

**A6.4-SB003-AA-A03**

## Draft Recommendation

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# Removal activities under the Article 6.4 mechanism

Version 02.0

DRAFT



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

## COVER NOTE

### 1. Procedural background

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), by its decision 3/CMA.3 “Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement”,<sup>1</sup> requested the Supervisory Body of the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (the Supervisory Body), to elaborate and further develop, on the basis of the rules, modalities and procedures of the mechanism, recommendations on 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), to be considered at its fourth session (November 2022).
2. The Supervisory Body, at its first meeting (25–28 July 2022), agreed that an informal working group on removals comprising its members and alternate members as well as the secretariat staff would work prior to the second meeting of the Supervisory Body to prepare draft recommendations to the CMA, taking into account the inputs provided at this meeting for consideration by the Supervisory Body at its second meeting, with a view to forwarding recommendations to CMA 4.<sup>2</sup>
3. The Supervisory Body, at its second meeting (19–22 September 2022), agreed that the informal working group on removals will continue to work on the high-level draft recommendations applicable to all types of removal activities that were prepared as an in-meeting document.<sup>3</sup>
4. The informal working group on removals agreed to forward the draft recommendations contained in this document to the Supervisory Body for its consideration at its third meeting (3–5 November 2022), with a view to forwarding the recommendations to CMA 4.

### 2. Purpose

5. This document contains draft recommendations for removal activities under the Article 6.4 Mechanism.

### 3. Key issues and proposed solutions

6. The draft recommendations contained in this document cover the specific issues mentioned in paragraph 6(c) of decision 3/CMA.3 “Rules, modalities and procedures for

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<sup>1</sup> Document FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/10/Add.1 available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/460950>

<sup>2</sup> Document A6.4-SB001 (paragraph 12) available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/a64-sb001.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Document A6.4-SB002 (paragraph 12) available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/a64-sb002.pdf>.

the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement”, namely, appropriate monitoring, reporting, accounting for removals and crediting periods, addressing reversals, avoidance of leakage, and avoidance of other negative environmental and social impacts.

7. For the purpose of brevity, the term “removal activities” has been used in this note to imply “activities involving removals”.

#### **4. Impacts**

8. This document will facilitate the consideration by the Supervisory Body of the recommendations for removal activities under the Article 6.4 Mechanism.

#### **5. Subsequent work and timelines**

9. Further work will be taken up as agreed by the Supervisory Body.

#### **6. Recommendations to the Supervisory Body**

10. It is recommended that the Supervisory Body take this document into consideration while developing recommendations requested by the CMA under paragraph 6(c) of decision 3/CMA.3.

## Recommendations for activities involving removals under the Article 6.4 Mechanism

### 1. Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), by its decision 3/CMA.3 “Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement”, requested the Supervisory Body of the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (the Supervisory Body), to elaborate and further develop, on the basis of the rules, modalities and procedures of the mechanism, recommendations on 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), to be considered at its fourth session (November 2022).<sup>4</sup>
2. Following the request by the CMA contained in its decision 3/CMA.3, paragraph 6(c), the Supervisory Body agreed to make recommendations on removal activities under the Article 6.4 mechanism, as contained in this document.
3. The Supervisory Body notes that the recommendations provided herein are applicable to generic removal activities and do not include detailed requirements in respect of specific types of removal activities such as land-based removal activities and engineering-based removal activities. In order to develop recommendations at the level of activity types, more work will need to be undertaken by the Supervisory Body.
4. [In this regard, where removal activities occur within the boundaries of a large-scale (i.e., national, sub-national) strategy or program for reducing and removing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by terrestrial sinks, further methods for coordinating and/or reconciling accounting, emissions leakage, monitoring, and safeguards will be developed by the Supervisory Body.]

