

COP26 BRIEFING FROM CLARA – FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Daily analysis of negotiations from UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, 31 October – 12 November.

From [CLARA](#) (Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance), a global civil society alliance with more than 40 members from conservation, agroecology, land-rights, faith-based, and forest restoration organizations and communities.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY – FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Article 6

Negotiations continued throughout the day yesterday on text released early on Tuesday. New text appeared this morning.

[Article 6.2 Version 2 of 5 November at 06:28 hrs](#)

[Article 6.4 Version 2 of 5 November at 06:34 hrs](#)

[Article 6.8 Version 2 of 5 November at 06:39 hrs](#)

Article 6 meetings today

10:45-11:45: HOD meeting by the SBSTA chair on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement/Plenary Cairn Gorm

12:00-13:00: SBSTA informal consultations on matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (item 15b and 15c) / Plenary Cairn Gorm

15:45-16:45: SBSTA informal consultations on matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement/ Plenary Cairn Gorm

Article 6 negotiation takeaways from past 3 days

OMGE – Overall mitigation in global emissions has come much more to the fore in this COP, indicating improved understanding of how the various dimensions of decisions throughout Article 6 will impact on the total ‘ambition’ of the Paris Agreement, to ‘keep 1.5 alive’. Some of this focus on improving mitigation performance is likely a result of the IPCC Working Group 1 [‘Physical Climate Change’](#) report, indicating the scale of the emergency and the need for immediate and dramatic climate action.

Negotiators have understood that every increment of mitigation ambition is important. But even so, no parties are yet calling for 100% **cancellation of credits** in Article 6.4, or complete retirement of credits resulting from ITMOs in Article 6.2. The ‘international cooperation’ mandate from Article 6 is now unfolding as a package that includes a **strong non-market mechanism in Article 6.8**, but also creation of carbon offsets. CLARA presents ideas for delimiting those credits and ensuring ambition -- see below.

Baselines and ‘Avoided Deforestation’ – Whether ‘avoided deforestation’ should be an accepted activity for Article 6 crediting occupied part of the debate on Thursday. Good proposals were made in relation to ambition in baselines – **robust baselines** being the other component along with retired credits that may do the most to ensure OMGE in Article 6. See below for a quick round-up of proposals made by countries North and South that CLARA supports.

‘Removals enhancement’ – removals is a well-understood term referring to carbon sequestration, but ‘enhancement’ is relatively new in this context. ‘Enhancement’ could refer to the protection and restoration of forests – promoting ‘holistic and integrated outcomes’ on biodiversity and climate, as suggested in the LMDC submission on Article 6 – that would focus not just on increasing ‘flows’ of carbon

through restoration, but also on the preservation of vital stocks of carbon within stable and protected ecosystems.

Supervisory body – negotiators varied widely on the functions and the extent of oversight of an Article 6 supervisory body [or bodies]. Some argued that these governance decisions should remain within the Subsidiary Body for Science and Technology Assessment [SBSTA], while others called for a Task Force with a time-limited mandate to develop modalities for implementation of Article 6. A total of five different governance approaches were floated in Tuesday's Article 6.8 text.

Article 6: Specific areas of CLARA concern and recommendation

- o CLARA maintains the position first that land-based offsets should not be used for offsetting purposes, and anything other than 100% cancellation of credits will inevitably result in the creation of offsets. However, if a baseline well below 'business as usual' is coupled with a 50% credit cancellation rate and with 20% of the proposed transfer of credits put into a buffer account to guard against reversals, that might be sufficient to ensure a high level of OMGE.
 - o Article 6 is intended to use international cooperation to maximize ambition through NDCs, but some proposals still on the negotiating table would reduce OMGE in other ways:
 - Carry-forward of CDM credits.
 - Use of transfers in Article 6.4 *outside of* Nationally Determined Contributions.
 - Limit the use of ITMOs to some small percentage of national NDC ambition
 - Double-counting
- These and any other actions that reduce ambition falls outside of Paris Agreement goals for Article 6.
- o Human Rights included in the operational [implementation] text of all three proposed approaches.
 - o If negotiators agree on a short list of proposed Activities under Article 6.8, CLARA suggests launching with: joint mitigation and adaptation [JMA]; and accelerated transitions away from fossil and biomass fuel use.
 - o Additionality. CLARA welcomes the Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land Use, where countries have pledge zero deforestation by 2030. Given this commitment, 'avoided deforestation' cannot be considered 'additional' – because it's now been stated as a basic goal for 2030; and thus 'avoided deforestation' approaches should be excluded from Article 6 mechanisms. We note further the conclusion of the Science Based Targets Initiative, that "avoided emissions fall under a separate accounting system from corporate inventories and do not count toward near term or long-term science-based emission reduction targets." The same should be true with respect to ITMOs.

