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**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

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**Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda**

**Methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol**

**Issues relating to greenhouse gas inventories**

## **Training programme for review experts under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol**

**Note by the secretariat**

### *Summary*

This document provides information on the results of the training programme for members of expert review teams participating in the initial reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, in response to decision 24/CMP.1. Given the positive results of the training programme, the secretariat will continue to offer the available courses online, subject to availability of resources, and will thus help to increase the number of review experts.

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Mandate**

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP), by its decision 24/CMP.1, requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-fourth session, to assess the results of the training programme for members of expert review teams participating in the initial reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol and to make recommendations to the COP/MOP on the further development and implementation of the training programme.
2. The COP/MOP, by the same decision, requested the secretariat to prepare a report on information on the training programme, in particular on examination procedures and the selection of trainees and instructors, to be provided to the SBSTA for the assessment mentioned in paragraph 1 above.
3. The SBSTA, at its twenty-fourth session, took note of the oral report provided by the secretariat on the progress in implementation of the above training programme and requested the secretariat to report on this issue to the SBSTA at its twenty-fifth session. It also requested Parties to nominate experts for this training programme.

### **B. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

4. The SBSTA may wish to consider the information in this document and, if necessary, make recommendations to the COP/MOP on the further development and implementation of the training programme for members of expert review teams participating in reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol and on the review activities relating to the annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory submissions for 2007.

## **II. Training of members of expert review teams**

### **A. Overview**

5. The COP/MOP, by its decision 24/CMP.1, requested the secretariat to develop and implement a training programme for members of expert review teams participating in the initial reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, including requirements for testing of experts, and to give priority to implementation of a final seminar for the course on application of adjustments. The training programme was developed in the first half of 2006, based on the guidance provided by the COP/MOP in its decision 24/CMP.1 and the experience gained during the annual GHG inventory reviews of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) for 2004 and 2005, especially in testing the application of adjustments under Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol. The training programme comprises three individual courses on:
  - (a) National systems;
  - (b) Application of adjustments under Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol;
  - (c) Modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol.
6. In inviting experts for the training courses, the secretariat gave priority to experienced inventory reviewers from both Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) and Annex I Parties. In particular, the secretariat has sought the participation of lead reviewers and experts

involved in the review process in the last three years. At the request of Parties, the courses were also made available to others interested in the review process, to potential review experts and to experts who have already passed examinations and would like to have access to the courses for future reference, but without the support of an instructor.

### **B. Training activities and examination**

7. The training courses were offered online in three rounds during 2006: 22 May to 28 July; 14 August to 22 September; and 28 August to 27 October. The first two rounds were open for experienced reviewers while the third round was open for new reviewers who had recently passed the basic training course for the review of GHG inventories of Annex I Parties under the Convention. For trainees who had difficulties in accessing the courses via the Internet, the training materials were made available on CD-ROM. Additionally, the courses were made available for download from an FTP site to all trainees who asked for an off-line alternative.

8. The training course on application of adjustments was offered with an instructor for monitoring the trainees and providing assistance and advice as needed. The instructor also interacted with the trainees electronically through the course bulletin board to give guidance and answer questions. The instructor, from a non-Annex I Party, was chosen from among the most experienced reviewers and lead reviewers because of his expertise and leadership in the area of adjustments.

9. Each trainee was required to take the courses on national systems and the application of adjustments. The course on modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts was mandatory only for lead reviewers; however, all participating experts were encouraged to take this course.

