Dear Friends,

This month, we shall continue to discuss Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). Please recall that decisions 17/CP.22 and 17/CMA.1, renamed all efforts related to implementing Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement as Action for Climate Empowerment. An important dimension of this initiative at the global level is the appointment of a national focal point by every country [1].

As on date, the website that lists the national focal points does not show any entry for India. However, we did find the following entry at another page [4]. But they are National Focal Points of Parties to the UNFCCC; representing the nation for the entire Convention, and not specifically for Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE).

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Ministry/ Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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However, the same page contains Action for Climate Empowerment Guidelines [2]; and we shall briefly look at them. It also includes links to some webinars conducted for Europe, Latin America and Asia [3] explaining guidelines and showcasing some country examples.

**Action for Climate Empowerment Guidelines [2]**

We quote the structure of the guidelines below:

“The guidelines are divided into 4 phases and 10 steps:

**Phase 1. Initiation**

- STEP #1 Establish coordination
- STEP #2 Gain a strong conceptual base
- STEP #3 Take stock of existing national policies and plans
- STEP #4 Create a monitoring and evaluation plan
Phase 2. Planning

STEP #5 Assess needs and delivery capacities
STEP #6 Create draft strategic plan
STEP #7 Conduct stakeholder consultations

Phase 3. Implementation

STEP #8 Establish cross-sector partnerships for implementation
STEP #9 Mobilize financial and technical resources

Phase 4. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

STEP #10 Create a Monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan”

We may discuss these guidelines in detail later. For the present, let us take a dive into the webinars, starting with Asia. The main purpose of the webinars is to assist the National Focal Points (NFPs) in putting into practice the ACE Guidelines. The opening webinar was addressed by the UNFCCC Focal Point on education, training and public awareness followed by country representations. They offer a platform for the NFPs in a region to share their experiences, discuss new ideas and build upon their skills and capabilities in spreading climate education and awareness. It follows the “Decision 17/CP.22 the secretariat to continue facilitating a regular exchange of views, good practices and lessons learned among ACE National Focal Points” [3].

Introducing the webinar series, the UNFCCC Focal Point presented the context of the Paris Agreement, the SDG 13 (Climate Action) and listed the 6 mandates of the Doha Work Program as under:

- Designate and provide support, including technical and financial, to a national focal point
- Integrate ACE activities into existing climate change programmes and strategies
- Prepare a national strategy on ACE
- Develop communication strategies
- Foster the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of ACE
- Prepare a chapter on ACE in the national communications

The presentation then introduced the main purpose and features of the guidelines, the advantages of having a national level strategy on ACE, briefly touched upon the six elements of ACE, and the five stages on stakeholder engagement, the ten steps in developing a national ACE Strategy and a few examples from countries in the region.

For the Asia region, country presentations were offered by Philippines and Thailand.

Worawan Nakbanpot Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, ACE National Focal Point made the presentation for Thailand. It included the objectives, key stakeholder engagement, process adopted, challenges faced, achievements so far and the lessons learned [5].
The Doha Work Program concluded in 2020 and it was followed up by the 10-year Glasgow Work Program [6] to last till 2030. We provide a brief summary of the Glasgow Work Program below.

The Glasgow Work Program (GWP) emphasizes cost-effectiveness and flexibility. It prefers an approach driven by respective nations, attracting women and youth. It aims at promoting synergies with other conventions, e.g., the bio-diversity convention. It recommends a systematic and participatory approach involving all stakeholders from multiple disciplines and sectors.

The GWP has identified 4 priority areas: Policy coherence; Coordinated action; Tools and support and Monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Under ‘coordinated action, nations are advised to assess their specific needs for ACE implementation. They recommend the “use of social research methods and other relevant instruments to determine target audiences and partnerships”. They also recommend establishing appropriate measures “to avoid duplication of efforts, promote knowledge-sharing, foster local networks and enhance collaboration among all stakeholders in relation to ACE implementation”. As a beginning, we must assemble an inventory of all climates related work programs and agencies till date operating within India: central, state, public sector, private sector and NGOs; as well as academic institutions.

The fourth priority area is ‘Monitoring, evaluation and reporting’. Under this head, the GWP recommends use of social media to engage with all stakeholders and communicate all plans and programs for ACE implementation. Ideally, this should flow down from the centre to the states and eventually to the district levels.


Paragraphs 25 to 30 of the GWP offers detailed guidelines for implementation of all the 6 ACE elements.

References:

1. https://unfccc.int/topics/education-youth/national-ace-focal-points
3. https://unfccc.int/topics/education-and-outreach/events--meetings/webinars-for-ace-national-focal-points
6. https://unfccc.int/documents/310465