Article 6: Useful interventions from Thursday's negotiations

OMGE

Antigua-Barbuda on behalf of AOSIS: ensure environmental integrity including that there is no increase in global emissions. The percent cancellation of credits to ensure OMGE needs to be settled in Glasgow.
RIGHTS

Mexico: Include references to indigenous peoples and human rights.

Canada: Collaboration between / input from the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples platform with the Article 6.8 work program

Japan: Human rights and sustainable development belong in text; to be operationalized by the Supervisory Body. Integrate these elements directly into Activity design.

GOVERNANCE / SUPERVISORY MECHANISM

Bolivia – Facilitative mechanism and registry hub that helps match NDC projects with financial and technical support. Supported by Costa Rica, LMDCs.

ACTIVITIES UNDER ARTICLE 6.8

United States – Streamline the list to two or three initial focus areas... something more generic than a focus on specific non-market activities.

OTHER ISSUES CLARA IS FOLLOWING

Agriculture

[Draft conclusions proposed by the co-facilitators from the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture](#) were released on Wednesday. Two different versions of paragraph 7 of the draft conclusions were put forward; neither use the word ‘agroecology’. The first version of the paragraph is more detailed, encompassing early warning systems to help the most vulnerable, noting the connection of small family farms and indigenous peoples to sustainable agriculture and adaptation, and mobilizing resources ‘that tak[e] into account the diversity of agricultural and ecological systems’. The second option talks about ‘sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural systems’ and ‘applying an integrated systems approach’ but never mentions small farmers or adaptation. Who’s afraid of the term ‘agroecology’? Why the heavy resistance? CLARA members have sought to bring greater attention to agroecological farming methods that combine adaptation and mitigation gains with improved food security. See materials from [Biovision](#), [CIDSE](#), [IFOAM](#), and [ActionAid](#).

Common Time Frames

A grand total of NINE different proposals for agreement on [common time frames for submission of Nationally Determined Contributions](#) was forwarded from the SBI at 8pm on Wednesday. The most common ‘landing zone’ between proposals is that NDCs should be updated every five years and that the year 2025 become the base year – but there are still some voices calling for 10 years for developing countries, and other proposals that push updated NDC reporting out to 2035. No conclusion as of yet.

Biomass

Thursday 4 November was ‘**Energy Day**’ at COP26 and among the Presidency Events is a session of the [Powering Past Coal Alliance](#). There can be no more worthwhile effort for global mitigation than to power past coal – unless that effort ends in more biomass burning. The U.K. power utility DRAX is a member of the Powering Past Coal Alliance, but its ‘power past coal’ has led to intensive wood harvests in the Baltic States, the Southeastern United States, and most recently in pristine boreal forests of Canada. As CLARA member [Biofuelwatch reports](#), “The Drax power station in Yorkshire is the world’s biggest wood-burning power station and reported in 2020 that it released around 13 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere from burning biomass.” At the same time, Drax receives more than 750 million GBP in subsidies annually for burning biomass. More about those subsidies, look [here](#). Last month the [S&P dropped DRAX](#) from its Global Clean Energy Index due to growing doubts about the climate impacts of biomass burning.

This briefing does not necessarily express the opinions of all CLARA members.

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