

Submission by Ethiopia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group on opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders with a view to strengthening the implementation of the provisions of Decision 1/CP.21

The LDC Group welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders with a view to strengthening the implementation of the provisions of Decision 1/CP.21.

The LDC Group also acknowledges submissions by Parties and other stakeholders and looks forward to reading further submissions and hearing views on this important topic.

Role of non-Party Stakeholders

Non-Party stakeholders have an important role in ensuring the effective operationalisation and implementation of the Paris Agreement. Parties should therefore engage non-Party stakeholders in both formal and informal aspects of the UNFCCC process, and in particular as the international climate regime moves into an implementation phase.

Since non-Party stakeholders have a role in addressing climate change on the ground and in national-level decision-making, their engagement and participation is crucial to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Non-Party stakeholders can offer insight and expertise in the planning and implementation of national actions as well as in the continuing process of developing modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for various aspects of the Paris “rulebook”.

Participation and access to information

The importance of public participation and access to information is recognised in Articles 4.1.i and 6 of the Convention and in the preamble and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. Under Article 12 Parties are required to cooperate in enhancing public participation and access to information due to their importance with respect to enhancing actions under the Paris Agreement.

Access to information increases the awareness of and support for decisions taken by all stakeholders. Parties should therefore promote public participation in both national and international decision-making. As such, participation by non-Party stakeholders should not be unjustifiably restricted, while respecting the national sovereignty of all Parties and the country-driven nature of the international process.

Parties should consider providing non-Party stakeholders with opportunities to participate in various aspects of climate governance, including through opportunities to provide written or oral inputs into discussions, by providing access to meetings, discussions and information and by providing avenues for sharing insights and expertise during workshops and other meetings.

Role in implementation

Many (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions ((I)NDCs) specifically refer to cities, sub-national governments, the private sector, civil society, and other non-Party stakeholders regarding their respective roles in implementing measures contemplated under the Paris Agreement. Effective implementation of NDCs needs buy-in and cooperation from all stakeholders. Parties should therefore consider how the expertise of non-Party stakeholders could support the formulation and implementation of NDCs through better, more inclusive and more effective decision-making.

Non-Party stakeholders play important roles in the planning processes of NDCs and adaptation actions and can therefore support the international-level process for developing MPGs to operationalise the Paris Agreement.

Role in review

Transparency and multilateral review are at the heart of the Paris Agreement. Public access to information, discussions and all relevant documentation should be the basic rule for all review processes. Transparency must not only guide relations between Parties but also how non-Party stakeholders and the public at large can meaningfully participate in important global decision-making.

The transparency framework under the Paris Agreement needs to build on and enhance the existing transparency arrangements under the Convention (Article 13.3 of the Paris Agreement). One way Parties could do this is by providing clear roles for non-Party stakeholders in the review mechanism under the Paris Agreement, including with respect to enhancing the effectiveness of the transparency framework, the mechanism for facilitating implementation and promoting compliance, and the global stocktake process.

Non-Party stakeholders could be involved in the review of Parties' implementation and ambition. This has been done in a number of international regimes, including the climate regime.

- Expert reviewers could engage with non-Party stakeholders during in-country visits as a way of gathering the necessary information
- Non-Party stakeholders could be involved in both the technical review of national reports and in the multilateral consideration process
- Non-Party stakeholders could be invited to submit relevant information or contribute specific expertise in order to help Parties tackle barriers to implementation, including, for example, financial, capacity-building or technical barriers
- Non-Party stakeholders can offer insights and expertise in the assessment of progress toward the implementation of NDCs and the enhancement of ambition. They can also help to ensure that the outcomes of review processes are taken up within countries