



CAN EECCA CHARTER

NETWORK RULES AND GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

This document aims to provide clarity and set rules for the way the CAN EECCA (Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia) is organised and works. It should be used as a guide to define how members of CAN EECCA best work together with the ultimate aim to bring the change we need.

Main terms

CAN EECCA – Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
Node – an official regional or national branch of the Climate Action Network;

CSO – Civil Society Organisation;

Member – CSO or an initiative which was officially accepted to join CAN EECCA;

Board – up to 5 members of CAN EECCA, who are elected by General Assembly for two years term with an aim of providing strategic guidance and support for the Network as volunteers;

Secretariat – an executive body that reports to the Board and General Assembly. On a daily basis it works to support the activities of the Board and the General Assembly and serves as the CAN EECCA information, coordination and expertise hub for stakeholders on the regional and global level;

Node coordinator – same as a Coordinator of the Secretariat of CAN EECCA, coordinates work of the secretariat;

General Assembly – The General Assembly is the highest authority of CAN EECCA. The General Assembly is composed of one representative from each member of the Node and meets once a year in regular session (offline, online or hybrid);

Policy Coordination Group (PCG) – a member-led body coordinating joint policy and UNFCCC-related work;

Action Coordination Group (ACG) – a member-led body coordinating regional and global mobilization and campaigns;

Friends of CAN EECCA – a circle of supporters who collaborate with the network without being formal members;

Extended Board – facilitators of PCG, ACG, Friends of CAN EECCA who join Board meetings in advisory, non-voting capacity.



TITLE 1. Name and fundamental documents

Article 1

The network has the name of "Climate Action Network Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia". The network keeps the right to use in all documents the abbreviation "CAN EECCA".

Article 2

The network bases its regulations on the CAN International Charter and on this Charter. In case of structural differences, the General Assembly's decisions on network structure prevail and must be reflected in the internal regulations.

TITLE 2. Mission and objectives

Article 3

CAN EECCA's mission is to support, reinforce, and develop civil society organisations in the EECCA region in their capacity for tackling the climate crisis, influencing development and implementation of climate policy leading to climate justice.

Article 4

Strategic objectives of CAN EECCA are:

1. Support of the ambitious and equitable climate policy development in EECCA countries, including through coordination at UNFCCC negotiations.
2. Mobilization of civil society and strengthening their influence on climate policy on different levels, including local communities.
3. Sharing experience among various stakeholders, creating platforms for collaboration and dissemination of knowledge on the climate crisis.
4. Cooperation with media, development and support of communication channels in the climate field.



Article 5

Objectives can be accomplished through:

1. Climate advocacy work in EECCA countries at national, regional and international levels;
2. Providing advisory and climate consultancy;
3. Issuing climate-related publications, reports and surveys;
4. Implementation of climate projects and campaigns;
5. Running press-campaigns, creating communication products on essential climate topics and cooperation with media;
6. Organizing or co-organising climate mobilization;
7. Raising awareness on climate change issues on different levels;
8. Adaptation of scientific information for a wide public;
9. Cooperation with academic circles on climate change issues.

TITLE 2 Area of Activity

The area of activity of CAN EECCA is Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries. The work of CAN EECCA can be related to international, regional, national and local issues impacting the environment and/or climate in the EECCA region.

TITLE 3 Members

Article 6

To apply for membership in CAN EECCA, an organisation or individual expert/activist should comply with the following criteria:

1. Work in, or be directly connected to, one of the EECCA countries;
2. Be a registered environmental non-governmental organisation, or provide a clear argument on why registration is not possible;
3. Individual applicants may apply, or may be invited to join, without registration if they demonstrate climate-related expertise, activism, or professional engagement aligned with CAN EECCA's mission, and if such an exceptional measure is justified with strong arguments and formally approved by the Board.
4. Work at least on one of CAN EECCA's strategic objectives;
5. Agree with CAN EECCA Charter, Vision and Code of Conduct;
6. Not be affiliated with the interests of fossil fuel businesses or any government;
7. Support the principles of gender and climate justice through their work;



8. Respect CAN EECCA's participatory governance model, including participation (when relevant) in Policy (PCG), Action (ACG), other working groups.

