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# “Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”

## Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making Geneva, 23-24 February 2015

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## Outline

- Article 6 of the Convention
- Doha Work Programme on Article 6 of the Convention
- Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention
- Report on good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention
- Challenges and opportunities



# What is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?

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- ❑ UNFCCC is an outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) RIO92
- ❑ The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994
- ❑ 195 countries have ratified the Convention
- ❑ International legal framework setting out obligations of all Parties to combat climate change



# Article 6 of the Convention

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Article 6 of the Convention is related to education, training, public awareness, public access to information, public participation and international cooperation on these matters



*Parties shall promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness related to climate change and encourage the widest participation in this process, including that of non-governmental organizations.*



# Doha Work Programme on Article 6 of the Convention Decision 15/CP.18



- ❑ COP 18 adopted the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention, and decided that the eight-year work programme would be reviewed in 2020 with an intermediate review of progress in 2016.
- ❑ The Doha work programme sets out the scope and provides the basis for action on activities related to Article 6.
- ❑ The programme promotes a country-driven and phased approach integrating Article 6 activities into existing climate change programmes and strategies.



# Doha Work Programme on Article 6 of the Convention Decision 15/CP.18

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*"Public participation and public access to information are crucial in order to develop and implement effective policies, as well as to engage all stakeholders actively in the implementation of these policies"*



The Doha work programme shall be guided by a country-driven process with a gender, intergenerational, interdisciplinary, multi-sectorial, multi-stakeholder and participatory approach.



# Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention

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- ❑ Established in 2012 by decision 15/CP.18
- ❑ Organized by the SBI
- ❑ 2 annual in-session meetings so far (2013, 2014)
- ❑ Next scheduled meeting: SBI 42, June 2015

## Objective

Provide a regular forum to Parties and other stakeholders to share their experiences, exchange ideas, good practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention.



# Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention

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The dialogue clusters the six elements of Article 6 of the Convention (education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation) into two focal areas which will alternate on an annual basis as below:

- ❑ **First area:** Education and training and international cooperation on these matters
- ❑ **Second area:** Public access to information, public participation and public awareness and international cooperation on these matters

## Outcomes

- ❑ Discussions held at each meeting of the Dialogue are summarized in a report, which is forwarded for consideration to the SBI.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention

“Climate Change Education, Training and International Cooperation on such matters”

June 2015, Bonn, Germany



# Report on good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention

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The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 15/CP.18, annex, paragraph 35(a), requested the secretariat to, inter alia, prepare a report on good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention.

## **Legal frameworks for fostering public participation in climate change policy making and action**

- ❑ Many countries have included in their constitutions the right to a healthy environment and the right to participate in decision-making on environmental matters. Some countries, have integrated climate change related issues into their constitutions including the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.

### **Mexico**

The General Law on Climate Change of Mexico was adopted in 2012. It contains a chapter on social participation and emphasizes the importance of promoting public participation in its various articles. The law promotes gender sensitivity and enhances the participation of women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities.

## **Institutional structures, procedures and mechanisms for enabling intersectoral and multi-stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention**

- ❑ Many countries have institutional structures in place which provide a platform for enhancing intersectoral and multi-stakeholder action to address climate change. These institutional structures include councils, interministerial committees and commissions.

### **France**

An example of a governmental agency that works to engage stakeholders in the decision-making process is the National Council of Ecological Transition in France. The Council is chaired by the Minister of Ecology and has 50 members representing local authorities, inter-professional unions, environmental associations and parliamentarians.

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# Report on good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention

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## Access to information and communication mechanisms for fostering an effective and meaningful stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention

- ❑ Parties recognize that public access to information on matters relating to climate change is essential for an effective participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes and for mobilizing climate action. Governments and NGOs have used various channels and mechanisms such as websites, newsletters, scientific and technical publications, radio and television programmes, conferences, seminars and workshops to facilitate public access to information.

**In Sweden**, the environmental authorities have created databases that are accessible to the public through the Internet. Information about the state of the environment is freely available through the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency website.

## Public participation in the development of national strategies and action plans on Article 6 of the Convention

- ❑ Some countries have reported that they have developed a national strategy on Article 6 of the Convention through a multi-stakeholder participatory process with the involvement of NGOs, the private sector, local governments and communities.

**Indonesia's** national climate change learning strategy was developed through a series of multi-stakeholder consultations and workshops organized between 2012 and 2013 with the participation of representatives of various governmental departments, the private sector, United Nations agencies, universities, development partners and NGOs.



# Report on good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention

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## Mechanisms for incorporating stakeholder inputs into the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects relating to Article 6 of the Convention

- ❑ Parties have reported on various approaches to incorporating stakeholder inputs into the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects relating to Article 6 of the Convention, such as dialogues between governments and stakeholders, forums, meetings, focal groups and round tables.

**Swaziland** organized climate change dialogues in two stages: as regional dialogues in the four geographical regions of the country and as a two-day national dialogue where different stakeholders shared views on possible measures to address climate change.

## Public participation in the preparation of national communications

- ❑ Parties have been increasingly engaging national experts and other stakeholders in the preparation of their national communications.

**Brazil** established an inclusive consultation process for the review of its national communication, which included a line-by-line editing process similar to the review of reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This initiative emphasized the importance of engaging the public in the process of drafting national communications as a means of building national capacity and raising awareness of climate change.



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## Challenges

- ❑ Many Parties reported on activities to implement Article 6 of the Convention in a separate chapter of their national communications; however, only a few Parties reported on all elements of Article 6, including on activities to enhance public participation.
- ❑ Despite the progress made, there are a number of barriers to the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. These include lack of public awareness and knowledge, absence of institutional arrangements, inadequate funding, lack of human resources and insufficient coordination and cooperation between the authorities within the country.

## Opportunities

- ❑ The implementation of all elements of Article 6 of the Convention –education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation will contribute significantly to achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention and to the effective implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions.



## Useful links

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- ❑ **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

[www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

- ❑ **Article 6 of the Convention**

[http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/education\\_and\\_outreach/items/2529.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/2529.php)

- ❑ **The Doha work programme Article 6 of the Convention**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbi/eng/l47.pdf>

- ❑ **First Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention**

[http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/education\\_and\\_outreach/items/7670.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/7670.php)

- ❑ **Second Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention**

[http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/education\\_and\\_outreach/items/8210.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/8210.php)

- ❑ **Report on good practices of stakeholder participation in implementing Article 6 of the Convention**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/sbi/eng/03.pdf>





**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

# Thank you

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Communications and Outreach Programme

[www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)