



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

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Item 10(b) of the provisional agenda

Matters relating to Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement

Review of the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement and in decision 4/CMA.3

Options for the operationalization of additional features and functionalities of the NMA Platform

Technical paper by the secretariat

Summary

This technical paper explores options for operationalizing additional features and functionalities of the NMA Platform, including key policy, technical and indicative cost implications thereof, in the context of the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement and in decision [4/CMA.3](#). It has been prepared to inform the consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its sixty-fourth session of ways to enable the recording on the NMA Platform of relevant projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, and interconnection between the NMA Platform and other relevant, including national, platforms.



Abbreviations and acronyms

AI	artificial intelligence
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NMA	non-market approach
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. CMA 7 requested SBSTA 64 to consider, in the context of the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement and in decision [4/CMA.3](#), ways to implement additional functionalities of the NMA Platform¹ that would enable Parties to record thereon projects that they identify under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme through their national focal points for Article² 6, paragraph 8, and enable interconnection between the NMA Platform and other platforms, including national platforms for Parties that request it, with a view to the SBSTA recommending a draft decision on this matter for consideration and adoption at CMA 8.³

2. CMA 7 also requested the secretariat to prepare a technical paper exploring options for the operationalization of additional features and functionalities of the NMA Platform⁴ in order to inform that consideration.

B. Scope and approach

3. This technical paper presents a high-level analysis of options for operationalizing additional features and functionalities of the NMA Platform for enabling the recording thereon of relevant projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme and interconnection of the NMA Platform with other relevant platforms.

4. Chapter II below provides background information on the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches and the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme.

5. Chapter III.A below considers the implications for both the scope of NMAs facilitated under the framework for them and the design of the NMA Platform of enabling the recording of relevant projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme on the Platform and presents options for doing so. Chapter III.B below examines options, at different levels of technical integration, for enabling interconnection between the NMA Platform and other relevant platforms.

6. This paper is intended to support the initial consideration of this matter at SBSTA 64 and therefore does not include details on system design or implementation planning related to the additional features and functionalities of the NMA Platform or possible interconnection with other platforms. For each option, it outlines key policy, technical and indicative cost implications to inform Parties' deliberations, without prejudice to their positions or future decisions on the scope or operation of the NMA Platform.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

7. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information herein in considering ways to implement additional features and functionalities of the NMA Platform for enabling the recording thereon of relevant projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme and interconnection of the NMA Platform with other, including national, platforms.

¹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/nma-platform>.

² Articles referred to in this technical paper are Articles of the Paris Agreement.

³ Decision [13/CMA.7](#), para. 11.

⁴ Decision [13/CMA.7](#), para. 12.

II. Background

A. Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement and in decision 4/CMA.3

8. CMA 3 adopted the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches,⁵ aimed at facilitating the use and coordination of NMAs in the implementation of Parties' NDCs, and enhancing linkages and creating synergies between, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building.⁶

9. NMAs facilitated under the framework represent voluntary cooperative actions that are not reliant on market-based approaches and that do not include transactions or quid pro quo operations.⁷ Each NMA facilitated under the framework, in the context of Article 6, paragraph 8:⁸

- (a) Aims to:
 - (i) Promote mitigation and adaptation ambition;
 - (ii) Enhance the participation of public and private sector and civil society organizations in the implementation of NDCs;
 - (iii) Enable opportunities for coordination across instruments and relevant institutional arrangements;
- (b) Assists participating Parties in implementing their NDCs in an integrated, holistic and balanced manner, including through:
 - (i) Mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, as appropriate;
 - (ii) Contribution to sustainable development and poverty eradication;
 - (c) Is identified by the participating Parties on a voluntary basis;
 - (d) Involves more than one participating Party;
 - (e) Does not involve the transfer of any mitigation outcomes;
 - (f) Facilitates the implementation of NDCs of Parties hosting NMAs and contributes to achieving the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement;
 - (g) Is conducted in a manner consistent with the eleventh preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement;
 - (h) Minimizes and, where possible, avoids negative environmental, economic and social impacts.

10. The work programme under the framework sets out activities to facilitate its implementation,⁹ including identifying and developing NMAs; sharing information, experience and best practices; providing capacity-building; enhancing linkages and synergies with relevant work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement; and developing relevant tools, including a UNFCCC web-based platform for recording and exchanging information on NMAs.

