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In-session workshop under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement

Report by the secretariat

Summary

This report summarizes the presentations, world café session and round-table discussions at the in-session workshop under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement, as well as Parties' reflections on the workshop, held on 12 November 2024 during the sixty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. The report has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the activities of the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches.



Abbreviations and acronyms

ABM	Adaptation Benefit Mechanism
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEFIA	Cleaner Energy Future Initiative for ASEAN
CLARA	Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance
FWG	Facilitative Working Group
GCNMA	Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches
LiFE	Lifestyle for Environment
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NMA	non-market approach
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SUBARU	Sustainable Business of Adaptation for Resilient Urban future

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, at its fourth session, requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate opportunities for Parties participating in NMAs to identify, develop and implement NMAs by:¹

(a) Organizing an in-session workshop, including plenary presentations and round-table discussions, to be held in conjunction with each meeting of the GCNMA, for exchange of information on NMAs, including best practices for and lessons learned from identifying, developing and implementing them, as well as on NMAs that may require financial, technology and capacity-building support and the support available for them;

(b) Preparing a report on each workshop for consideration by the GCNMA at its subsequent meeting.

2. SBSTA 60 requested the secretariat to organize an in-session workshop, including round-table discussions, as referred to in paragraph 1(a) above, to be held in conjunction with GCNMA 6, with a focus on, *inter alia*:²

(a) Sharing information on NMAs submitted to the NMA Platform;³

(b) Inviting interested Parties, relevant bodies, institutional arrangements and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement related to, *inter alia*, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, including United Nations bodies, multilateral, bilateral and other public donors, and private and non-governmental organizations, to provide information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available or provided for identifying, developing or implementing NMAs for recording on the NMA Platform.

3. As no NMAs were submitted to the NMA Platform prior to GCNMA 6, the activity referred to in paragraph 2(a) above could not take place as intended. Instead, during the intersessional period, the secretariat invited Parties and non-Party stakeholders to submit expressions of interest to present at the in-session workshop on their experience with NMAs.

B. Scope

4. This report describes the proceedings of the in-session workshop held in conjunction with GCNMA 6 (see chap. II below). It summarizes the presentations (see chap. III below), world café session (see chap. IV below) and round-table discussions (see chap. V below) at the workshop and provides some reflections from Parties thereon (see chap. VI below). The report does not reflect the views of all Parties, as not all Parties were represented at the workshop.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

5. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information in this report in considering the implementation of the activities of the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement and in decision [4/CMA.3](#).

¹ Decision [8/CMA.4](#), para. 10.

² [FCCC/SBSTA/2024/7](#), para. 160(b).

³ <https://unfccc.int/nma-platform>.

II. Proceedings

6. The in-session workshop was held on 12 November 2024 during SBSTA 61. It was opened by the SBSTA Chair, Harry Vreuls (Kingdom of the Netherlands), and facilitated by the GCNMA Co-Chairs, Kristin Qui (Samoa) and Jacqui Ruesga (New Zealand).

7. The objective of the workshop was to provide opportunities for participants to exchange information on current or planned NMAs, reflect on support available and needed for strengthening NMAs and discuss best practices for and lessons learned from identifying, developing and implementing NMAs.

8. Having responded to the invitation to express interest in presenting their NMAs at the workshop, representatives of the following Parties made presentations: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, India, Japan and Uganda; as well as representatives of the following non-Party stakeholders: African Development Bank, CGIAR and CLARA.⁴

9. Following the presentations, a world café session provided an opportunity for presenters to engage informally with small groups of participants to explore the presenters' topics in more detail.

10. The subsequent round-table discussions were opened by a representative of the FWG of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, after which participants were encouraged to share their views on the presentations and key insights from the world café session.

III. Summary of presentations

11. A representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia presented on “Mother Earth Centric Actions”, which are ecocentric and rights-based actions aimed at enabling harmonious and complementary relationships between people and nature. Such an approach promotes the continuity of all living beings and their communities while ensuring that the environmental functions of Mother Earth are not commodified. The representative discussed joint climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development approaches through international cooperation.

12. A representative of Burundi shared examples of the country's NMAs and climate action at the local government level. The presentation included insights into how NMAs are contributing to the achievement of Burundi's NDC and the implementation of non-market solutions that support climate adaptation, resilience-building and community engagement. The representative outlined Burundi's plans to prepare its third NDC, stating that consultations will take place with all stakeholders, with non-governmental organizations anticipated to be the main actors in this process.

13. A representative of India discussed the Mission LiFE initiative, which aims to mobilize individual and community actions towards more sustainable lifestyles. The initiative emphasizes behavioural changes that reduce the environmental footprint in areas such as water use, food systems and single-use plastics. Projected impacts of action conducted under the initiative compared with a ‘business as usual’ scenario for 1 billion people in India from 2022–2023 to 2027–2028 include saving up to 9 trillion litres of water by turning off taps when not in use and diverting up to 15 billion tonnes of food waste from landfills through home composting.