Article 7

1. The number of the members of the network is unlimited;
2. CAN EECCA accepts new members through a written online application. The application is reviewed by the Secretariat and shared with the current members of the network for their comments and support;
3. Within three months after receiving the application, the Secretariat organises an introductory interview with the candidate;
4. Members of the network have 30 days to express their opinion on the candidate. If a member objects to the application, they must clearly explain the reason for their objection;
5. If the members' opinions are divided, the Board decides on the membership by a simple majority vote. The Board may grant full, observer, or associate membership, or reject the application;
6. If no objections or comments are received within the 30-day period, the candidate is automatically accepted as a member;
7. Individual applicants may apply, or may be invited to join, without organisational registration if they demonstrate relevant climate-related expertise or activism aligned with CAN EECCA's mission. Such an exceptional measure must be supported by clear arguments and approved by the Board;
8. The Secretariat regularly informs the Board about new applications and decisions as part of the network's transparency process;
9. Every member organisation must have a designated contact person for communication with CAN EECCA and must inform the Secretariat in case of changes.

Article 8

Members rights are:

1. All Members may attend the General Assembly and other CAN EECCA events;
2. All Members may join PCG, ACG or other working groups on an open and voluntary basis;
3. All Members may serve as Board members and facilitators of Coordination Groups or other working groups;
4. Members can represent CAN EECCA at the national, regional and international levels in case of full compliance with the CAN vision and strategy;



5. Members can participate in the CAN EECCA granting programs and other activities of the CAN EECCA;
6. All members can receive news and newsletters on a regular basis, as well as share their news with the network;
7. Members can take part in regular CAN calls, as well as express their opinion during the events organised within global CAN network;
8. Members can take part in CAN International working groups, meetings during COP and other events organised for CAN members;
9. Members can participate in the organisational development of the CAN EECCA network and its promotion and fundraising.

Article 9

Termination of membership status:

- A. The CAN EECCA Membership automatically terminates at the moment of:
 1. Delivery to the CAN EECCA Secretariat of a written resignation letter signed by the decision-making person of this particular member organisation;
 2. Dissolution of CAN EECCA;
 3. Dissolution of the member organisation.

- B. Reasons for a Member's expulsion include:
 1. Non-compliance with Article 6 of this Charter;
 2. Serious violation of this Charter or non-compliance with CAN EECCA Vision and Code of Conduct;
 3. Proven affiliation with state interests or the interests of the fossil fuel business;
 4. Absence of any communication from the Member during 1 year;
 5. Serious threat of damage or actual damage to the CAN EECCA and its reputation.

- C. The process of terminating membership:
 1. Node coordinator must clearly communicate the reasons for possible membership termination to the member in question and try their best to organise a dialogue;
 2. Cases for involuntary membership termination are decided by the Board and, if needed, by the General Assembly;
 3. In case, there is no response from the member in question during the period of 3 months, their membership can be terminated by the Board or General Assembly.



TITLE 4 General Assembly of CAN EECCA

Article 10

- A. The General Assembly is the highest authority of CAN EECCA. The rights of the General Assembly of CAN EECCA refer to the powers and responsibilities that are granted to the General Assembly. The General Assembly is composed of one representative from each member organization or individuals of the Node and meets once a year in regular session (offline, online or hybrid);
- B. General Assembly sessions are led and planned by the Board;
- C. All technical and reporting procedures must be organised by the Secretariat;
- D. The General Assembly must be held in one of the CAN countries unless proven completely impossible.

Article 11

Rights of the General Assembly:

- A. The power to discuss and make recommendations on any matter within the scope of the CAN EECCA Charter and vote for changes in the Charter;
- B. The right to receive and consider reports from the Board and Secretariat of CAN EECCA;
- C. The power to elect new Board members and accept new members of the network;
- D. The power to consider and approve the CAN EECCA budget;
- E. The power to make recommendations to Members, Board and Secretariat of CAN EECCA on any matter within the scope of the CAN EECCA Charter;
- F. The power to consider and adopt the CAN EECCA development strategy, priorities, projects etc;
- G. The power to establish any kind of committees, working groups and project groups within the network.

