Submission by Ireland and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Dublin, 5/10/2026

Subject: Proposals for streamlining and merging current ideas in the informal note (IN.SBI64.i15.3) in order to enhance the effectiveness of a new action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)

Summary:

- The submission provides an overview of the merging and streamlining proposals by the EU and its Member States for the informal note from SB64, containing elements for a new ACE Action Plan (2027-2031).
- An ambitious ACE Action Plan needs to learn from what worked well during the first Action Plan while **enhancing previously overlooked areas, in particular information integrity**.
- To increase efficiency and ensure its implementation, the **ACE Action Plan should be concise, practical and implementation-oriented**, focusing on empowering the relevant actors to act across all 6 ACE elements.

1) Introduction

The EU appreciates the constructive exchanges on a new ACE Action Plan that took place at SBI 64 and welcomes the opportunity to provide further views on the merging and streamlining of activities and deliverables contained in the informal note.

The discussions and exchanges at the ACE Dialogue, the 3-day technical workshop as well as in the ACE negotiation room have resulted in a broad range of activities that build on those contained in the first ACE Action Plan (2022-2026), and bring new approaches, topics and entities to support the implementation of the Glasgow Work Programme on ACE (2021-2031).

The EU considers the co-facilitators' informal note1 (IN.SBI64.i15.3) a useful basis for further work and supports a concise, practical and implementation-oriented Action Plan covering all six ACE elements in a balanced manner.

[1] See https://docs.unfccc.int/documents/10000182

The new Action Plan should build on activities that have worked well, while streamlining and merging overlapping proposals. The suggestions in this submission are aimed at avoiding unnecessary duplication, maintaining a balance of activities between the four priority areas and improving clarity and efficiency of future implementation. We highlight that information integrity is a pre-requisite for all six of the ACE elements and we look forward to further working with other Parties to include it in the updated ACE Action Plan.

2) Suggested merging and streamlining of activities

The following sections give an overview regarding our **suggestions for the informal note across the four priority areas, starting with the merging proposals and followed by streamlining proposals**, both in order of their numbering in the current informal note.

A) Priority area A: policy coherence

Both activities A.1 and A.3 are focused at strengthening coordination of ACE work. While A.1 is focused at the processes under the UNFCCC, A.3 takes a wider look at also other relevant UN, international and regional frameworks and processes outside the UNFCCC process. Both activities share their timelines and for the most part their leading entities (the UNFCCC Secretariat).

In this context, the **current activities A.1.1 and A.3.1 should be merged** into a single mapping exercise in the hands of the UNFCCC Secretariat covering relevant ACE work, synergies and linkages both under and outside of the UNFCCC process. The corresponding output of the mapping can be expected to be structured in a clear way that allows to distinguish between those linkages. This mapping activity should be updated annually, depending on the availability of resources.

The merged deliverable/output description could read as follows: *"Mapping ACE work under UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes, as well as existing synergies with relevant United Nations, international and regional frameworks and processes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Education for Sustainable Development for 2030, to enhance coherence and serve as input to relevant activities under the action plan under the Glasgow work programme."*

Also under priority area A, there are currently two deliverables that aim at organizing a joint session of UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes on ACE implementation, one with a focus on the general sharing of experiences (A.1.3) and another with a focus on enhancing the role of children, youth Indigenous Peoples and local communities in ACE implementation (A.1.5).

In this context, **current activity A.1.5 should be merged with A.1.3**, so that the exchanges with UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes are addressed together. Regarding the content, one or several of the suggested three exchanges could focus specifically on the role of children, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities and intergenerational knowledge-sharing.

The merged deliverable/output description could read as follows: *"Organizing three interactive virtual or hybrid meetings, depending on the availability of resources, for representatives of UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes [and the Climate Champions] to facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned in relation to ACE implementation and build their capacities in this area, including by discussing ways to enhance understanding of the role of children, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in accelerating ACE implementation and promoting intergenerational knowledge-sharing in the context of their work."*

In the interest of streamlining the informal note further, **deliverable A.2.2 should add the "national focal points on ACE" to the leading entities**, as they have the knowledge, network and mandate to identify the enabling conditions and institutional arrangements required to prepare and implement a national strategy for ACE.

