



**Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
To the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
In relation to the agenda of the 7<sup>th</sup> in-session dialogue for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Dialogue**

Education, training, advocacy and raising public awareness are prime mechanisms to achieve food security and, hunger, and leave no one behind in the era of climate change. They are also essential for fostering the behaviour change of individuals and communities to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. These global commitments also recognize the urgent need to take more ambitious measures to prevent dangerous climate change, whilst also providing for closer integration with action on poverty.

FAO has been an active partner in the activities supporting Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and the achieved progress. FAO welcomed adoption of the Doha Work Programme on Article 6 of the Convention<sup>1</sup> setting out the scope of and provides basis for action on activities related to education, training and public awareness on climate change; and the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness Raising<sup>2</sup> – inviting governments to include climate change into formal education curricula and climate awareness into national development and climate change plans. Furthermore, FAO welcomed the commitments related to capacity building, education, training and public awareness on climate change integrated in Articles 11 and 12 of the Paris Agreement<sup>3</sup>.

FAO, therefore welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on the agenda for the 7<sup>th</sup> in-session Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) dialogue, mandated by the decision SBI 48 – FCCC/SBI/2018/L.3<sup>4</sup>, which will focus on the final review of the Doha Work Programme and ways of enhancing the implementation of education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international and regional cooperation. FAO is pleased to contribute to this dialogue and provides the following suggestions on issues to be included in the agenda:

**1. Strengthening partnerships for greater impact**

FAO has built an action-oriented behavior change tools and knowledge products through the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture<sup>5</sup>, Farmer Field Schools<sup>6</sup>, Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools<sup>7</sup>, Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA) and United Nations Decade for Family Farming (2019-2028)<sup>8</sup>. These include second editions of the Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook<sup>9</sup>, E-learning Center<sup>10</sup>, including courses on Climate-Smart Agriculture, food security and nutrition, as well as YUNGA Climate Change Challenge Badge<sup>11</sup>, which is used in both formal and informal education settings and disseminated through the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the World Organization of Scout Movement (WOSM). Based on this experience, FAO proposes the following:

- Build on successful partnerships that have played a key role in the climate change and environment education and interventions and present them in the 7<sup>th</sup> in-session dialogue.
- The post-Doha Work Programme should facilitate bringing together researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers to improve guidance on effective formal and informal education programmes on climate change. The post-Doha Work Programme can act as a convener of this diverse set of experts and practitioners to develop and share guidance, support national research programmers, and exchange tools, resources and lessons learned.

## 2. Enhancing climate change education and public awareness

Many current education programmes do not create the desired changes in behavior to ensure public contribution to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and ensure informed civic engagement with governments to promote the needed institutional and policy transitions. Formal and informal education, therefore, need to become better structured and more action orientated to ensure effective and long-lasting behavior change. This requires programmes to not only educate on the principles of climate change but also allow individuals to understand their impacts and what actions they can undertake, as well as to build adaptation and mitigation capacities through various knowledge transfer methods. Formal and informal education and training programmes should introduce action and problem-based teaching methods to address the causes and the diverse impacts of global warming, as well as to support individuals adapting to climate change.

In this context, FAO has been developing formal and informal education modules for agriculture, nutrition and healthier diets. Successful examples include Education for Effective Nutrition in Action<sup>12</sup>- a course that has been successfully piloted with universities in 15 countries in Africa, food and nutrition education through behavior change<sup>13</sup>, and Food-Based Dietary Guidelines<sup>14</sup>. Furthermore, Farmer to Farmer Exchange<sup>15</sup>, Farmer Field Schools and Dimitra Clubs<sup>16</sup> which have evolved from the concept that rural people, farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolks and community foresters learn optimally from field observations and experimentation, analyse the causes and consequences of climate change and look for local solutions with a strong focus on gender equality, youth participation and people's ownership.

Therefore, FAO suggests to continue with the following work:

- Showcase successful formal and informal climate change education curricula of some countries, and present lessons learned that can be considered in the future during the 7<sup>th</sup> in-session dialogue.
- The post-Doha Work Programme should support further development of guidance materials, teaching and learning resources, case studies for Parties to better evaluate and implement effective climate change education and public awareness programmes.
- The post-Doha Work Programme should ensure that the capacity building and knowledge on effective measures for climate change adaptation needs and mitigation goals are targeting and reaching the most vulnerable groups, including small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and community foresters, with a focus on women and girls.
- The post-Doha Work Programme should support global behavior change campaigns for targeted action to respond to global and local climate adaptation needs and mitigation goals.

