

Submission of Views to the Supervisory Body

Honduras on behalf of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations

Guidance on the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement

26 October 2023

Honduras, on behalf of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, is hereby submitting its views on the ‘*Draft Tool: Article 6.4 sustainable development tool*’ to the 8th meeting of the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body.

All Parties, and their nominated members of the Supervisory Body of the Article 6.4 Sustainable Development tool, must recall that:

- The Paris Agreement is the governing and legally binding agreement on climate change and is superior to any subsequent CMA decision.
- For the above considerations, any guidance developed by the SB must not prejudice, and be consistent with, the Paris Agreement and its already decided matters related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancing forest carbon stocks in developing countries and all those already agreed decisions specified in Article 5, paragraph 2.

Considering that during its “*fourth meeting, the Supervisory Body requested the secretariat to prepare an updated version of the document “Information note: Activities involving removals under the Article 6.4 mechanism”, considering the guidance and questions contained in annex 2 to the SB 004 meeting report² and the views of Parties and observers submitted in response to the call for submissions pursuant to decision 7/CMA.4, paragraph 19*”¹, we submit that:

- The CMA shall provide guidance to the Supervisory Body by taking decisions on, inter alia: (c) Matters relating to the operation of the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, as appropriate (decision 3/CMA.3, para. 2 c).
- The Supervisory Body shall supervise the mechanism under the authority and guidance of the CMA and be fully accountable to the CMA (decision 3/CMA.3, para. 3).

¹ Draft recommendation, Activities involving removals under the Article 6.4 mechanism, version 03.0

- The SB received the mandate from CMA3 to elaborate and further develop on: c) Activities involving removals, including appropriate monitoring, reporting, accounting for removals and crediting periods, addressing reversals, avoidance of leakage, and avoidance of other negative environmental and social impacts, in addition to the activities referred to in chapter V of the annex (Article 6, paragraph 4, activity cycle).

Specifically, the Information Note related to the Article 6.4 Sustainable Development Tool refers in some its key sections to language that is not consistent with the Paris Agreement nor to any concept agreed by the Parties.

For example, point 1.5.f indicates the draft A6.4 SD tool to provide separate module/guiding questions for REDD+ projects/AFOLU/Cancun safeguards.

REDD+ as defined by Article 5.2 of the Paris Agreement refers to “policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”. Neither the Paris Agreement, nor any COP or CMA decision has ever referred to the concept of “REDD+ project”.

Another example related to environmental and social safeguards, point 5.12 indicates that [If a proposed activity falls under the category of REDD+ according to paragraph 71 of decision 1/CP.16, the activity participant shall follow the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 of appendix I of decision 1/CP.16 and, when applicable, the safeguards guidelines submitted by Parties (available on the UNFCCC REDD+ WEB Platform)].

Decision 1/CP.16, Appendix I has already established guidance and safeguards for policy approaches and positive incentives relating to REDD+. That is the only guidance regarding safeguards agreed by the Parties under the Paris Agreement. Any additional “Safeguard guidelines submitted by Parties” are not applicable as they have not been agreed by all Parties. However, Parties have submitted information on their respective Safeguard Information Systems, subject to 1/CP.16, Appendix 1, Paragraph 2 which are available on the UNFCCC REDD+ Web Platform.

Regarding **removals** in developing countries:

- The Paris Agreement, Article 5, paragraph 1, refers to sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1(d), of the Convention, including forests.
- In particular, the Paris Agreement, Article 5, paragraph 2, codifies and embeds the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

- The already agreed decisions referred to in the Paris Agreement, Article 5, paragraph 2, include guidance on appropriate monitoring, reporting, accounting for removals and crediting periods, addressing reversals, avoidance of leakage, and avoidance of other negative environmental and social impacts.
- The forest sector is the only sector that is explicitly singled out and regulated by the Paris Agreement.

Regarding **avoidance**,

- SBSTA under the guidance of CMA is currently considering the matter of avoidance
- Under agenda item 14b of its provisional agenda, CMA5 will provide guidance on, amongst others, Consideration of whether Article 6, paragraph 4, activities could include emission avoidance and conservation enhancement activities;
- The Article 6.4 Supervisory Body has no mandate to duplicate or prejudice this process and must await guidance from the CMA from the conclusion of its ongoing process.

Appendix: Agreed Decisions under Article 5.2 of the Paris Agreement

List of REDD+ decisions under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement

1. Decision 1/CP.13, Bali Action Plan
2. Decision 2/CP.13, Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action
3. Decision 2/CP.15, Copenhagen Accord
4. Decision 4/CP.15, Methodological Guidance for REDD+
5. Decision 1/CP.16, The Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention
6. Decision 2/CP.17, Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention
7. Decision 12/CP.17, Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected and modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels as referred to in decision 1/CP.16
8. Decision 1/CP.18, Agreed outcome pursuant to the Bali Action Plan
9. Decision 9/CP.19, Work programme on results-based finance to progress the full implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70
10. Decision 10/CP.19, Coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangements
11. Decision 11/CP.19, Modalities for national forest monitoring systems
12. Decision 12/CP.19, The timing and the frequency of presentations of the summary of information on how all the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected
13. Decision 13/CP.19, Guidelines and procedures for the technical assessment of submissions from Parties on proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels
14. Decision 14/CP.19, Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying
15. Decision 15/CP.19, Addressing the drivers of deforestation and

forest degradation

16. Decision 1/CP.20, Lima Call for Climate Action
17. Decision 1/CP.21, Adoption of the Paris Agreement
18. Decision 16/CP.21, Alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests
19. Decision 17/CP.21, Further guidance on ensuring transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness when informing on how all the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected
20. Decision 18/CP.21, Methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70
21. Decision 18/CMA.1, Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement