge management systems** to identify and compile good practices and lessons learned;

(d) **Capacity-building** and **knowledge exchange activities** using in-person and virtual tools;

(e) Strengthening the **global and regional networks** of ACE national focal points;

(f) Facilitating **mobilization of resources**, including by national investment plans, proposals or a marketplace.

Means of implementation (I)

• A successive work programme needs to be accompanied by accessible, predictable and varied sources of funding from international, public and private sources, and technology and capacity-building support.

• Also, a successive work programme could:
  - Establish **new instruments** for finance and capacity-building:
    - an **ACE marketplace** to facilitate the provision of financial support;
    - an **ACE fund or seed fund** that would provide grants for ACE programmes and projects;
    - an **ACE portal or platform** to share experiences and good practices, track progress and foster cooperation.
  - Encourage dedicated financial support for **standalone ACE programmes and projects** in developing countries;

(…)

Means of implementation (II)

- Integrate ACE into existing financing mechanisms and frameworks:
  - Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanisms could include ACE elements as *necessary components* of funding proposals;
  - Other entities proposing and implementing climate finance projects could *incorporate some ACE principles*;
  - Invite Operating Entities and Party delegates on finance matters to *participate in ACE workshops and meetings*;

- Invite Parties and non-Party stakeholders to jointly explore *blended finance strategies, multi-stakeholder investment strategies*, and *public-private partnerships* to facilitate sustainable financing of ACE;

- Support *projects* and *scholarships for youth* to participate in climate change negotiations;

- Increase *secretariat’s budget* for supporting ACE implementation.

Other arrangements

• Parties and non-Party stakeholders highlighted the importance of an annual ACE Dialogue continuing under a successive work programme.

• Other proposals for arrangements include:
  ❑ Developing national ACE online platforms for sharing materials and interacting with ACE national focal points;
  ❑ Organizing regional, national and local ACE dialogues;
  ❑ Establishing an ACE task force or expert committee, with members representing Parties and non-Party stakeholders, that could help to ensure effective and inclusive action and identify experience and good practices;
  ❑ Establishing an international network of organizations working on ACE.

Role of the secretariat

• The secretariat continues to carry out open-ended mandates under the Katowice decision (17/CMA.1).

• Parties and non-Party stakeholders further proposed that the secretariat:
  ❑ Map opportunities for financial support and making support more accessible to Parties;
  ❑ Develop guidelines for fostering ACE implementation and compiling good practices;
  ❑ Identify entry points of ACE into other workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
  ❑ Support global and regional awareness-raising;
  ❑ Ensure that ACE workshops and activities are participatory;
  ❑ Produce reports on the ACE Dialogue.

Next steps

2021

- **March**
  - 24 March: Informal Consultations #2

- **April**
  - 14 April: Expert Group Meeting on Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
  - 21 April: Informal Consultations #3

- **May**
  - 5 May: Expert Group Meeting on Support (Finance & Capacity-Building)
  - 19 May: Informal Consultations #4
