



Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance

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**IN A FOSSIL FUELS PHASE-OUT, 'ABATEMENT' MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO
DISTRACT AND DELAY;**

NON-MARKET MECHANISM IN ARTICLE 6.8 READY NOW FOR REAL CLIMATE FINANCE

CLARA Opening Briefing from COP28 in Dubai

World leaders must agree on an immediate and equitable phase-out of fossil fuels, but countries are poised to call for emissions-abatement methods to justify their continued use, warn members of the Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance ([CLARA](#)) as the COP28 climate change conference opens today in Dubai.

Abatement as a term for distraction and delay first surfaced at COP26 in Glasgow when coal-burning nations objected to the call for a 'phase-out of unabated coal power'. That language was weakened to 'phasedown', and the controversy focused there, rather than on the undefined word, 'unbated'.

CLARA members caution against three different uses of 'abatement' to weaken any commitment to phase out fossil fuels:

1. **Carbon capture and storage (CCS).** The CCS use contemplated in some advanced economies is not realistic because CCS technologies have not proven to scale well, and have underperformed everywhere they have been deployed.
2. **Co-firing biomass.** The suggestion that burning forest biomass together with coal constitutes a form of 'abatement' is extremely alarming, because emissions at the smokestack actually *increase* under co-firing conditions with biomass.
3. **Carbon credit offsets.** Similarly, offsetting emissions isn't abatement. Land-based carbon credits for offsetting purposes should not be allowed in the Article 6.2 and 6.4 mechanisms under consideration at COP28. Instead, CLARA shows that Article 6.8 is the much better home for actions in the land sector.

"CLARA members have seen this tactic before, when 'ecosystem-based approaches' were redefined as 'nature-based solutions' and 'emissions reductions' were subsumed in 'net zero', says Peter Riggs of Pivot Point. "Now we're seeing efforts to only disallow fossil fuel use which is 'unabated.' But this double-negative – disallowing the unabated -- does not create a positive result, because 'abatement' does not create emission reductions."

"COP28 needs to deliver on real climate action, not more greenwashing and dangerous distractions," says Kelly Stone of ActionAid USA. "Abatement is not only a dangerous loophole, but an undefined one that puts human and land rights at risk."

Non-Market Mechanism in Article 6.8 Ready Now for Real Climate Finance

While COP28 will see yet another attempt to finish the rules governing Articles 6.2 and 6.4 for international carbon markets, the Article 6.8 mechanism for non-market approaches is ready for implementation now.

Article 6.8 can support a broad scope of initiatives for climate finance, mitigation ambition, and ecological integrity, none of which will involve the transfer of mitigation outcomes through offsetting and the generation of carbon credits for trading.

It can serve as a home to scale up ambition in the land sector, address mitigation and adaptation together, create real climate finance for real solutions, and match innovative finance to the needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The parameters of the web-based platform for submitting and managing NMA projects to the UNFCCC, which will be negotiated at COP28, should ensure direct access for non-party stakeholders, especially those communities most vulnerable to climate change.

“It is crystal clear today that carbon markets and other market-based solutions are mechanisms for land grabbing, dispossessing Indigenous Peoples from their territories, taking away land and forests, and destroying the livelihoods of women and local communities - not climate solutions at all,” says Souparna Lahiri of Global Forest Coalition. “Real climate solutions - conserving, protecting and restoring forests, biodiversity and ecosystems can only be done by recognizing and operationalizing the rights and governance of Indigenous Peoples, women and local communities through a gender just, rights-based ecosystems approach. The UNFCCC, the COP and the Parties should understand that such a non-market approach, providing non-carbon benefits while restoring the carbon cycle of our Mother Earth, is possible only through a robust, equitable and participatory implementation of Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement.”

Glasgow Declaration Accountability Framework

At COP26 (November 2021), more than 140 countries signed the [Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use](#), in which they agreed to 'halt and reverse' deforestation and land degradation by 2030. Nice words, great commitments – but where's the action?

CLARA urges full implementation of the Declaration, including both the financing commitments made by key Parties, and the focus on Indigenous Peoples and local communities as key actors in implementation. Toward that end, CLARA supports the establishment of an [Accountability Framework](#) for this declaration. See [here](#) for the letter sent to Glasgow Declaration signatories.

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About CLARA

[CLARA](#) (the Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance) is a global civil society alliance with more than 40 members from conservation, agroecology, land-rights, faith-based, and forest restoration organizations and communities. CLARA is providing analysis on Article 6 negotiations, forests and land use, agriculture, and human rights from COP28 in Dubai, November 30 – December 12. CONTACT: Don Lehr / dbllehr@cs.com / +1.917.304.4058

This briefing does not necessarily express the opinions of all CLARA members.