In addition, deliverable A.2.4 builds on a parallel activity in the first ACE Action Plan (deliverable A.2.2 in the original action plan) that was useful but clearly timebound to inform the development of NDCs. Building on this experience, **A.2.4 should be clarified to take place one time during the time period at the ACE Dialogue in 2028** to inform the next round of NDCs which are due in early 2030.

Finally, deliverable **A.3.2 should have a clear distinction of responsibilities between the leading entities**, e.g. by including in its description that the Secretariat would only be responsible for the sharing of good practices for and examples of ACE implementation through the ACE Dialogues and informal networking meetings, while dialogues at the national and potentially regional level should be organized by Parties and their national ACE focal points.

B) Priority area B: coordinated action

Both activities B.2 and B.3 share the focus on the exchanges on the regional and local level, with B.2 aiming to enhance collaboration, and B.3 aiming to promote the development of networks.

In this context, **deliverable B.2.1 should be merged with B.3.1**, focusing on the analyses, assessment and mapping of regional and local networks (from B.3.1) as well as their continued development by Parties. This network-building by Parties could include deliverables such as regional dialogues organized by Parties and by focal points (from B.2.1) but would be more closely linked to the building and maintaining such networks.

Also, deliverables B.3.2 and C.1.1 share the goal of facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges for national ACE focal points, in the case of B.3.2 on coordinating with their regional and local

networks, in the case of C.1.1 on a more general level to build capacities and learn from each other.

In this context, **deliverable B.3.2 should be merged with C.1.1**, consolidating peer-to-peer exchanges and capacity-building opportunities for national ACE focal points into a single activity while highlighting their key role in and experiences with ACE implementation on the regional and local level.

The merged deliverable/output could read as follows: *"Providing capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning opportunities for national ACE focal points, tailored to ACE implementation, including to exchange experiences on coordinating with regional and local networks and platforms, during the ACE Dialogues, climate weeks and virtual or hybrid events organized by the secretariat."*

For further streamlining the current proposals, **deliverable B.1.2 should have its timeline moved back to at least 2028, if not later,** for organizing a workshop at an ACE Dialogue to share good practices and lessons learned related to national mechanisms for coordinating ACE work. This would give Parties more time to gather experiences under activitiy B.1.1 with the establishment or leveraging of mechanisms for coordinating ACE work.

C) Priority area C: tools and support

As already reflected under priority area B above, **deliverable B.3.2 should be merged with C.1.1** to consolidate capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning opportunities for national ACE focal points and avoid duplication across priority areas.

Regarding the view reflected in the informal note that suggests to merge deliverable C.2.2 with other mapping activities under A.1 and A.3, **we suggest to keep C.2.2 as a separate deliverable** as it aims at delivering a product, namely collating existing guidelines and best practices, which is dedicated to tools and support.

D) Priority area D: monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Both D.1.1 and D.1.4 are addressed at the national level and aim at cooperation and peer-to-peer exchange on monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting of ACE implementation. While D.1.1 stresses the involvement of Party experts and relevant organizations, D.1.4 puts the national ACE focal points and other relevant focal points in the lead. These aspects should be brought together ensure that all relevant stakeholders on the national level are included in these important exchanges.

In this context, **deliverables D.1.1 and D.1.4 should be merged**, combining Parties' cooperation on monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting with peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices. The UNFCCC Secretariat would not fit as a contributing entity in this context anymore.

The merged deliverable/output could read as follows: *"D.1.1. Fostering cooperation and peer-to-peer learning among Parties and relevant organizations, collecting [gender-, age- and disability-disaggregated] data on, and developing guidelines and toolkits including the exchange of good practices and existing tools and approaches for monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting of ACE implementation, as appropriate."*

Finally, regarding the view reflected in the informal note that suggests to merge deliverables D.1.3 and D.2.1, we suggest keep a clear distinction: deliverable D.1.3 addresses the UNFCCC Secretariat to organize an expert dialogue on monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting at the ACE Dialogue in 2028, while deliverable D.2.1 contains a mandate for Parties to organize interactive workshops at all levels. In our view, the latter is entirely Party-driven, so in order to streamline both activities, **the Secretariat's mention in the "responsible entities" column of deliverable D.2.1 should be removed**.