14. A representative of Japan provided an update on two NMAs presented at the in-session workshop held in conjunction with GCNMA 5: CEFIA and SUBARU. Under CEFIA, a flagship finance project is mobilizing funding for energy transition and decarbonization in ASEAN countries. Recently seminars were organized to introduce decarbonizing technologies developed by Japanese companies to development banks in ASEAN countries. Under the SUBARU initiative, the annual Environmental Technology Expert Group Meeting under the United Nations Human Settlements Programme was held

⁴ The presentations are available at <https://unfccc.int/event/in-session-workshop-under-article-68-of-the-paris-agreement-gcnma-6>.

in September 2023 and brought together participants from Asia and the Pacific. The meeting facilitated matching the needs of local governments with technologies provided by Japanese companies to enhance climate resilience.

15. Representatives of Uganda and the African Development Bank delivered a joint presentation on the ABM. The ABM represents a new approach to scaling up adaptation finance by enabling developed countries, consumers, the private sector and philanthropies to contribute to the costs of adaptation by purchasing certified adaptation benefits, which are quantified or qualified outputs, outcomes or impacts of a registered adaptation activity. The African Development Bank supports implementation of the ABM pilot phase; however, it is seeking between USD 20 million and USD 50 million to establish a facility for enabling payments upon delivery of certified adaptation benefits and for the provision of technical assistance for the development of public ABM methodologies for key adaptation project types. In Uganda, support is being sought under the ABM for strengthening water and nutrition security in rural communities by investing in solar water supply systems, climate information services for rural communities and initiatives addressing urban flooding linked to waste management.

16. A representative of CGIAR presented a proposal for a rapid assessment tool for identifying NMAs. The proposed tool would help Parties to interpret the principles of Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement in accordance with their national context. The tool has two main objectives: to support and promote the registration of NMAs on the NMA Platform by providing structured and accessible guidance, and to enhance transparency and collaboration within the NMA framework by addressing the demand for clear guidance and standardized evaluation. The aim of the tool is to simplify NMA registration by addressing the complexities and varying levels of expertise among Parties, thereby making the process more user-friendly and accessible. Its development will include a review of UNFCCC documents related to Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement, stakeholder consultations to ensure it reflects a range of perspectives and focuses on common challenges, the establishment of criteria for identifying NMAs while respecting the unique context and contributions of all stakeholders, a technical feasibility assessment, the development of guidelines and evaluation criteria, pilot testing and the formulation of recommendations for policymakers and practitioners on strategies for implementation of the tool.

17. A representative of CLARA spoke about a backlog in implementing the work programme under the framework for NMAs, including in identifying NMAs and supporting joint mitigation and adaptation approaches. The need for Parties to define a list of activities not eligible for NMA support was also emphasized. In addition, the representative noted that the access of non-Party stakeholders to the NMA Platform is not equal to that of Parties, which limits their participation. It was suggested that adjustments be made to the NMA Platform to ensure more equitable access. Further, some examples of community-based NMAs were provided, with the representative highlighting that Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement could serve as the foundation for a joint work programme on climate and biodiversity that would foster synergy between work under the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

18. Following the presentations, a representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made an intervention highlighting the NDC Partnership, a coalition of over 130 countries and nearly 100 institutions working on climate action aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. The representative encouraged Parties to use the NDC Partnership to reach a variety of implementing partners. Those who are already members of the NDC Partnership were urged to share the knowledge products discussed during the workshop, such as the rapid assessment tool referred to in paragraph 16 above. The NDC Partnership provides a way for countries to access support for developing and implementing NDCs, such as expertise, technical assistance and funding. For example, the United Kingdom responds directly to requests for support through its bilateral programming, including its technical assistance programme, Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions. The United Kingdom also supports multi-donor efforts in response to requests for support, such as through the Mitigation Action Facility, which assists countries that are eligible to receive official development assistance in reducing their emissions through decarbonization projects.

IV. Summary of world café session

19. The world café session facilitated engaging discussions among participants and presenters from the previous session. Participants asked detailed questions about the presentations in order to explore topics of interest and seek clarifications.

20. The session provided a platform for presenters to engage directly with participants, ask them questions and gather valuable insights. The informal and interactive format of the session fostered dynamic exchanges and encouraged deeper understanding of and collaboration on the presented topics.

V. Summary of round-table discussions

21. The representative of the FWG highlighted that NMAs embody a transformative way of thinking about climate action, as they emphasize collaboration, equity and sustainability over competition and profit. Participants were urged to scale up NMAs and recognize their potential to foster deeper partnerships, empower vulnerable communities and deliver holistic, sustainable outcomes.