Article 12

General Assembly rules:

- A. The decisions are taken by a majority of the present members. However, we strive for consensus;
- B. The General Assembly can only discuss items mentioned on the agenda, unless 2/3 of the present members of the General Assembly approve, in case of urgency, to discuss other issue;



- C. At the General Assembly, every member can be represented by another member to vote when a written mandate is provided.
- D. The decisions of the General Assembly will be kept in the written form and accessible for members or to a third party that can prove its need.

TITLE 5 Board of CAN EECCA

Article 13

- A. The Board of CAN EECCA is the representative and decision-making body of the Network. It shall consist of not less than three (3) and not more than five (5) voting members, elected for a term of two (2) years. Voting Board members may represent either organisations or individual members of the Network;
- B. The Board recommended to maintain regional balance and shall include representation from each sub-region of the Network: Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia;
- C. Members of the Board are elected by a simple majority vote. Elections may take place during the General Assembly meeting, through an online voting procedure open for one week, or in a hybrid format combining both methods. All election procedures as announcement of nomination, creating voting forms and organising election and publish its results must be provided by Secretariat;
- D. A voting Board member may serve for no more than two (2) consecutive terms. A former Board member (same organization and individual) may be re-elected only after at least one full term (2 years) has passed;
- E. Membership in the Board is automatically suspended if the organisation or individual represented by the Board member loses its membership status in CAN EECCA;
- F. If a Board member representing an organisation leaves that organisation during their term, the organisation shall have the right to appoint a replacement to serve for the remainder of the term. In the case of an individual Board member, if they cease to meet the membership criteria or their membership in CAN EECCA is terminated, their seat on the Board shall be considered vacant and filled at the next General Assembly or through a procedure determined by the Board;
- G. If an organization is unable to replace its Board member, the position is declared vacant, and a new member will be elected during the next General Assembly;
- H. The Board elects a Chairperson from among its voting members for a term of one (1) year. A Board member may serve as Chairperson for no more than two (2) consecutive terms;
- I. A former Chairperson may be re-elected as Chairperson only after at least one full Chairperson-term has passed (1 year), even if they continue serving on the Board. One person can be elected as Chairperson during 4 years Board membership maximum three times with a break of one year between;



- J.** In addition to the voting members, the Board shall include three (3) non-voting members (the “Extended Board”). These non-voting members shall be the facilitators of the Coordination Groups — the Policy Coordination Group (PCG), the Action Coordination Group (ACG), and the Friend of CAN EECCA Platform;
- K.** Non-voting members participate in Board meetings in an advisory capacity. They inform the Board about the work of their respective groups and support coordination across the Network. They do not participate in decision-making and may not be elected as Chairperson;
- L.** The Board provides strategic oversight of the Coordination Groups and ensures that their work follows the decisions of the General Assembly and the priorities of the Network;
- M.** The Board ensures transparent decision-making, including regular publication of its decisions through the Network’s internal communication channels and participation in the Network’s quarterly governance cycle.

Article 14

The Board is responsible for:

- A. Representing CAN EECCA at the highest level;
- B. Promoting the mission, objectives and activities of CAN EECCA;
- C. Identifying and appointing the coordinator of the Secretariat, and if necessary, dismissing the coordinator;
- D. Developing concepts for further CAN EECCA strategic development and priorities for its activities;
- E. Advocating on behalf of CAN EECCA for the matters of importance to the network;
- F. Developing procedures and guidelines for the operation of CAN EECCA, General Assembly and Secretariat;
- G. Sharing information with CAN EECCA and other CAN nodes representatives and with the broader stakeholder community;
- H. Providing financial oversight, including approval of the annual budget and financial report;
- I. Initiating crisis response immediately upon formally recognising a crisis, in accordance with the CAN EECCA Crisis Management Guide, including adjusting activity plans, redistributing roles among the Secretariat, the Board and members, implementing scenario-specific steps;
- J. Ruling on other issues that are not within the responsibility of the Network Coordinator.