10. Each course provides extensive background information and references, and instructions on general and specific procedures for reviewing the GHG inventories of and information provided by Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. Each course also provides examples and practical exercises on key topics, which simulate cases that expert review teams may face during inventory reviews under the Kyoto Protocol (e.g. adjustments process). Through the training courses, the review experts have gained a good understanding of the initial review process, and the examples and exercises have provided them with practical experience and enhanced their expertise on initial reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol. The courses, in general, cover issues pertaining to inventory reviews under the Kyoto Protocol. However, the focus is on particular issues of the initial review and, to some extent, on the annual reviews of the commitment period and the review of the true-up period (end of the commitment period). More information on the training programme is available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>1</sup>

11. After completing the online courses in each of the rounds, the trainees took the mandatory examinations online. For technical reasons, the examinations were made available online for a fixed period of time (24 hours per day during five working days) with the support of a help desk. Review experts were allowed to take each of the exams only once during this period, in any order. Exams were conducted within a time limit. To take into account possible interruptions due to Internet or other technical problems, trainees were allowed to continue the exam from the question they were answering when they were interrupted, without any reduction in the available time for the exam.

12. The examinations test proficiency, skills and knowledge of key concepts and understanding of the specific processes, as well as familiarity with the requirements and procedures of the Guidelines for national systems for the estimation of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks under Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol (annex to decision 19/CMP.1), Technical

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<sup>1</sup> <[http://unfccc.int/national\\_reports/annex\\_i\\_ghg\\_inventories/inventory\\_review\\_training/items/2766.php](http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/inventory_review_training/items/2766.php)>.

guidance on methodologies for adjustments under Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol (annex to decision 20/CMP.1) and the Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol (annex to decision 22/CMP.1). For each course, each trainee takes the same examination. The grading scale is determined and communicated to the trainees in advance. All trainees are automatically and separately notified of their performance immediately after completion of the examination.

13. Trainees who do not pass an examination at the first attempt may retake the examination once more, provided that they have fulfilled all the tasks assigned to them during the courses in a timely manner, and that such retakes will not result in additional costs to the secretariat. In 2006, to increase the number of available experts in reviews of the initial report under the Kyoto Protocol, the secretariat organized a second round of training very soon after the first one was finalized. It was open for those experts that did not pass the exams in the first round, or were not able to take or complete the courses or the exams in the first round. Additionally, the secretariat organized an examination for lead reviewers in Bonn on 6 October 2006 after the fourth lead reviewers meeting (4–6 October 2006) and the conclusion of the second round. In some cases, experts also participated in the third round when they had not passed or had been unable to take the exams in previous rounds.

14. Trainees who have successfully completed the courses may be invited to participate in in-country reviews of initial reports under the Kyoto Protocol.

15. The table below shows the number of experts who took the courses and examination in 2006, the results of the examination, and the number of experts who declined or did not respond to the secretariat's invitation to participate in the training programme.

16. As at 6 October 2006, 134 experts had passed the examination of the course on national systems, 131 experts the course on application of adjustments, and 102 the course on modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts. These numbers are high but not sufficient, given that more than 200 experts will be required in 2007 for the initial review under the Kyoto Protocol.

### **C. Impact on the review process**

17. The training programme for the initial reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol has helped to better prepare reviewers to perform their tasks in an efficient and competent way. The establishment of the training courses has increased the number of potential expert reviewers and has helped to prepare them in a consistent and rigorous way to carry out the reviews of GHG inventories of and information provided by Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.

18. However, more experienced reviewers and particularly lead reviewers with substantial inventory review experience are needed for the review process of the national GHG inventories of and information provided by Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (see paragraph 16). Availability of experts with sufficient time, free of other commitments, to devote to the review is the main challenge for the process. A challenge for the secretariat, in selecting members of expert review teams, is the need to ensure an overall balance in the number of experts from non-Annex I and Annex I Parties, as well as a geographical balance among experts within these two groups. In this process, the role of the Parties to ensure that experts are made available for the review process is critical.

