

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Chair's summary, informal consultations/informal technical expert dialogue on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Implementation of 6.8

Background

In relation to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement¹, in the context of the June 2021 subsidiary bodies sessional period, the SBSTA Chair, Mr. Tosi Mpanu Mpanu organized an informal consultation/informal technical expert dialogue on implementation of 6.8 on 9/10 June 2021. The discussion was facilitated by Peer Stiansen of Norway and Hugh Sealy of Barbados. This summary is produced by the SBSTA Chair under his own authority.

This summary aims to capture possible options for further consideration by Parties and Heads of Delegation. It is informal in nature, has no status, and does not provide negotiation text. It does not attempt to provide a record of all views expressed during the dialogue and in submissions, nor indicate the support each of the options appeared to have.

In relation to the topic of the dialogue, as at 12 June 2021, no Parties, and no observers had made informal submissions². This summary includes content from interventions that relate to options.

The informal consultations/informal technical expert dialogue

Parties indicated various views on implementation of 6.8. Interventions made responded to the guiding question provided by the SBSTA Chair as follows:

Guiding Question:

- How can we accelerate implementation of the framework?

General points

The following general points were made:

- Voluntary cooperation under Article 6, in particular, the framework for non-market approaches (NMAs) needs to meet the needs of the green recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic and the accelerating climate crisis. The economic and social toll will extend far into the future, jeopardizing our ability to recover fully, especially for Parties to maintain their NDC commitments and ambition levels.
- International cooperation is mostly done through NMAs. The framework can contribute to innovative approaches by enhancing linkages and creating synergies.

¹ Documents relating to Article 6 negotiations since 2016 can be accessed here: <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation>

² <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/submissions-informal-technical-expert-dialogues-on-article-6-of-the-paris-agreement#eq-6>

- The latest NDC synthesis report concluded that aggregate NDC ambition falls far short of a 1.5 consistent pathway. Current NDCs are insufficient to achieve the Paris Agreement’s long-term temperature goal. NMAs can contribute to closing the gap.
- Transition risks such as high costs for low-emission and/or climate-resilient technologies needed to respond to climate change and dumping of old and soon-to-be obsolete technologies must be avoided as they lock in development pathways that go against the objectives of the Paris Agreement. No country should be left behind to face the transition. NMAs such as bulk procurement, technology transfer, trade facilitation, etc. have substantial potential to advance both the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, if climate considerations are mainstreamed into policymaking.
- It is important to avoid duplication with other processes under the UNFCCC. The work programme activities should not duplicate but facilitate the work of the existing constituted bodies, identifying possible NMAs.
- The objectives under the framework’s work programme involve considering ‘how to enhance’ and considering ‘how to facilitate’. Consideration to the objectives has not been given yet because the work programme is not yet agreed, because there has been no dialogue yet with the Parties and actors undertaking NMAs to understand how they think cooperation can be enhanced. That discussion is not a delay of action, it will provide information we need to enhance real NMAs and will likely be more valuable than guessing what is useful. Funding is needed to support the development of the framework and operationalize any institutional arrangements and a source of funding needs to be identified.
- There must be balance between all parts of Article 6, including in relation to their readiness for adoption and the management of risks within them. All parts of Article 6 must be implemented fully at the same pace. Submissions this year could develop additional elements of the third draft Presidency Text annex.
- Mitigation and adaptation are two big silos, NMAs create linkage between mitigation and adaptation. This is the value added.
- The work programme could draw on the technology needs assessment.
- NMAs are at the centre of NDCs related to forests, energy, water and coast management. There is a need for the objective implementation of the framework to enhance linkages and create synergies between mitigation and adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity-building. It is not tenable to adopt detailed operational rules under 6.2 and 6.4, but only an “empty box” only focused on knowledge sharing for 6.8.
- “Adaptation credits” that provide a key source of finance and incentivize adaptation efforts, should be considered under Article 6.8.

Possible options for further consideration

Interventions focused on a number of possible options in relation to implementation of 6.8, that are set out below. In each case, the option has been introduced by at least one Party/group, but this summary does not seek to indicate how much support there is among Parties for each option, as Parties are familiar with the views expressed in submissions and interventions. Argumentation provided in interventions to support the various options are set out in italics and in abbreviated and consolidated form below the relevant option.

- **Accelerating implementation of the framework**

Options were identified:

- **SBSTA and SBI per the third draft Presidency Text**

Argumentation: The third draft Presidency text contains the work of the NMA Forum, and the draft cover decision for the third draft Presidency Text provides for work of the SBSTA and SBI on making recommendations for institutional arrangements by November 2025 and for a review of the work programme including institutional and reporting arrangements in 2024, and represents a compromise that was worked on in Madrid.

Argumentation: The third draft Presidency Text is a structured way of implementing and accelerating the implementation of the framework, per decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 39. Setting up (a process for) additional arrangements for governance of the framework would delay implementation further.

Argumentation: Work programme activities are implemented as soon as possible in 2022 without delaying it until 2023. The first set of submissions should be invited no later than March 2022, to enable sufficient time for consideration and for technical work to be undertaken in advance of the subsequent session of SBs. The early timeframes for the submission of views will enable more detail on the focus areas of the work programme whilst ensuring the equitable balance between mitigation efforts and adaptation efforts. Views from Parties on the UNFCCC web-based platform for recording and exchanging information on NMAs can be facilitated by the secretariat. By implementing the work-programme as soon as possible, we will be enabling Parties to begin identifying and prioritizing ways to use integrated approaches to increase ambition. There may be some uncertainty around the potential focus areas and types of activities that will be encompassed by the work programme, because this will be guided by the Parties.

