United Nations

Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Forum of Article 6 registry administrators

Standards and recommended practices

Interim progress report

I. Introduction

1.   This interim progress report covers activities performed in supporting the implementation of the voluntary forum of Article 6 registry system administrators and technical experts of participating Parties (hereunder "Forum of Article 6 registry system administrators")

2.   The report also includes information on future anticipated activities related to the Forum of Article 6 registry system administrators and communication standards.

II. Forum of Article 6 registry system administrators

A. Mandate

3.   CMA 4 requested the secretariat to establish a voluntary forum of Article 6 registry system administrators and technical experts of participating Parties to facilitate cooperation among them, including sharing knowledge and experience in the context of implementing and operating the infrastructure under Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, and to provide input to the further development and implementation of infrastructure, as necessary; it also requested the secretariat to establish an online platform for information exchange and to support the forum in identifying topics of interest and relevant activities, including for public engagement.

4.   Participation in the forum is open to all registry system administrators and technical experts who have been nominated by their respective national focal points, the Article 6.4 mechanism registry administrator, and other relevant experts who can contribute to the subjects under discussion.

B. Progress to date

5.   The activities of the forum, which involve developing inputs to infrastructure, communication standards and recommended practices for tracking registries, are conducted through working groups established by the forum as needed, with each working group focusing on a specific topic, issue or document.

6.   In July 2023, the secretariat published a concept note aimed at establishing a solid foundation for the work of the forum going forward.

7.   The first meeting of the forum took place in hybrid format on 23 October 2023, attended by around 120 participants. Presentations and discussions at the forum covered:

    (a)   The concept note for the forum;

    (b)   Infrastructure under Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement;

    (c)   Interoperability between registry systems;

    (d)   The organization of working groups, following which initial working groups were established on communication standards and interoperability; information security and fraud prevention; contact management; and change management.

8.   Between February and April 2024, the secretariat worked on developing an online platform to support the work under the forum, which is currently in-use by more than 200 registry administrators and technical experts.

9.   From March to June 2025, the secretariat organized ten working group meetings covering three key topics: infrastructure, communication standards and contact management. Each meeting was well attended, by 40 to 60 participants depending on the meeting.

10.   Under the infrastructure working group, the secretariat presented various options to enable and facilitate interoperability between Article 6 tracking registries. Registry administrators and technical experts contributed valuable input to these discussions. In addition, the secretariat presented the requirements related to interoperable registries related to non-repudiation and reconciliation within and between registries.

11.   Under the communication standards working group, the secretariat presented its ongoing efforts to develop communication standards for the transaction of ITMOs (see below). These standards are essential for ensuring interoperability between registries. The secretariat produced four draft versions, incorporating feedback to progressively refine these standards. The secretariat also developed and maintains a FAQ and an API, assisting registry developers in building interoperable systems implementing these communication standards.

12.   Under the contact management working group, the secretariat introduced processes and workflows designed to streamline the management of contact information within the registry system administrators' community, including integration with the online platform. A formal contact management procedure was established to support this effort.

C.   Anticipated work

13.   A second Forum of Article 6 registry system administrators is scheduled to take place in October 2025. The forum may:

(a)   Review progress made by the established working groups;

(b)   Establish new working groups or discontinue existing ones, as appropriate;

(c)   Contribute to the formalization of input to the CMA concerning the infrastructure;

(d)   Adopt a baseline version of the communication standards.

14.   As a result of the second Forum of Article 6 registry system administrators, additional working group meetings are expected to take place from October 2025 onwards. These meetings will support the further development of the communication standards, as well as the elaboration of additional procedures and/or recommended practices.

III.   Communication standards

A.   Mandate

15.   CMA 4 requested the secretariat to develop, publish and periodically update, for participating Parties opting to apply the guidance referred to in decision 6/CMA.4, annex I, chapter I.B, standards and recommended practices for electronic recording of data and information related to ITMOs, and communication standards for interoperability and transactions with ITMOs, including record-keeping arrangements, data security protocols, risk management and disaster recovery procedures, and other practices, as necessary, including with inputs from the forum of Article 6 registry system administrators.

16.   The communication standards are intended primarily for use by Parties engaged in cooperative approaches using interoperable registries for ITMO transfers, but their use may also prove beneficial, in whole or in part, for other Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

B.   Progress to date

17.   The development of the communication standards is being carried out with the input of registry system administrators, within the context of the communication standards working group established under the forum of Article 6 registry system administrators.

18.   As of this writing, four iterations of the standards have been made available to and reviewed with registry administrators. Each version has incrementally improved in content and clarity, reflecting feedback received.

19.   In parallel with the development of the communication standards, the secretariat maintains a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. This document compiles answers to questions raised during meetings or submitted directly to the secretariat. All questions are anonymized before publication.

20.   Additionally, the secretariat maintains an API definition (in OpenAPI format), which complements the communication standards. This API serves as a key specification for registry developers aiming to build interoperable Article 6 tracking registries.

C.   Anticipated work

21.   At least two additional iterations of the draft communication standards are expected to be made available to registry administrators before the standards are finalized at the second Article 6 RSA Forum in October 2025.

22.   Once the standards have reached sufficient maturity and incorporate all relevant feedback from registry administrators, the secretariat will publish them, along with the accompanying FAQ and API definition, on the CARP platform. This is anticipated to take place before September 2025.

23.   Once finalized, the communication standards will be maintained through a formal change management process, which is yet to be established by the Article 6 RSA Forum. Ongoing feedback from implementers and registry administrators is, and will continue to be, incorporated as needed over time.