## 3. Action for Climate Empowerment to achieve the Paris Agreement

The network of the Article 6 National Focal Points can be an effective mechanism to support achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They play an important role to integrate the six elements of ACE (education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international and regional cooperation) in the national climate related plans and policies. Furthermore, few countries have developed National Action Plans to implement Article 6 related activities.

For those reasons, the post-Doha Work Programme should strengthen capacities of the National Focal Points to ensure policy coherence between National Action Plans for Article 6 and other climate and development related plans and policies, including 2020 NDCs. Therefore, tools should be created for the further networking and exchange of ideas between the National Focal Points and external experts and institutions, and support should be provided in formulating ACE interventions. FAO suggests the following activities:

- The 7<sup>th</sup> in-session dialogue should review the role of the Article 6 National Focal Points in recent national communications, submissions, NAMAs, NAPs and INDCs and other climate related plans.
- The post-Doha Work Programme should strengthen capacities of the National Focal Points in integrating ACE related activities in national climate policies, strategies and plans.
- The post-Doha Work Programme should advocate to acknowledge the role of ACE related issues in the updated NDCs by 2020 through the Article 6 Focal Points Doha Work Programme.

#### **4. Integrating Action for Climate Empowerment in wider activities of the Convention**

Other mechanisms under the UNFCCC's various agreements, protocols, programmes and platforms should also be taken into a consideration when reviewing the progress achieved under the Doha Work Programme. Those may include Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, Paris Committee on Capacity-building, Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, Gender Action Plan and others.

In addition, it is important to consider and integrate other decisions agreed by the Conference of Parties, relevant to ACE. For example, activity A2 under the Gender Action Plan<sup>17</sup>, which calls for a dialogue under the ACE and for a submission on how gender-sensitive and participatory education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access have been integrated in to national climate change policies. FAO believes that the integration of gender equality a fundamental component of all six ACE elements and has highlighted it in the submission<sup>18</sup>. It is suggested therefore that 7th Dialogue consolidates the good practices, challenges, experiences and lessons learned gathered from the submissions and the gender Dialogue, in view of the final review of the Doha Work programme to effectively and systematically integrate gender-sensitive ACE in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

#### **5. Integrating Action for Climate Empowerment in funding mechanisms**

Ensuring that climate finance reflects the importance of education, training, public awareness, participation, and access to information and international cooperation, particularly in the least developed countries, is vital to achieve the goals of the Convention and the individual programmes and projects being funded. The Paris Agreement emphasizes the importance of securing the finance to achieve these goals in an effort to close the adaptation deficit caused by the fact that poor countries are less able to take effective adaptation action, thus rendering them more vulnerable than rich countries. Therefore, the post-Doha Work Programme should advocate for well-tailored ACE interventions within funding proposals, especially those related to the Convention (the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund). Furthermore, guidance materials should be prepared and consultations undertaken to raise awareness of the importance of the six elements of Article 6 and their full integration into priority areas to be financed.

Agriculture and food systems are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, they are significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions but can also offer fundamental solutions to tackle climate change. Adaptation and mitigation interventions are urgently needed in agricultural sectors, and education, training and public awareness all have a key role to play in tackling climate change. Youth in particular represent a large proportion of populations in many countries and have a key role to play in tackling climate change. They are also the generations who will be facing the major consequences of climate change. Increasing their awareness of social and environmental issues, and giving voice to their perspectives would help to empower them to take action, and directly contribute transform our societies and economies towards a low-carbon and climate resilient future. Strengthening the adaptive capability and resilience of youth in rural communities, particularly in developing countries, is also critical.

FAO supports the development of food security and climate change educational programmes and resources for participatory approaches as indicated in this submission. Therefore, FAO reaffirms its commitment to support the Action for Climate Empowerment as well as implementation of the Doha Work Programme through sharing its experience in working for gender equality and youth empowerment, building capacity, and promoting education and training in the food and agriculture sectors.

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