

Submission by the Republic of Gabon on behalf of the African Group on information on steps taken to implement the Doha work programme and in relation to Action for Climate Empowerment, including activities and results, best practices, lessons learned and emerging gaps and needs, as well as recommendations and views on future work to enhance the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement

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

The African Group welcomes the opportunity to provide its views regarding information on steps taken to implement the Doha Work Programme and in relation to Action for Climate Empowerment, including activities and results, best practices, lessons learned and emerging gaps and needs, as well as recommendations and views on future work to enhance the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.

The eight-year Doha Work Programme provides a set of guiding principles and priority areas that has served as a flexible framework for country-driven action addressing the six elements of Article 6 of the Convention; including on education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation. However, a limited number of African countries have developed national ACE strategy or have implemented ACE projects and initiatives at the local, national, regional level due to lack of funding for ACE activities.

The Doha Work Programme has levelled up the ACE agenda under the international climate sphere through seven in-session ACE dialogues, global and regional workshops for ACE national Focal points, the development of guidelines for preparing national ACE strategies; two thematic days at COP sessions, Education Day and Young and Future Generations Day; activities to empower youth to take climate action, such as the Global Youth Video competition; youth forums and intergenerational dialogues; and capacity-building workshops and exhibitions; nomination of ACE national focal points, the development of national ACE strategies in some countries. Furthermore, ACE has been integrated into global agendas: in Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, SDG 13 and the Katowice Climate package.

Since 2012, the African Group have been stressing the need of financing and the funding gap to support ACE implementation, as highlighted in the intermediate review of the DWP from 2016 and all the reports from the different dialogues.

The African Group recommends a ten year ACE Work Programme with a dedicated ; Action Plan highlighting priority action area, that include means of implementation and establishing a clear periodic monitoring and reviewing system. This will facilitate the implementation of the work programme.

In order to enhance implementation of Article 12 of the Paris Agreement , the African Group also recommends aligning and creating synergies between other processes during the 2020 to 2030 time frame and integrating ACE into national climate change, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies with the objective of raising awareness, educating, and developing capacities in support of meeting adaptation and mitigation commitments.

The African Group strongly believes that adequate training, capacity building and financial support should be given to all the national ACE focal points in order to successfully implement ACE activities at the national level.

The African Group applauds the organization of the 7th in-session dialogue held in Bonn in June 2019 to advance the discussions 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 so as to enhance action under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.

Climate change is one of the most important issues for present and future generations to address and that ACE is fundamental for the long-term transformation to a carbon neutral lifestyle, requiring everyone to get on board with solutions and take climate action on the ground. Hence, in order to achieve concrete actions at the national, local and regional levels, the African Group strongly believes to have the 8th in-session Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment on financing ACE activities. The Secretariat should gather members from all the existing financial mechanisms under the Convention and Paris Agreement together with the international cooperation, public and private sector to discuss on means of implementation.

The African Group looks forward to the 8th ACE Dialogue and stands ready to engage in the enhancement of the implementation of education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Paris Agreement.