Argumentation: Making use of the current call for submissions, Parties and observers should submit their views by COP26 in order to ensure rapid operationalization of the framework. This year, Parties could develop or refine the proposals for focus areas in the work programme. They could review the time frame for the work programme. Submissions this year could also address additional elements of the annex.

- **A temporary task force in 2022 with the joint support of SBSTA and SBI**

Argumentation: A temporary task force, nominated immediately and under the authority and guidance of the CMA, is needed to develop the work program for implementing and operationalizing the FNMA. The task force would have 15 members, develop all necessary arrangements with the joint support of the SBI and SBSTA, and recommend a decision for adoption by the CMA at CMA.4 on the progress and outcomes of the work programme. Following the adoption of the CMA decision, the task force would be dissolved and governance arrangements in the form of the Facilitative Mechanism (see below) would be implemented. The task force would work on three things: The definition and registry of the actions under the scope of NMA including the actions in countries' NDCs (a Registry Hub, see below); the development of institutional arrangements for the functioning of the framework (the Facilitative Mechanism); and the establishment of modalities, procedures and guidelines for coordination among relevant institutional arrangements to guide the work of the framework.

- **Delegate the work to SBSTA to accelerate**

Argumentation: If Parties limit the work being given to SBSTA and not to SBI, the timeline for the work programme could be accelerated and outlined and agreed in 2021 and not delayed until 2022, and the focus areas could be refined.

- **Governance arrangements**

Options were identified:

- **The NMA Forum per the third draft Presidency Text, from 2022**

Argumentation: The NMA Forum represents a compromise that was worked on in Madrid, with the understanding that the subsidiary bodies would review the arrangements in 2024 with the aim of making recommendations to the CMA for its consideration. The review dates could be later given the delay since CMA.2 in 2019.

Argumentation: The third draft Presidency text is sufficient, as it uses existing institutional arrangements such as SBSTA and SBI to provide the coordination functions, which also contributes to avoiding duplication in functions. The NMA Forum would be in the best position to handle the framework with authority over other relevant agenda items for coordination.

- **A Facilitative Mechanism**

Argumentation: The Facilitative Mechanism, having been designed by the temporary task force, and established by the SBSTA and SBI on the basis of the framework, would convene as necessary with the objective of facilitating and coordinating relevant institutional arrangements under or related to the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement and implementation of NMAs including as per the modalities, procedures and guidelines.

- **A body akin to the Paris Committee on Capacity Building**

Argumentation: Such a body would enable NMA to access GCF funding and could be supported by a unit in the secretariat. For example, there could be regional initiatives addressing renewable energy that could be funded. The body should be a permanent ongoing institution and meet in conjunction with SBSTA meetings and as appropriate.

- **Modalities of the work programme**

Options were identified in relation to the modalities:

- **Work programme modalities per the third draft Presidency text**

Argumentation: As set out in the third draft Presidency text, the work programme modalities include the coordination, where needed, of the NMA forum and relevant bodies, institutional arrangements and processes under or related to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement that are relevant to, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building and the impact of the implementation of response measures.

- **Network for coordination of support for NMA**

Argumentation: Developed by the task force, and under the guidance of the Facilitative Mechanism, the network for NMA would allow for a place to consider means of implementation and coordination among the different entities of and related to the Convention such as the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Standing Committee on

Finance, the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Center and Network, the Paris Committee on Capacity Building and the local communities and indigenous peoples platform. It would address linkages between mitigation and adaptation, and matching them to the finance, technology transfer and capacity building needs of developing country Parties by building on existing processes and institutional arrangements.

- **Recording and exchanging information on NMAs**

Options were identified:

- **The UNFCCC web-based platform per the third draft Presidency Text**

Argumentation: The proposed approach in the third draft Presidency text is still appropriate as it provides for the work programme activities to include developing and implementing a UNFCCC web-based platform for recording and exchanging information on NMAs, supporting the identification of opportunities for participating Parties to develop and implement NMAs, including in relation to finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building, and supporting matching of the NMAs and the opportunities.

- **A Registry Hub for NMA (developed by the Task Force)**

Argumentation: The Registry Hub for NMA would be where interested Parties can register NMAs to be scaled up at the national, regional and global level, such as NDCs, Joint mitigation and adaptation for the sustainable management of forests, social ecological resilience, avoidance of GHGs, ecosystem-based adaptation, integrated water management, energy efficiency schemes, and agriculture, among others that developing country Parties consider.

Argumentation: Registries and infrastructure are premature at this stage, given the uncertainty of the scope of the work programme and that this is substantially outside the boundaries at this stage. However, this does not prejudice any potential need for a registry that may arise at a later stage.

- **Reporting**

Options were identified:

- **Reporting per the third draft Presidency Text**

Argumentation: The reporting provisions still appear appropriate.

- **Reporting by the Facilitative Mechanism**

Argumentation: The Facilitative Mechanism would report on the progress and outcomes of facilitating, coordinating and implementation of NMAs including as per the modalities, procedures and guidelines.
