

Climate Change Advocacy Strategy 2019 - 2022

GLOBAL GOAL AND THEMATIC ADVOCACY FOCUS (1 page)

Climate change advocacy is directly linked to the DCA global goal, to build resilient communities. The effects of climate change, e.g. droughts, flooding and devastating weather events, are all a threat to communities in the countries where DCA partners are trying to build a sustainable development. To enable the development DCA wants to promote, root causes must be addressed and acted upon. This is the reason why DCA engage in the debate about climate change, and this is why a specific advocacy strategy for climate change is needed.

While the climate change advocacy work is directly based on the program work related to resilient communities, it is also linked to the global goal to save lives, and the global goal to fight extreme inequalities. Approximately 25% of DCA humanitarian projects are related to natural disasters with links to effects of climate change. Part of the climate debate is also focusing on climate related disasters, and how the international community can mobilize the required support. Climate change is also, increasingly, contributing to inequalities in the world. Scientists have concluded that emissions from human activities contribute to global warming. However, countries with limited emissions are usually also countries with low coping capacity, meaning that they are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. At the same time the climate change response also may lead to threats to human rights, especially for women, for example as investments are made to establish new renewable energy solutions. These inequalities can be found both between countries, and within countries.

Climate change was selected as an advocacy theme due to five reasons. Firstly, DCA partners around the world face the effects of climate change in their daily work, and advocacy to address political and institutional barriers are needed. Secondly, because partners and DCA offices in several countries already are working on climate change advocacy and possibilities for local to global, and global to local linkages therefore are good¹. Thirdly, because climate change is a prioritized advocacy theme for ACT Alliance, and DCA therefore have good opportunities to deliver advocacy results in cooperation with a wider network. Fourthly, because DCA, through active engagement in the climate debate since 2007, have built expertise, networks and a brand, which will enable political results. And finally, because climate change has become a cross-cutting theme for DCA, with relevance for program, fundraising, media and popular engagement, making possibilities for synergy and cooperation between different parts of DCA possible.

The DCA climate change advocacy strategy will be implemented by the DCA Climate change Community of Practice, in cooperation with selected partners and alliances.

STRATEGY FOR SELECTED ADVOCACY FOCUS (2 pages for each thematic advocacy focus)

ADVOCACY OBJECTIVE

Objectives (2019-2022)	2019 Indicators (revised annually by the DCA climate CoP)
Governments in selected ² countries, implement and promote, ambitious climate related policies which are beneficial for vulnerable people living in poverty in developing countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denmark increase its climate finance and maintain the share of adaptation finance. At least three DCA partners take part in DCA supported trainings
Intergovernmental processes on EU, or international (e.g. UN), level deliver agreements with an aim to promote a sustainable and climate friendly development in poor and vulnerable countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU increase its climate finance and improve the share of adaptation finance. COP25 delivers an agreement addressing the need for loss and damage finance.

¹ In 2019 climate change is a focus area in Cambodia, Uganda, Malawi and Nepal.

² Countries where DCA, directly or in cooperation with partners/allies have capacity and access to implement advocacy activities.

PROBLEM STREAM

The problem

Climate change poses a threat to the whole world. However, poor and vulnerable communities, with limited responsibility for historic and present emissions of green house gasses, lack capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change. The recent report by the UN Climate panel, IPCC, indicate that time is running out. Ambitious climate action, for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, is needed. Many solutions are already known, but to enable the transformational change towards a green, resilient and sustainable future, finance and transfer of technologies, is needed. Western countries, with a big historic responsibility and existing capacity, hesitate to step up, while many vulnerable countries increasingly are taking the lead by proposing ambitious changes in their countries. However, there are also richer developing countries which are holding back as they start to realise that they, to increasing extent, will have to contribute. Climate change is a global threat. While action is needed on local level, cooperation is needed globally.

Assessment of the problem

The problems related to climate change are widely known and acknowledged. Climate science are continuously launching new, and more worrying reports and there are no duty bearers which are not having access to relevant information about the problem.

POLICY STREAM

Solutions

DCA will continuously develop, revise and adjust positions and proposals, for how to find solutions to the problems related to climate change. As stated in the DCA Advocacy Framework, solutions will be evidence based. In addition DCA climate positions will be aligned with positions of the ACT Alliance, and they will be pro-poor, human rights based, and consider the effects on gender.

The solutions proposed by DCA³ includes an increased focus on adaptation and loss and damage, more financial support to the poorest and most vulnerable countries, and ambitious plans to increase commitments and engagement related to climate action.

Assessment of solutions

DCA may promote climate solutions based on two reasons. Either because it is a realistic way forward, or because it has a tactical value which can help to pull up the ambition. Many solutions are technical and there may be a need for dissemination and capacity building for selected stakeholders. As an example, rules, which are not widely explained, for accounting and reporting of climate finance may have big implications for the type of support developing countries receive.

POLITICAL STREAM

Political context

The international climate debate has for a long time been centred around UN negotiations. However, multilateralism is increasingly being questioned and UN negotiations have difficulties to deliver ambition results. It is also important to note, that in spite of a formal UN system where all countries have a voice, the negotiation practice leads to talks where a limited number of key actors have the decisive voice.

³ Position papers, and lobby points, will be developed in cooperation with alliances and partners

Climate change has become a top priority on both international and national level, and most politicians try to frame themselves as committed and engaged. However, there is still a big difference between verbal engagement, and actual commitments to take action.

Assessment of the political context

On international level UN talks continues to be an important arena. However, it is increasingly important to follow the money as climate action to a large extent depends on the funds which are available. Money are coming from donor countries, but a considerable part of climate finance is also channelled through multilateral banks, including the Green Climate Fund. Depending on changes in the political context in the coming years, relevant climate debates may appear in alternative venues such as the ongoing EU-Canada-China dialogue, P4G, and other platforms.

As noted above there are a limited number of countries which have a key role to play, both when it comes to international decisions making, and through their roles as global leaders who may be followed. Some big actors, such as EU, US and China are important because of their size. However, other countries may get a key role because of the role they play in a country group. As an example Egypt had a leading role at COP24 as they spoke on behalf of both G77 and the Africa group. Other actors, such as big companies, city-representatives, and global spokespersons, may also have an increasing role to play, especially if the traditional UN setting is abandoned.

STRATEGY

Considering the limited role of Denmark in a global context, DCA must engage in global alliances and networks to achieve results. DCA will work actively within ACT and with partners, and where relevant also with CAN⁴. In these cooperations DCA will argue for efforts to reach out to strategic actors, both governments and non-state actors, to increase the access to decision making, and to find ways around blocking and opposing stakeholders.

DCA will increase the cooperation with partners, both through capacity building and through strategic cooperation and information exchange. To enable this, efforts will be made in cooperation with DCA fundraisers, to find funding for climate change advocacy projects.

Media is an important element in the strategy, both because it is a channel to mobilise public support, and because it is a possibility to strengthen the brand, which will increase access to relevant duty bearers.

RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

With an increasing focus on climate change in the public debate, there are also new opportunities, e.g. in relation to fundraising. However, there are also risks, especially in countries with a shrinking civic space. Risks should continuously be assessed, and DCA will make national risk assessments in cooperation with climate change advocacy partners.

⁴ CAN International, CAN Europe, CAN South Asia and CAN South East Asia