## Training activities and examination results in 2006

Date	Course	Experts from Annex II Parties			Experts from Parties with economies in transition			Experts from non-Annex I Parties			Experts total		
		Pass	Fail/ exam not taken	Total	Pass	Fail/ exam not taken	Total	Pass	Fail/ exam not taken	Total	Pass	Fail/ exam not taken	Total
22 May – 28 July 2006	<b>First round</b>												
	National systems (NI)	62	10	72	13	5	18	35	13	48	110	28	138
	Application of adjustments (I)	62	10	72	12	6	18	33	15	48	107	31	138
	Assigned amounts (NI)	37	29	66	8	6	14	24	17	41	69	52	121
	<b>Total participation of experts</b>			<b>72</b>			<b>18</b>			<b>48</b>			<b>138</b>
14 August – 22 September 2006	<b>Second round<sup>a</sup></b>												
	National systems (NI)	12	3	15	3	2	5	9	3	12	24	8	32
	Application of adjustments (NI)	12	3	15	2	4	6	10	4	14	24	11	35
	Assigned amounts (NI)	16	8	24	3	3	6	14	9	23	33	20	53
	<b>Total participation of experts</b>			<b>25</b>			<b>7</b>			<b>23</b>			<b>55</b>
28 August – 27 October 2006	<b>Third round<sup>b</sup></b>												
	National systems (NI)			18			5			12			35
	Application of adjustments (I)			18			6			12			36
	Assigned amounts (NI)			12			6			14			32
	<b>Total participation of experts</b>			<b>20</b>			<b>6</b>			<b>15</b>			<b>41</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>Declined/ no answer</b>			7			1			1			11 <sup>c</sup>

I = online course supported by an instructor; NI = online course not supported by an instructor;

Annex II Parties = Parties included in Annex II to the Convention; non-Annex I Parties = Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

*Note:* Trainees who successfully retook a failed examination or an examination not taken in the first round are included in one of the subsequent rounds.

<sup>a</sup> Results of the second round include results of the examination for lead reviewers held on 6 October 2006.

<sup>b</sup> At the time of publishing this report, the third round of examinations has not been completed and thus information on results is not available.

<sup>c</sup> In the total of experts who declined or did not answer, two experts from international organizations are included.

### III. Conclusions

19. The training programme for members of expert review teams participating in the initial reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol has proved to be an important activity in preparing experts for the review process. The courses were offered online in three rounds in 2006, with an instructor for the course on application of adjustments for two of the rounds. The mandatory examination has been taken online and the implementation of the examination procedures has proved to be successful. Altogether, participation in the courses and passing the examinations by more than 130 review experts created a solid foundation for the effective organization of the review process in general, and the expert review teams in particular.

20. Given the positive results of the training programme, the secretariat will continue to offer this training programme online and, subject to availability of resources, an instructor could be available once a year for the course on application of adjustments, and if possible for the course on modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts. The mandatory examination will continue to be taken online during fixed dates throughout the year. The distribution of the course off-line and on CD-ROM will also continue. If feasible, and subject to availability of financial resources, the secretariat could organize a training seminar for the training programme and the mandatory examination after completion of the reviews of initial reports, for example in 2008.

21. However, more experienced reviewers and, in particular, lead reviewers with substantial inventory review experience are needed for the review process of the GHG inventories of and information provided by Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. Availability of experts, particularly from non-Annex I Parties, with sufficient time, free of other commitments, to take the courses and examinations and to devote to the review process, continues to be the main challenge for the training and the review process. In this context, it is essential that Parties make available experts with sufficient time and resources to support their participation during the initial and subsequent reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol. Also, Parties should continue to nominate experts with relevant expertise to the UNFCCC roster of experts and support their active participation in the training programme and later in the review process under the Kyoto Protocol.

22. Given that, in late 2006 and during 2007, expert review teams will participate in the initial reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol and that this will allow them to gain more experience in relevant topics of the training programme, such as reviews of national systems and national registries or possibly in application of adjustments under Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol, the secretariat can update the contents of the training programme in 2008, subject to the availability of resources. The focus of this work could be the annual reviews of the commitment period and the review of the true-up period, as well as complex review issues that need to be addressed in depth, such as land use, land-use change and forestry under the Kyoto Protocol.

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