11. The initial focus areas of the work programme activities include:¹⁰

- (a) Adaptation, resilience and sustainability;

⁵ Decision [4/CMA.3](#), para. 2. The work programme is contained in the annex to that decision.

⁶ Decision [4/CMA.3](#), annex, para. 1(a) and (c).

⁷ Decision [4/CMA.3](#), annex, para. 1(b)(i).

⁸ Decision [4/CMA.3](#), annex, paras. 2–3.

⁹ Decision [4/CMA.3](#), annex, para. 8.

¹⁰ Decision [4/CMA.3](#), para. 3.

(b) Mitigation measures to address climate change and contribute to sustainable development;

(c) Development of clean energy sources.

12. CMA 4 outlined the specifications for the UNFCCC web-based platform referred to in paragraph 10 above. It requested that the platform facilitate the recording thereon of support needed and provided for NMAs, for Parties participating in NMAs and non-Party stakeholders. It decided that the platform is to facilitate opportunities, including by connecting participating Parties, to identify, develop and implement NMAs and to record and exchange information, for Parties that have submitted NMAs and are seeking support, and Parties and entities that have submitted information on support available.¹¹

13. The web-based platform was launched in May 2024 as the NMA Platform and is a key tool for implementing the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches. NMAs can be submitted for recording on the Platform by Parties through their national focal points for Article 6, paragraph 8. Entities providing support for NMAs may register themselves on the Platform as support providers. As at 22 May 2026, Parties had recorded three NMAs,¹² while 33 entities had registered details of the support that they offer.

B. Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme

14. CMA 3 established a work programme to scale up mitigation ambition and implementation this decade, complementing the global stocktake.¹³ CMA 4 decided that at least two global dialogues shall be held each year as part of the work programme. It requested the secretariat to organize, under the guidance of the co-chairs of the work programme:¹⁴

(a) The global dialogues in such a manner as to facilitate a focused exchange of views, information and ideas, as well as the active participation of and interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, while encouraging the high-level champions to support the effective participation of non-Party stakeholders, and reflect the objective and scope of the work programme;¹⁵

(b) Investment-focused events, on the margins of the global dialogues and with the support of the high-level champions, considering the cost of mitigation implementation, with a view to unlocking finance, including for just transitions, overcoming barriers to access to finance and identifying investment opportunities and actionable solutions informed by NDCs to help public and private financiers, investors and international climate finance providers to direct finance flows towards supporting areas of opportunity to enhance mitigation in this critical decade.

15. The CMA also requested the secretariat to organize, under the guidance of the co-chairs of the work programme, future global dialogues and investment-focused events in such a manner as to, inter alia:

(a) Enhance the investment-focused events with a view to unlocking finance, including through presentations by Parties to potential financiers, and by inviting to the events more multilateral development banks, financial institutions and representatives of relevant multilateral climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund;¹⁶

¹¹ Decision [8/CMA.4](#), paras. 5–6.

¹² Adaptation Benefits Mechanism, Recycle Organics Chile and Sustainable Business of Adaptation for Resilient Urban future initiative.

¹³ Decision [1/CMA.3](#), para. 27.

¹⁴ Decision [4/CMA.4](#), paras. 8, 10 and 11.

¹⁵ Referred to in decision [4/CMA.4](#), paras. 1 and 4 respectively.

¹⁶ Decision [4/CMA.5](#), para. 10(c).

(b) Enhance the cooperative matchmaking function under the investment-focused events to assist Parties in accessing finance, including investment, grants and concessional loans.¹⁷

16. CMA 7 recalled paragraph 13 of decision [2/CMA.6](#), referring to the discussion at CMA 6 regarding the creation of a digital platform to facilitate implementation of mitigation actions by enhancing collaboration between governments, financiers and other stakeholders in developing investable projects in a country-owned and nationally determined manner.¹⁸

17. CMA 7 took note of the NMA Platform and called upon Parties to increase their use of the mitigation measures focus area of the Platform, as appropriate. It encouraged Parties to record relevant projects that they identify under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme on the Platform.¹⁹

III. Analysis of options and their implications

A. Enabling recording of relevant projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme on the NMA Platform

18. This section presents two options for enabling the recording of relevant projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme on the NMA Platform and their implications for the design of the Platform and the scope of NMAs facilitated under the framework for them.

1. Option 1: no changes to the NMA Platform

(a) Description

19. Under this option, no changes would be made to the current design, scope or functionalities of the NMA Platform, or to the existing submission form used by national focal points for Article 6, paragraph 8, to record NMAs²⁰ (i.e. no fields added, modified or made optional).

20. Projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme would therefore need to align with all the agreed aims of and criteria for NMAs facilitated under the framework for non-market approaches, identified in paragraph 9 above, in order to be recorded on the NMA Platform. They would also need to align with at least one of the initial focus areas of the work programme under that framework set out in paragraph 11 above, with the most likely being mitigation measures to address climate change and contribute to sustainable development.

21. No distinction would be made on the NMA Platform between projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme and NMAs recorded under the framework for them. The Platform would continue to function exclusively as a tool for recording and exchanging information on NMAs within the current scope.

22. Despite the absence of functional changes to the NMA Platform, recording eligible projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme could still provide practical benefits, such as enhancing their visibility among stakeholders, including Parties and registered providers of support for NMAs, which could facilitate the identification of opportunities for projects to receive any additional financial,

¹⁷ Decisions [2/CMA.6](#), para. 11(d), and [13/CMA.7](#), para. 5(c).

¹⁸ Decision [13/CMA.7](#), para. 8.

¹⁹ Decision [13/CMA.7](#), paras. 9–10.

²⁰ The official online submission form is available only to national focal points for Article 6, para. 8, in a dedicated section on the NMA Platform. However, an offline form for drafting purposes is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/640311>.

technology or capacity-building support required for them to be fully implemented or scaled up as NMAs.

(b) Technical implications

23. This option would have no technical implications for the NMA Platform as the technical functionalities and requirements of the Platform would remain as currently configured.

(c) Policy implications

24. This option would provide continuity by ensuring that the NMA Platform remains focused on the purpose for which it was originally developed, namely to record and exchange information on NMAs, including support needed and provided for them, with the existing aims of and criteria for eligible NMAs remaining unchanged.

25. No action would be required from Parties in terms of revising the technical specifications of the NMA Platform or considering adjustments to the agreed scope of NMAs under the framework for them in order to accommodate the broader range of projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme.

26. Eligibility for recording on the NMA Platform would continue to be assessed against the existing requirements under the framework for NMAs outlined in paragraph 9 above, including that an NMA must involve more than one participating Party. As projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme are not subject to such a requirement, some may not qualify for recording. This means that the Platform would not serve as a comprehensive repository of information on all projects identified under that work programme, but only for those that fall within the established scope of NMAs under the framework.

27. This option would therefore maintain a clear delineation between the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches and the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, while allowing for practical synergies where alignment exists between the two work programmes.

(d) Indicative cost implications

28. As this option would not involve any changes to the design, scope or functionalities of the NMA Platform, no additional costs would be anticipated.

29. Ongoing costs associated with the administration, hosting and maintenance of the NMA Platform would remain the same and continue to be provided for within the secretariat's existing budget.

2. Option 2: changes to the NMA Platform

(a) Description

30. Under this option, changes would be made to the NMA submission form and associated functionalities of the NMA Platform to accommodate the recording of a broader range of projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, beyond those that would be eligible for recording under option 1 above, while retaining the overall focus of the Platform on NMAs.

31. Two sub-options are presented below, under which technical refinements could be made to the NMA submission form to better capture information on projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, including on support needs, funding requirements, project development stage and sectoral classification (see para. 36 below).

32. No change to the current modality whereby submissions to the NMA Platform are made by Parties through their national focal points for Article 6, paragraph 8,²¹ would be envisaged under either sub-option. National focal points are designated by Parties to submit NMAs to the Platform and are expected to coordinate with relevant national institutions, as appropriate, before doing so, including those responsible for NDC implementation. Maintaining this arrangement would continue to ensure coordination on NMAs at the national level and alignment of recorded projects with NDCs.

(i) *Sub-option 2.1: enabling the recording of proposed non-market approaches*

33. Under this sub-option, Parties would be able to record projects for which they are seeking cooperation but that do not yet involve more than one participating Party, provided that the projects meet the other requirements for NMAs facilitated under the framework for them. Such projects would be recorded as proposed NMAs until the involvement of at least one additional participating Party has been secured.

(ii) *Sub-option 2.2: broadening the scope of non-market approaches under the framework for them*

34. Under this sub-option, Parties could consider broadening the established scope of NMAs under the framework for them by removing the requirement for an NMA to involve more than one participating Party and thus permitting NMAs implemented by a single Party to be recorded on the NMA Platform. No other changes to the aims of and criteria for NMAs under the framework as set out in paragraph 9 above would be envisaged.