Article 15

Chairperson of the Board is responsible for:



- A. Convening and chairing the Board’s meetings, directing debates, ensuring observance of the rules, facilitating decision-making in disputable cases, and putting questions to vote;
- B. Maintaining communication between the Board and the Secretariat’s Coordinator;
- C. Ensuring that all the members of the Board perform their responsibilities as outlined in specific document accepted directly after election of the members of the Board;
- D. Ensuring that the conflict-of-interest prohibition principle is respected in the decision-making of the Board;
- E. Ensuring that the performance of the Board is assessed by its members before each General Assembly;
- F. Initiating the termination of the mandate of a Board member in the case of unsatisfactory performance;
- G. Evaluating the performance of the Secretariat’s Coordinator on an annual basis.

Article 16

Board meetings:

- A. The Board usually convenes up to 10 meetings a year between the General Assemblies, as well as a meeting before the General Assembly. Meetings are scheduled depending on the availability of its participants and the CAN EECCA priorities. Board meetings can be held offline, online or be hybrid;
- B. The Board meetings can be initiated and lead by the Chairperson of the Board;
- C. The Board meetings can be called by majority of Board members or by a requirement of CAN EECCA members;
- D. The Board meeting has decision making power if a simple majority of elected Board members is present.

TITELE6 Coordination and Working Groups

CAN EECCA operates as a member-led regional Network consisting of the General Assembly, the Board, the Extended Board, the Secretariat, the Coordination Groups, and the Friends of CAN EECCA Platform. The structure ensures democratic participation, transparency, and engagement of members in policy development, mobilization, communications, and fundraising. The Coordination Groups function as permanent mechanisms uniting the expertise of members, with the Secretariat providing technical support and the Board providing strategic oversight.



Article 17. Policy Coordination Group (PCG)

- A. The PCG is a member-led body responsible for consolidating policy expertise across the Network and developing joint policy positions and strategies for regional and international climate processes;
- B. Membership in the PCG is open to all CAN EECCA members with expertise in climate policy, science, or advocacy, including organisations and individual members;
- C. The PCG meets at least once per quarter and additionally before major climate policy events such as UNFCCC SB sessions, COP conferences, or significant national or regional developments.
- D. The PCG elects a Facilitator from among its active members for a term of one (1) year. The Facilitator may be re-elected without any limitation on the number of terms simply based on consultation decision among group members;
- E. The Facilitator of the PCG serves as a non-voting member of the Extended Board and informs the Board about the group's work, decisions, and priorities;
- F. The tasks of the PCG include:
 - 1. Developing joint policy briefs, statements, and positions;
 - 2. Coordinating CAN EECCA positions for COP and SB sessions;
 - 3. Reviewing national, regional, and global climate policy developments;
 - 4. Providing technical input to the Network's advocacy and strategic planning;
 - 5. Ensuring participation of EECCA experts in global CAN structures.
- G. The Secretariat supports the PCG by providing coordination tools, communication support, and documentation.

Article 18. Action Coordination Group (ACG)

- A. The ACG is a member-led body responsible for coordinating regional and global climate actions, mobilizations, and campaigns across the EECCA region;
- B. Membership in the ACG is open to all members engaged in activism, campaign work, public outreach, or mobilization.
- C. The ACG meets at least once per quarter and additionally before major regional or global action moments.
- D. The ACG elects a Facilitator from among its active members for a term of one (1) year. The Facilitator may be re-elected without any limitation on the number of terms simply based on consultation decision among group members;
- E. The Facilitator of the ACG serves as a non-voting member of the Extended Board and informs the Board of the group's work and coordination needs.
- F. The tasks of the ACG include:



1. Developing and coordinating regional action and mobilization plans;
2. Organizing solidarity actions for members facing threats or restrictions;
3. Aligning EECCA participation with global CAN mobilization efforts;
4. Preparing action and communication toolkits;
5. Ensuring regional visibility of actions.

