



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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In partnership with



United Nations
Climate Change

Integrating Action for Climate Empowerment into Nationally Determined Contributions

“Education is crucial for climate action because it has the exceptional power to make evolve mindsets and behaviours in the long run. Because education can change minds, it can change the world.”

Audrey Azoulay, Director-General, UNESCO

“The six elements of ACE – education, training, public awareness, public access to information, public participation and international cooperation on these – are essential for countries and communities to counter climate change and adapt to its impacts.”

Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UN Climate Change

Action for Climate Empowerment – six elements

Education	Change habits in the long-term
Training	Develop practical skills
Public Awareness	Reach people of all ages and walks of life
Public Access to information	Make information freely available
Public Participation	Involve all stakeholders in decision-making and implementation
International Cooperation	Strengthen cooperation, joint efforts and knowledge exchange

“to continue to promote the systematic integration of gender-sensitive and participatory education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and regional and international cooperation into all mitigation and adaptation activities implemented under the Convention, as well as under the Paris Agreement, as appropriate, including into the processes of designing and implementing their nationally determined contributions” ([Decision 17/CMA.1, paragraph 5](#))

Integrating Action for Climate Empowerment into Nationally Determined Contributions

A short guide for countries



Principles that guide ACE

- country-driven approach according to the national circumstances;
- gender and an intergenerational approach;
- a phased approach integrating ACE into existing climate change policies, programmes and strategies;
- an interdisciplinary multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and participatory approach;
- promotion of partnerships, networks and synergies;
- the principles of sustainable development.

Overall considerations for a national ACE strategy

A. Process

Participatory from the outset

Multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder

Partnerships between climate and education sectors

B. Perspectives

Protect and fulfil human rights

Be gender-responsive

Pay attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups

C. Alignment with relevant international processes and frameworks (SDGs and their monitoring, 'ESD for 2030', etc.)

How to integrate ACE into NDCs – Education

Possible objectives and targets on education:

- Sensitize key ministry officials on the need for Climate Change education
- Review curriculum and identify gaps vis-a-vis climate change
- Include climate change at all levels and across disciplines in curricula.
- Develop an integral component on climate change mitigation and adaptation for all teacher training. By 2030, ensure that x% of teachers have completed this component.

How to integrate ACE into NDCs – Training

Possible objectives and targets on training:

- Promote, facilitate, develop and implement training programmes focused on climate change for groups with a key role, such as policy and decision makers, scientific, technical and managerial personnel in the public and private sectors, journalists, women, youth and community.
- Promote partnerships in training by bringing together climate and education sectors.
- By 2025, ensure that x% of government employees at a) national and b) sub-national levels have received training on climate change adaptation and mitigation

How to integrate ACE into NDCs – Public Awareness

Possible objectives and targets on public awareness:

- Encourage, by means of popular media, personal action and contributions to address climate change, support climate-friendly policies and foster behavioural changes (noting the important role that social media and digital platforms and strategies can play in this context).
- Develop and roll-out a public awareness campaign, including through national broadcasting media, explaining the components of the country's climate policy.

How to integrate ACE into NDCs – Public Access to Information

Possible objectives and targets on public access to information:

- **Guarantee public access to information and related data on good practices, climate change initiatives, policies and results of actions, so that the public can understand and respond to climate change. This effort should harness new information technologies, taking into account factors such as quality of internet access, literacy, gender and language issues.**
- **Develop effective regulations for transparency and full disclosure of information related to climate change by the private sector.**

How to integrate ACE into NDCs – Public Participation

Possible objectives and targets on public participation:

- Create and support open and accessible multi-stakeholder platforms for public participation and dialogue engaging youth, civil society, academia and the private sector in order to reach whole-of-society consensus on climate action and NDC ambition.
- Establish a gender-balanced citizen consultation council on climate change to ensure a forum for citizen participation (including with wide participation from the private sector, civil society organizations and academia) and create working groups for specific sectorial reforms.

Possible objectives and targets on international cooperation:

- Document and share knowledge between countries regarding experiences, lessons learned, good practices and challenges in the implementation of ACE and promote peer learning, so that Parties, IGOs and NGOs that have the resources to do so might effectively target their efforts at providing appropriate support.
- Organize a bilateral/multilateral annual exchange programme with x number of countries to exchange government officials working on ACE, CCA and CCM measures during a period of 6 months.

Thank you

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