(b) Technical implications

35. This option would require technical updates to the NMA Platform to support the identified changes to the NMA submission process. These would include modification of the NMA submission form to remove the mandatory requirement to list additional participating Parties, regardless of whether single-Party projects are to be recorded as proposed NMAs or the scope of eligible NMAs is to be broadened to permit the submission and recording of single-Party NMAs. Sub-option 2.1 would also require the addition to the form of a field for indicating that another Party's cooperation is being sought. Corresponding refinements of the search, filtering and mapping functionalities on the NMA Platform home page would also be required to distinguish proposed NMAs from approaches that meet all requirements under the framework for NMAs.

36. Further refinements to the NMA submission form could include a field or checkbox for indicating that a project was identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, a section for describing the type of financial instrument required for the project, total funding requested and the project development stage (such as pre-feasibility, structuring, or mature or ready for financial close), and the expansion of the sectoral categories listed in the drop-down menu, and corresponding adjustments to the search, filtering and mapping functionalities on the NMA Platform home page.

(c) Policy implications

37. This option would provide Parties with greater flexibility in determining how projects identified under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme could be reflected on the NMA Platform. In doing so, it would involve policy considerations that extend beyond making technical adjustments to the NMA submission form and associated functionalities of the Platform.

38. From a practical perspective, introducing the concept of proposed NMAs for recording, or broadening the scope of NMAs facilitated under the framework for them and thus eligible for recording, could enhance the utility of the NMA Platform for Parties that have identified projects under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme. It could facilitate greater visibility of such projects, increase opportunities

²¹ As per decision [13/CMA.7](#), para. 11.

for cooperation, and contribute to the mobilization of finance, technology and capacity-building support for NMAs.

39. Under both sub-options, Parties would need to determine whether to introduce the further refinements described in paragraph 36 above, and how any additional information collected through the NMA submission form should be reflected via the search, filtering and mapping functionalities of the NMA Platform.

(i) *Sub-option 2.1: enabling the recording of proposed non-market approaches*

40. The scope of NMAs under the framework for them would remain the same, though projects that do not yet involve more than one participating Party but otherwise meet the requirements of an NMA under the framework could be recorded on the NMA Platform as proposed NMAs until such cooperation is secured. This would allow the Platform to give visibility to projects that may become NMAs under the framework, without changing the scope of NMAs thereunder.

41. Implementing this sub-option would require a decision by the CMA to allow the recording of proposed NMAs on the NMA Platform.

(ii) *Sub-option 2.2: broadening the scope of non-market approaches under the framework for them*

42. The scope of NMAs under the framework for them would be broadened by removing the requirement for an NMA to involve more than one participating Party and thus allowing single-Party NMAs to be submitted and recorded. Such a change would have implications for the current definition of NMAs as voluntary cooperative actions between participating Parties. At the same time, it could prompt consideration of whether and how the concept of cooperation under Article 6, paragraph 8, might be interpreted more broadly, for example to encompass cooperation between a Party and a non-Party stakeholder.

43. Implementing this sub-option would require a decision by the CMA to remove the requirement for an NMA to involve more than one participating Party.

(d) **Indicative cost implications**

44. The indicative cost of implementing this option is EUR 10,000.

B. Enabling interconnection between the NMA Platform and other relevant platforms

45. Of the technical options presented below for enabling interconnection between the NMA Platform and other relevant platforms, options 1–2 focus on surface-level integration, whereby the NMA Platform remains technically separate from other platforms with no data exchange or shared system functionality enabled; while options 3–4 involve deeper forms of technical integration, and varying degrees of interoperability, data-sharing and system coordination.

1. Option 1: addition of hyperlinks to the NMA Platform

(a) **Description**

46. Under this option, hyperlinks to relevant platforms would be added to the existing “Related links” section of the NMA Platform’s information hub upon the request of Parties or other stakeholders. This would enable basic navigation for users between the NMA Platform and other platforms, without any exchange of data or integration of system functionalities. The NMA Platform would therefore remain technically separate from other platforms, with no changes to its structure or operation.

47. This option could be enhanced through the introduction to the NMA Platform of visual features to improve user experience and navigation. For example, relevant platforms added

under “Related links” could be highlighted using different visual cues, such as colour-coded boxes.

(b) Technical implications

48. The baseline option, without the enhanced visual features described in paragraph 47 above, would not require any modification to the system architecture of the NMA Platform. The secretariat would manually add the hyperlinks using existing content management processes. As such, there would be no implications for system interoperability, data management or security beyond current arrangements.

