

Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Fontaine Building
200 Boulevard Sacre-Coeur
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3
2021

11 November

Dear Minister Guilbeault:

I write in these final hours of the COP to express Amnesty's concerns about the threats that the current texts on article 6 of the Paris Agreement pose to human rights and protection of the environment.

The cooperative approaches under Article 6, whether market or non-market based, must ensure that climate ambition is not undermined and that human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected, protected, and promoted. Parties cannot allow for a mechanism to be operationalized in a manner that fails to uphold international standards and that would provide an incentive to projects failing to comply with human rights.

Projects under the Kyoto Protocol have shown in the real world the destructive effects on human rights and the environment that the lack of adequate rules can have. As the current text stand, we would like to reiterate key redlines for rules under Article 6 that are essential to avoid undermining human rights and environmental integrity:

- Human rights consistent **social and environmental safeguards** to prevent harm from occurring;
- Meaningful **participation/consultation of local rights holders**, including ensure respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights to free, prior and informed consent;
- An **independent grievance mechanism** available to communities if harm does occur;
- **No double counting**;
- **No carry-over** of past CDM credits;
- Meaningful contribution to the **Overall Mitigation of Global Emissions (OMGE)**.

If rules under Article 6 are not able to ensure the above elements, we urge you not to support any decision on this item at this COP to prevent a bad outcome that would undermine the environmental and social integrity of the Paris Agreement for the decades to come.

Rather than relying on carbon markets and other schemes to delay genuine emissions reductions, the cover decision should commit to specific, real emissions reductions by 2030 to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5°C, including a phase out of fossil fuels. We also urge you to ensure that the cover decision strengthens commitments to climate financing for developing countries, including additional financing and a new and dedicated financial mechanism to deliver funding specifically for loss and damage. We urge you to ensure that the COP26 decision reflects these imperatives.

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I attach Amnesty's public statement about this topic which provides further detail.

Sincerely,

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cc: The Honorable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and
Economic Development (via: mary.ng@international.gc.ca)
The Honorable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources (via: jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca)