



Climate Action Network

Submission regarding the in-session dialogues on Action for Climate Empowerment

*Education, Training, Awareness Raising,
Public Participation, Access to Information &
International Cooperation*

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Climate Action Network International (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1100 members in over 120 countries. www.climatenetwork.org

Introduction

CAN welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on the organization of the 4th in-session Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment held in May 2016 and regarding the agenda of the upcoming 5th in-session Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment to be organized in May 2017 in Bonn.

The parties have repeatedly highlighted the importance of actions related to education, training, awareness raising, public participation and access to information for the effective implementation of the climate agreements. The effective implementation of the Doha Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment can play an important role in this context.

CAN congratulates parties for the successful conclusion of the intermediate review of the Doha Work Programme on Article 6 last year. Building on the outcomes of the review, CAN urges parties to further integrate education, training, awareness raising, public participation and access to information in their climate change policies and programmes. CAN looks forward to working with parties to support their work on these matters.

Summary

- The dialogue should aim at supporting the implementation of the Doha Work Programme on ACE with its agenda reflecting the action suggested in the work programme and during its intermediate review. Relevant actors identified in these documents should be invited to share information regarding their contributions, including good practices and barriers faced.
- The dialogue should be co-facilitated by a member from the civil society with recognised expertise on the issue at the agenda of the dialogue to fully reflect the participatory and multi-stakeholders nature of the Doha Work Programme on ACE.
- The agenda of the Dialogue should be focused and include linkages with parallel streams of works under the UNFCCC. This would inform the implementation by parties of their existing commitments and the integration of ACE therein. Potential subjects for the 5th dialogue could include the integration of climate education and training in the NDCs or education and training as means to strengthen climate adaptation - including in relation to the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- The GEF should be invited to provide an update during the dialogue with regards to the support that it makes available to parties for the implementation of actions related to ACE.

Feedback on the organization of the 4th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment

The 4th in-session Dialogue was held in May 2016 and offered an opportunity for many stakeholders and parties to discuss issues related to public awareness, public participation, access to information and international cooperation related to these matters.

CAN appreciates the efforts of the secretariat to increase the visibility of the dialogue as well as to ensure that the discussions can take place in a participatory manner.

CAN also welcomes the participation to the dialogue of key officers of the climate change process, including the COP21 presidency, the SBI chair and the executive secretary. Such participation helps increase awareness about the event as well as help keep these issues on the agenda of these actors.

We believe that the format of the dialogue with separate working groups allow for very fruitful discussions among the participants.

Views on the agenda for the 5th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment

Theme for the 5th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment

As an outcome of the intermediate review of the Doha Work Programme, the parties have agreed that the in-session dialogues must focus on good practices and lessons learned on integrating the six elements of Article 6 in relation to specific areas of implementation of the Convention.

Additionally, the parties specifically emphasized the importance for them to continue to promote the systematic integration of gender-sensitive and participatory education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information into all mitigation and adaptation activities implemented under the Convention, as well as under the Paris Agreement, including into the implementation of their nationally determined contributions and the formulation of long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (decision -/CP.22, para. 2).

We fully support this emphasis on the necessity to focus activities held during the second phase of the Doha Work Programme (2017-2020) on the integration of its six elements of ACE into existing climate policies and programmes.

We believe that the 5th Dialogue will contribute most effectively to this objective if its agenda addresses more specifically the good practices and lessons learned related to Action for Climate Empowerment in the relation of a specific area of implementation of the convention.

A more focused agenda for the Dialogue, investigating how ACE can be incorporated in the implementation of other policy areas under the Convention, could increase the appeal of this event to a broader community of experts and negotiators. whose work relate specifically to one of the key policy areas. Such a focused agenda could help to facilitate more pragmatic discussions, regarding how Parties can integrate Action for Climate Empowerment as they negotiate the modalities, guidelines and procedures under other relevant agenda items of the subsidiary bodies.

According to the biennial structure of the Doha Work Programme, the 5th Dialogue will focus on three of the elements highlighted in article 6: climate change education, training and international cooperation on these matters.