49. The enhancements would require some additional development of the visual features, such as colour-coding, along with minor design adjustments. Testing would be required to ensure the correct functioning and consistent display of these features.

(c) Policy implications

50. Parties would need to agree on the process and criteria for including hyperlinks to relevant platforms on the NMA Platform, including who may request inclusion of a hyperlink, how they would do so and whether any additional information would be required. The secretariat could then maintain approved hyperlinks in accordance with existing content management processes.

(d) Indicative cost implications

51. No additional costs would be anticipated under the baseline option as it would not involve technical development or system enhancement. The cost of any minor administrative effort associated with updating links would be covered from existing resources.

52. The indicative cost of additional enhancements is EUR 1,000.

2. Option 2: creation of a dedicated section on the NMA Platform

(a) Description

53. This option involves creating a “Relevant platforms” subsection on the NMA Platform’s information hub. Parties and other stakeholders could submit basic information on their platforms, such as contact details, data ownership, country coverage and thematic areas, to the secretariat, which would maintain it within its customer relationship management system. The information would be displayed in the new subsection through automated updates. Centralizing the collection and management of this information within the secretariat would enable it to be presented in a structured and consistent manner on the Platform and, where relevant, replicated across other UNFCCC platforms and web pages.

54. The NMA Platform would remain technically separate from other platforms as no data exchange or shared system functionality would be enabled.

(b) Technical implications

55. This option would require some system configuration to link information from the secretariat’s customer relationship management system to the NMA Platform, along with limited front-end development to enable the display of the “Relevant platforms” subsection on the NMA Platform’s information hub. Testing and validation would be necessary to ensure the accurate transfer and display of the information.

(c) Policy implications

56. Parties would need to agree on the process and criteria for including information in the “Relevant platforms” subsection, including who may submit the information, how they would do so and whether any additional information would be required. The secretariat could collect, maintain and display approved information in accordance with agreed requirements and existing content management processes.

(d) Indicative cost implications

57. The indicative cost of implementing this option is EUR 1,500.

3. Option 3: NMA Platform as a data aggregator

(a) Description

58. Under this option, the function of the NMA Platform would be broadened to include being a centralized repository for information on NMAs and related activities beyond that submitted by national focal points for Article 6, paragraph 8. Upon the request of Parties and other stakeholders, data from national and international platforms that maintain records of climate activities relevant to the scope of Article 6, paragraph 8, would be aggregated on the NMA Platform. This would provide a more comprehensive picture of NMA-related activities at the global level. Data aggregated from external platforms would be clearly distinguished from NMAs submitted to the NMA Platform by national focal points, including through appropriate source labelling, to ensure transparency regarding the origin and nature of each record.

59. The secretariat would establish modalities for identifying and incorporating relevant data from participating platforms. Information received from other platforms would be standardized to align with the structure of and terminology used on the NMA Platform to address any differences in classification and data format. Parties and other stakeholders wishing to contribute information to the NMA Platform would submit details on their platforms and the data maintained to the secretariat. This would complement the existing NMA submission process by providing broader visibility of related climate activities not currently captured.

60. The NMA Platform could serve as a central point (i.e. a data custodian) for making aggregated NMA-related data available in a structured, machine-readable (AI-ready) and openly accessible format, which is consistent with the principles of the United Nations 2.0 strategy.²² This would support access to information for Parties and other stakeholders, and could facilitate interconnection with broader data ecosystems maintained by the United Nations and other international bodies. Data on the NMA Platform would be made available under an open licence and accompanied by standardized metadata to support accessibility and use of the Platform.

(b) Technical implications

61. This option would require the development of processes and tools for receiving structured data from external platforms, for example through application programming interfaces or periodic data transfers in agreed formats. Incoming data would need to be aligned with the NMA Platform data model to address differences in how information is classified and formatted across platforms. The NMA Platform data storage architecture would need to be enhanced to accommodate the increased volume and heterogeneity of the data managed.

62. Front-end enhancements would need to be made to the NMA Platform home page and information hub in order to present the aggregated data alongside existing NMA records, with appropriate filtering and display functionalities enabled to allow users to distinguish between NMAs submitted by national focal points for Article 6, paragraph 8, and data aggregated from other platforms.

63. Data governance protocols and bilateral data-sharing arrangements would be required for managing relationships with contributing platforms, while an ongoing operational function within the secretariat would be required for managing data, monitoring data quality and making updates in response to changes in source systems.

²² See <https://un-two-zero.network/data/>.