22. One participant described several barriers that prevent Parties and non-Party stakeholders from submitting NMAs to the NMA Platform, noting that no NMAs had been recorded on the NMA Platform as at 12 November 2024. These include that more than one participating Party is required to record an NMA and that non-Party stakeholders face challenges in getting in touch with national focal points under Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement in order to access the NMA Platform and record NMAs. Given these barriers, the participant considered that identifying NMAs should continue in the second phase of the work programme activities as a priority, even though this phase was originally intended to focus on implementing the NMAs identified during the first phase.

23. One participant suggested that, for NMAs to be successful, they have to be closely connected to other mechanisms under the Paris Agreement that support implementation of NDCs. It was proposed that the best way to promote the participation of non-Party stakeholders in the implementation of NMAs is by ensuring their inclusive and active participation in the process of designing and updating national indicators of progress towards achieving NDCs.

24. One participant shared the challenge of having too many potential NMAs, making it difficult to select a few to feature on the NMA Platform. Hence, they expressed interest in the tool presented by CGIAR (see para. 16 above). In addition, it was noted that successful national approaches that currently lack engagement from another Party could serve as a good starting point for developing NMAs. These approaches could be expanded through international cooperation and launched as NMAs under Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement.

25. One participant proposed that the NMA Platform not only serve to share information on and experience of existing NMAs but also provide information on potential NMAs. This would enable interested donor agencies, philanthropies and private sector entities to contribute to those initiatives. Further, it was suggested that additional time be allocated at future workshops held in conjunction with meetings of the GCNMA for discussions between national focal points and interested contributors regarding potential NMAs.

26. One participant asked the representative of CGIAR how the proposed rapid assessment tool would maintain the holistic and accessible nature of NMAs while ensuring that stakeholder engagement is not perceived as interference by participating Parties. A concern was raised that establishing criteria for NMAs could be counterproductive, as it might introduce conditions that hinder the development of potential initiatives. The participant emphasized that the decision on which NMAs to pursue rests with Parties. It was proposed that, instead of the tool being used by Parties for technical assessments, it be shared in a simplified format with interested national focal points to build their capacity for identifying and developing NMAs. In response, the representative of CGIAR expressed

appreciation for these observations and noted they would be considered in the development of the tool.

27. One participant noted the need for capacity-building related to the NMA Platform, citing a lack of clarity regarding who can access it and how it should be properly used. The participant commended the presenters of the NMAs at the workshop and expressed hope that the examples will inspire more participants to share their experience in the future.

28. One participant highlighted that it was difficult for non-Party stakeholders in particular, especially those participating remotely, to follow some of the discussions at the workshop. It was suggested that recordings or access to the workshop through hybrid modalities be provided to help to address this issue. In addition, it was emphasized that the NMA Platform is quite new, with no NMAs yet registered, and so participants were encouraged to record their NMAs.

29. The representative of CLARA expressed hope that Parties will address the issues CLARA raised in its presentation. These include barriers to accessing the NMA Platform, a proposed redesign of the NMA Platform, a review of the mandate that NMAs need more than one participating Party, the articulation of a clear and defined role for national focal points and clarification of the criteria for identifying NMAs.

30. The representative of the African Development Bank announced that the Bank was supporting Uganda in the process of registering the ABM on the NMA Platform. It was highlighted that the ABM could serve as a framework for a wide range of adaptation activities, including those presented at the workshop. The ABM could provide a means of financing the scale-up and roll-out of these activities. Furthermore, there is a need to explore the different financing instruments that are applied for market-based approaches and assess how these could be applied for NMAs.

31. The representative of Japan highlighted two challenges experienced in implementing and reporting on NMAs: the first, securing investment for NMA projects, as they are not always profitable; the other, completing the submission form for recording NMAs on the NMA Platform, as it was not clear how some questions applied to Japan's initiatives. Japan had consulted with the secretariat for clarification and hoped to complete its submissions to the NMA Platform after the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties.

32. The representative of CGIAR expressed appreciation for the world café discussion format during the workshop, which enabled more personalized interactions among participants. It was noted that, while the CGIAR presentation had focused on developing a tool for assessing NMAs, the priority should be addressing existing challenges related to identifying NMAs.

VI. Reflections on the workshop

33. Parties provided reflections on the in-session workshop as part of GCNMA 6 and welcomed the presentations and discussions, including the opportunity to interact with the presenters.

34. Parties valued the introduction of the world café format during the workshop. They highlighted its interactive nature as effective in fostering engagement with presenters and exchanging experience related to NMAs.

35. Parties requested the secretariat to continue to improve the quality and efficiency of these in-session workshops, including through the inclusion of dynamic discussions such as those facilitated through the world café format.

36. Parties appreciated the contribution from the FWG and requested that an FWG representative, along with representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, be invited to all future in-session workshops held in conjunction with meetings of the GCNMA.