### 2. Definitions

5. For the purpose of activities involving removals under the Article 6.4 Mechanism:
  - (a) **Option 1:** Definition of “Removal activities”

**Option 1a:** “Removal activities” means anthropogenic activities removing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and durably storing it in geological, terrestrial or ocean reservoirs, or in products. It includes existing and potential anthropogenic enhancement of biological or geochemical sinks and direct air capture and storage but excludes natural CO<sub>2</sub> uptake not directly caused by human activities.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Document FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/10/Add.1 available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/460950>

<sup>5</sup> IPCC, 2018: Global Warming of 1.5°C, Annex I: Glossary. Available at: [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/SR15\\_Full\\_Report\\_HR.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/SR15_Full_Report_HR.pdf).

**Option 1b(i):** “Removal activities” means anthropogenic activities resulting in withdrawal of a greenhouse gas (GHG) and/or a precursor from the atmosphere by a sink.<sup>6</sup>

**Option 1b(ii):** “Removal activities” means anthropogenic activities resulting in withdrawal of a greenhouse gas (GHG) from the atmosphere and their long-term storage by a sink or reservoir.

NOTE: The sixth assessment report of the IPCC recommends use of the term CDR: “Measures that result in a net removal of GHGs from the atmosphere and storage in either living or dead organic material, or in geological stores, are known as CDR, and in previous IPCC reports were sometimes referred to as greenhouse gas removal (GGR) or negative emissions technologies” (IPCC AR6-WG-III, agreed text).

**Option 1c:** “Removal activities” means measures that result in a net removal of GHGs from the atmosphere and their destruction or storage in geological, terrestrial or ocean reservoirs, or in products. It includes existing and potential anthropogenic enhancement of biological or geochemical sinks but excludes natural [CO<sub>2</sub>][GHG] uptake not directly caused by human activities;

**Option 2:** Definition of “Removals”

**Option 2a:** “Removals” are verified tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) removed from the atmosphere through anthropogenic activities and durably stored in geological, terrestrial, or ocean reservoirs, or in products;

**Option 2b:** “Removals” are verified tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent removed from the atmosphere through anthropogenic activities and durably stored in geological, terrestrial, or ocean reservoirs, or in products;

- (b) “In-situ” refers to the results of removals that are accumulated by the removal activity within the crediting period and geographic boundary of the activity;
- (c) “Ex-situ” refers to the results of removals that were transported, moved or stored away from the site where these were accumulated but are within the activity boundary;
- (d) “Leakage” means the indirect quantifiable increase in GHG emissions occurring outside the activity boundary that is attributable to the activity;
- (e) “Reversal of removals” means the release into the atmosphere, before the end of a specified period of time, of the verified tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent removed from the atmosphere, [or GHG destroyed,] for which A6.4ERs have been issued.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

### **3. Requirements**

6. Removal activities under the Article 6.4 Mechanism shall meet the requirements contained in sub-sections 3.1 to 3.7 below, in addition to the requirements contained in the annex to decision 3/CMA.3 “Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement”, and any further relevant decisions of the CMA.
7. Removal activities under the Article 6.4 mechanism shall be implemented within national jurisdictions and borders, shall comply with relevant national laws, international conventions and agreements, and have a possibility to be accounted for in the national greenhouse gas inventories.

#### **3.1. Monitoring**

8. Removal activities shall monitor the results of removals through quantification and estimation based on field measurements, field measurements in combination with remote-sensing data, or measurement through appropriate instrumentation.
9. Results of the estimation of removals shall be stated with the associated uncertainties, and these uncertainties shall be within the limits to be specified in the methodologies.
10. If the uncertainty in estimates exceeds the specified limits, the estimated values shall be adjusted in a conservative manner.
11. Estimation of removals may employ conservative default factors that allow flexibility in monitoring or monitoring with lower costs.
12. The initial monitoring [may be carried out at any time selected by the activity proponents][must be carried out within one year of the activity start date]. Subsequent monitoring shall be required within a period of [X] [2] years from the date of the previous verification, or within [Y days][6 months] of an observed reversal, as applicable.
13. In order to address the risk of reversal and to ensure full compensation of reversals, monitoring may be required after the end of the crediting period, depending on the methodological provisions to be developed by the Supervisory Body.

#### **3.2. Reporting**

14. Activity participants shall prepare monitoring reports after monitoring operations and summarize the estimated removals resulting from the monitoring.
15. Monitoring reports shall contain the following:
  - (a) Description of monitoring operations and methods and the resulting estimates of removals along with the associated uncertainties;
  - (b) Field data, including remotely sensed data, or if such data is too voluminous, a summary of such data and an indication of how the complete data set may be accessed;
  - (c) Records and logs of events or incidents that might have led to a reversal of removals previously verified as applicable, as well as a summary of any reversal notifications that were submitted during the intervening period;

- (d) Estimates of a reversal that occurred, if any, during the period covered by monitoring;
  - (e) Information on how the reversal was addressed following the requirements to be developed by the Supervisory Body in this regard;
  - (f) Information on how the environmental and socioeconomic impacts were assessed and addressed by applying robust social and environmental safeguards, following the provisions to be developed by the Supervisory Body in this regard;
  - (g) Information on how the removal activity is fostering sustainable development, following the provisions to be developed by the Supervisory Body in this regard.
16. Simplified monitoring and reporting may be allowed, subject to methodological provisions to be developed by the Supervisory Body in this regard, when the purpose of monitoring is to ensure continued existence of the results of removals and not to seek verification of additional results of removals.

### **3.3. Accounting for removals**

17. The activity boundary for the accounting of removals and project emissions shall include the in-situ results of removals, the ex-situ results of removals, the equipment and the material used, and any sources of emissions related to implementation of the activity.
18. Any carbon pools and GHGs may be optionally excluded from the activity boundary if such exclusion results in a conservative estimation of net removals.
19. Where GHG emissions occur in the baseline of the activity and the implementation of the activity leads to reduction in those emissions, the emission reductions shall not be accounted as credits. Notwithstanding this, any increase in the GHG emissions, relative to the baseline, caused by the implementation of the removal activity shall be deducted from the achieved removals.

### **3.4. Crediting period**

20. A renewal of crediting period shall apply the latest updated version of the applicable methodology.

### **3.5. Addressing reversals**

21. Activity participants shall assess and mitigate the risk of reversal and address reversals by following requirements to be developed by the by the Supervisory Body in this regard.

### **3.6. Avoidance of leakage**

22. A removal activity shall be designed to avoid or minimize leakage.
23. Leakage that cannot be avoided shall be monitored, quantified and deducted from the removals achieved by the activity.
24. If indirect leakage, such as leakage due to market effects or resource competition, is likely to occur, the effect of such leakage shall be quantified, and an adjustment factor, to be developed by the Supervisory Body, shall be applied to the removals achieved by the activity.

### 3.7. Avoidance of other negative environmental and social impacts

25. A removal activity shall be designed to avoid or minimize negative environmental and social impacts. Any potential negative environmental and social impacts likely to be caused by the implementation of a removal activity shall be identified in the activity design document and addressed as appropriate by following requirements to be developed by the Supervisory Body in this regard, while respecting sovereignty of national strategies.
26. A removal activity shall be designed so as not have negative impacts on biodiversity, land and soils, ecosystem health, human health, food security, local livelihoods, and the rights of the indigenous peoples taking into account the host Party's national plans.

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#### Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
02.0	25 October 2022	Published as an annex to the annotated agenda of SB 003. This version incorporates comments from the Supervisory Body at SB 002 (SB 002, para. 12).
01.0	15 September 2022	Published as an annex to the annotated agenda of SB 002.

Decision Class: Regulatory  
Document Type: Recommendation  
Business Function: Methodology  
Keywords: Article 6.4 mechanism, emission removal activities, methodologies, recommendation to CMA, regulatory framework