Given the importance attached by the Moroccan presidency to issues related to adaptation and loss and damage, we would therefore suggest that the 5th dialogue inaugurates the second series of in-session dialogues with a specific focus either on the integration of climate education and training in the NDCs or education and training as means to strengthen climate adaptation and loss and damage - including in relation to the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Format of the Dialogue in relation to the implementation of the Doha Work Programme

We believe that the co-chairing of the dialogue by a member of civil society with relevant recognized expertise would effectively reflect the participatory nature of the Doha Work Programme and the importance of ensuring that all stakeholders contribute to Action for Climate Empowerment. A precedent for such format can for instance be found in relation to the open multi-stakeholder dialogue to be held at SBSTA 46 in May 2017 with regards to the operationalization of the platform for the exchange of experiences and best practices related to indigenous and local knowledge (decision 1/CP.21, para. 135).

Additionally, we encourage the secretariat to continue its efforts to engage stakeholders and experts in the lead up to and during the dialogue through innovative use of web-based tools and communications in order to allow wider participation to the dialogue and increased awareness about the issues that it addresses.

In order to address para 5 of the decision adopted at COP 22 by ameliorating cross-sectoral coordination, invitations could explicitly be extended for education policy makers and experts to attend the 5th Dialogue. This would help to ensure that decision-makers with the appropriate expertise and jurisdictions are present for these important discussions.

Role of the Dialogue in relation to the implementation of the Doha Work Programme

CAN believes that the annual dialogue provides a timely opportunity for parties to receive regular updates on the progress made with the implementation of the Doha Work Programme.

One of the primary concerns raised by developing country Parties during the Doha Work Programme Review was the perceived lack of available finances for implementation of ACE. It would therefore be helpful to have an overview of what the Global Environment Facility has funded since the Doha Work Programme began. If the secretariat could invite a representative of the GEF to give a presentation during the Dialogue, this would help to determine what the GEF is able to fund and which activities will require Parties to seek support from alternative sources. Potentially a whole section of the 5th dialogue could focus on identifying sources of funding with several potential funding institutions invited to attend (as they have been invited to provide funds in para 10 but may benefit from hearing, in person, what the benefits of ACE are from its supporters).

We would encourage the secretariat to invite the COP presidency to provide, during the fifth in-session dialogue, a short update regarding the Education Day that was organized at the COP-22. In order to extend the focus of this important event to raise the profile of the other aspects of ACE beyond education, as agreed in the relevant decision adopted by the COP22 (para 9), it would be helpful for this to be followed by a multistakeholder discussion regarding the preferred format of a

potential ACE day at COP23. A breakout group during the Dialogue could potentially be dedicated to this topic, potentially creating a taskforce to support the COP23 presidency.

The secretariat could provide, during the dialogue, a short update on its progress and plans regarding the implementation of the activities that parties requested in the related decision adopted by the COP 22 (para. 13) as well as information regarding the nomination by parties of national focal points on article 6. Parties who have not yet nominated a focal point could also be encouraged to discuss the barriers they face in doing so, so that Parties who may have overcome similar barriers can offer specific advice on how to overcome such challenges.

All organisations whose roles are explicitly listed in the outcomes of the intermediate review could be invited to provide a very short update during the workshop regarding relevant activities and initiatives.¹ During the first half of the Doha Work Programme's implementation, these organisations have given many valuable presentations regarding their dissemination of information and resource materials. As such, it would be beneficial for their updates to explicitly address progress made regarding points the first three points in the decision adopted by COP 22 (para 12, a,b,c). .

In the context of the Doha Work Programme, the parties have repeatedly emphasized the opportunity provided by their reporting obligations to communicate good practices and lessons learned on issues related to Action for Climate Empowerment, for instance in the context of the national communications. Given that many parties are currently drafting their national communication, the dialogue could also reflect on this opportunity, for instance through an overview of information contained in recent national communications submitted by parties and linked to this year's theme for the dialogue.

¹ These organisations include : multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Global Environment Facility, members of the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness, and the United Nations regional commissions.