G. The Secretariat supports the ACG by providing coordination tools, communication support, and documentation.

Article 19. Friends of CAN EECCA Platform

- A. The Friends of CAN EECCA Platform is an open circle of supporters, allies, experts, activists, journalists, and partner organisations who contribute to the Network's mission without holding formal membership;
- B. Friends may include individuals or organisations working in climate, human rights, media, academia, or related fields, provided they align with CAN EECCA values;

C. The Platform aims to:

1. Expand the visibility and outreach of the Network;
2. Provide expert input and thematic advice;
3. Support campaigns, actions, and solidarity efforts;
4. Strengthen partnerships with media, academia, and civil society;
5. Assist in knowledge-sharing and external communication.

- E. The Friends of CAN EECCA Platform is coordinated by a designated Facilitator, who may be either a member of the Board or another individual appointed by the Board. The Facilitator shall serve as a non-voting member of the Extended Board;
- F. The Secretariat provides operational support to the Platform, including maintaining a registry of Friends, managing communication and invitations, facilitating engagement, and ensuring that participation aligns with Network values and integrity;
- G. The Facilitator, together with the Secretariat, may convene meetings of the Friends Platform, including an annual open session, and additional consultations when relevant to policy, action, communication, partnership, or solidarity needs;
- H. The Board oversees the general direction of the Platform and ensures that the involvement of Friends strengthens the visibility, impact, and independence of CAN EECCA.



TITLE 7 Secretariat of CAN EECCA

Article 20

CAN EECCA secretariat

- A. CAN EECCA Secretariat is an executive body that reports to the Board and General Assembly.
- B. It works to support the activities of the Board and the General Assembly and serves as the CAN EECCA information, coordination and expertise hub for stakeholders on the regional and global level;
- C. Secretariat staff supports the coordinator's work, organises CAN EECCA activities and manages CAN EECCA finances in accordance with the Board's instructions;
- D. The Secretariat ensures greater visibility of CAN EECCA activities, its members and their increased contribution to the climate change topics in the EECCA region;
- E. Together with the Board, the Secretariat is developing advocacy and communication campaigns on matters of importance to the CAN EECCA and takes stock of the policy developments, while ensuring its further communication to the Board members, General Assembly participants and the general public.

Article 21

Coordinator of the Secretariat, same as a Node Coordinator:

- A. The Board appoints the Secretariat's Coordinator;
- B. The coordinator is a legal representative of the Secretariat and CAN EECCA network. He/she/they is/are appointed by the Board and reports directly to the Board and the General Assembly;
- C. The coordinator appoints the staff of the Secretariat in coordination with the Board;

Responsibilities of the Node coordinator:

- D. Managing the Secretariat;
- E. Managing the procedure for accepting new members into the network;
- F. Preparation of an annual report on the activities of the network and presentation at the CAN EECCA General Assembly;
- G. Communicating with current and potential donors;
- H. Preparing applications for grants and reports in consultation with the Board;
- I. Representing CAN EECCA and its activities during meetings with different stakeholders (potential partners, government officials, media etc);



- J. Managing the network's internal communication platforms;
- K. Coordinating the preparation process before UNFCCC negotiations (sending timely information to the members, supporting them in acquiring accreditation, badges and all the necessary information regarding the conference);
- L. Meeting with EECCA delegations during UNFCCC negotiations together with members;
- M. Staying in contact with CAN International and other CAN Nodes, replying to their requests and sharing relevant news/positions/reports with them;
- N. Coordinating a process of preparing common positions and documents for CAN EECCA.
- O. Coordinating a constant update of CAN EECCA website and social media;
- P. Facilitating/coordinating of regional meetings to discuss and develop common positions on climate policy issues;

TITLE 7 Changes of the Statutes

Article 22

The General Assembly may amend this Charter. The General Assembly may also decide to mandate the preparation of specific amendments during the year, in accordance with decisions approved by the members. For all circumstances not covered by this Charter, CAN EECCA shall refer to international practice of non-profit organisations.