(c) Policy implications

64. As this option would mean expanding the current function of the NMA Platform, a decision by the CMA on providing such an expansion would be required. Parties would need to agree on the basis for aggregating data from external platforms, including who may request that data be aggregated on the NMA Platform, which types of platform and data may be involved, and what information would be needed to demonstrate relevance to the scope and purpose of the NMA Platform. The respective responsibilities of the secretariat and contributing platforms would need to be clearly defined, including for updating data, addressing inaccuracies and ensuring that recorded information remains consistent with the agreed scope and purpose of the NMA Platform.

(d) Indicative cost implications

65. An initial scoping and design phase for the data aggregation approach would be necessary, including engagement with the operators of potential contributing platforms and the development of technical specifications for receiving data from external sources and aligning those data with the NMA Platform. This phase has an indicative cost of EUR 60,000.

66. Full implementation costs, including for developing the necessary infrastructure to receive, process and publish data, would be subject to the outcome of the scoping and design phase. They would depend on the number of platforms connected, the complexity of the data structures involved and the degree to which data transfer, validation and publication would be automated. The indicative cost of implementation is EUR 100,000–250,000, with the ongoing operational costs for data quality management to be confirmed following completion of the scoping and design phase.

4. Option 4: the secretariat as a standard-setter**(a) Description**

67. Under this option, the secretariat would develop and publish a common data standard for the structured description of and exchange of information on NMAs, building on the data structure of the NMA Platform. National and international platforms would adopt a common vocabulary, data schema and technical exchange specification for NMA-related information. By establishing and maintaining such a standard, interoperability between the NMA Platform and other platforms would be supported without requiring those platforms to route their data through the secretariat's systems.

68. The common data standard would specify a core set of data fields for describing NMAs, for example activity type, sector, participating Parties, co-benefits, support modalities and alignment with NDCs. It would define permissible values and controlled vocabularies for each field in line with the scope of NMAs, and establish metadata requirements to indicate the source of the data and support quality assurance. The common data standard would also define a technical exchange format to enable interoperability between compliant platforms.

69. The common data standard would be developed through a consultative process involving Parties, relevant United Nations entities and operators of other platforms, and would be published in accordance with open data principles consistently with the United Nations 2.0 strategy. Adoption of the common data standard by national and international platforms would remain voluntary, consistently with the cooperative nature of the framework for NMAs.

70. The secretariat would assume responsibility for governing the data standard over time, including through a defined process for periodic review and revision.

(b) Technical implications

71. This option would require the secretariat to develop and publish a formal NMA data standard comprising a data schema, a set of controlled vocabularies and a technical specification for data exchange. The specification would draw on internationally recognized interoperability standards to ensure compatibility with existing data management practices

and maximize the potential for adoption by national and international platforms. The development process would involve structured engagement with Parties and platform operators and would include a public consultation period prior to the publication of an initial version of the standard.

72. A governance mechanism would be established to manage the standard over time, including version control, issue tracking and a defined process for incorporating updates in response to evolving policy requirements and technical developments in relation to how data are structured and exchanged.

(c) Policy implications

73. Under this option, the secretariat would be required to coordinate and maintain a common data standard for NMAs, which would require a decision by the CMA on providing such a function. Parties would need to agree on the scope, status and governance of the standard, including how it would relate to the existing NMA submission process and how voluntary uptake by other platforms would be encouraged while respecting national ownership of data and the cooperative nature of the framework for NMAs.

(d) Indicative cost implications

74. The development of an initial version of the common data standard, including structured stakeholder consultations and the preparation of technical documentation, has an indicative cost of EUR 100,000–300,000.

75. The development of both a service for verifying compliance with the common data standard and a publicly accessible repository of documentation on, inter alia, the common vocabulary, data schema and technical exchange specification has an indicative cost of EUR 100,000.

76. Ongoing governance and maintenance of the standard, including version management and stakeholder engagement, is estimated to require EUR 20,000–40,000 per year.

77. These cost estimates would be subject to revision on the basis of the refinement of requirements should this option be selected.

5. Complementarity between options

78. The options presented above are not mutually exclusive and may be considered in combination. In particular, options 3–4 could be complementary in their implementation. The aggregation of data sources under option 3 could inform the development of a common data standard under option 4 by enhancing understanding of the range of data available and the potential ecosystem of data providers and consumers. On the other hand, the development of the data standard under option 4 could reduce the cost of implementing option 3 by simplifying data exchange and aggregation.
