

United Nations

FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.10



Distr.: General 19 November 2015

English only

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice Forty-third session

Paris, 1–4 December 2015

Item 13(c) of the provisional agenda

Reports on other activities

Annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol

Annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides information on the status of submission and review of the annual information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including greenhouse gas inventories and supplementary information, and review activities during the 2014 and 2015 review cycles, including the preparation for the review upon the expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Finally, it reports on the information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.







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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 (CMP), by decision 22/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 35, requested the secretariat to prepare an annual report to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on the composition of the expert review teams (ERTs), including the selection of experts for the review teams and the lead reviewers. The CMP, in paragraph 40(a) of the annex to the same decision, requested the lead reviewers of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory reviews collectively to prepare an annual report to the SBSTA with suggestions on how to improve the review process.
- 2. Moreover, the CMP, by decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 26, requested the secretariat to compile information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.
- 3. Finally, the CMP, by decision 8/CMP.5, paragraph 3, requested that the information on the training programme under the Kyoto Protocol, in particular information on examination procedures and the selection of trainees and instructors, be included in the annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.¹

B. Scope of the note

- 4. This document provides information on: the status of submission of the annual information required from Parties included in Annex I under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol; and the review of that information, including the GHG inventories of those Parties (chapter II). It also provides information on the selection of experts and lead reviewers for the review process and their participation in this process (chapter III) and on the annual report to the SBSTA prepared by the lead reviewers in accordance with decision 22/CMP.1, including their conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the review process (chapter IV). The document further reports on the information on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, as required by decision 15/CMP.1 (chapter V).
- 5. In accordance with the "Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol", the review under the Kyoto Protocol encompasses the existing review under the Convention. The lessons learned and problems encountered in the review process under the Convention and that under the Kyoto Protocol have many common elements. This document focuses on the elements of the review process that are specific to the Kyoto Protocol and should be read in conjunction with the annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.²

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

6. The SBSTA will be invited to take note of this report and provide any relevant guidance to the ERTs on the expert review process and to the secretariat on the

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.9.

² As footnote 1 above.

organization of the reviews for the 2015 and 2016 GHG inventory submissions from Parties included in Annex I, including the selection of experts and the coordination of the ERTs.³

II. Submission and review of information from Parties included in Annex I

A. Completion of the reviews for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol

- 7. The reviews of the submissions due in 2014 completed the review process for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. This completion is an important milestone before the review upon expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
- 8. In the annual submissions due in the 2010–2014 period, Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol, submitted their annual information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol in accordance with decision 15/CMP.1, and the secretariat organized reviews of that information in accordance with the "Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol". The 2014 reviews were the last for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The following can be noted for the first commitment period:
- (a) For the submissions due in 2010, 38 review reports were published and forwarded by the secretariat to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the Parties concerned. The published 2010 annual review reports, with two exceptions, do not contain questions of implementation. Eight of the reports contain adjustments as referred to in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol;
- (b) For the submissions due in 2011, 38 review reports were published and forwarded by the secretariat to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the Parties concerned. The published 2011 annual review reports, 6 with two exceptions, do not contain questions of implementation. Four of the reports contain adjustments referred to in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol;
- (c) For the submissions due in 2012, 38 review reports were published and forwarded by the secretariat to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the Parties concerned. The published 2012 annual review reports⁷ do not contain questions of implementation. Two of the reports contain adjustments referred to in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol;
- (d) For the submissions due in 2013, 37 review reports were published and forwarded to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the Parties concerned. The published 2013 annual review reports⁸ do not contain questions of implementation. Three of the reports contain adjustments referred to in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol;

³ Decision 22/CMP.1, annex, paragraphs 35 and 40.

⁴ See http://unfccc.int/5687.

⁵ See 5.

⁶ See http://unfccc.int/6048.

⁷ See http://unfccc.int/6616>.

⁸ See 8 See http://unfccc.int/6947>.

- (e) For the submissions due in 2014, 37 review reports were published and forwarded to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the Parties concerned. The published 2014 annual review reports⁹ do not contain questions of implementation or adjustments referred to in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol.
- 9. The completion of the reviews of the annual submissions by 10 July 2014 met the 10 August 2015 deadline¹⁰ for the expert review process under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol for the last year of the first commitment period. This enabled the start of the 100-day countdown to the end of the additional period for fulfilling commitments in the first commitment period, which will conclude on 18 November 2015.¹¹
- 10. In the reviews of the annual submissions during the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, a total of 188 review reports for Parties included in Annex I have been produced by 83 different ERTs in 39 in-country reviews and 41 centralized reviews. On average, 156 experts participated annually in the reviews. ¹² Information on the Parties that nominated the experts involved in these reviews is included in the reports to the SBSTA on the technical review of GHG inventories for Parties included in Annex I for the years covered in the period 2010–2014. ¹³

B. Annual submissions 2015

- 11. The annual inventory submission under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol comprises the national inventory report (NIR) and the common reporting format (CRF) tables. In addition, Parties included in Annex I have to submit supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol. The due date of the submission is 15 April. Submissions made by Parties after the due date can delay the review process, making the preparation of the review tools to support the review process more difficult, and the GHG inventory data of such Parties may not be included in the reports prepared by the secretariat.
- 12. As at 9 November 2015, the secretariat had received 40 submissions from Parties included in Annex I (see the table below). A total of 22 Parties submitted an NIR and CRF tables, 3 submitted an NIR only, 8 submitted CRF tables only, 7 submitted tables in the standard electronic format (SEF) only and 2 did not submit information. Four Parties submitted CRF tables with information on activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol. Most of these submissions contain tables with accounting units prepared in the SEF, which is part of the supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, provided in accordance with decision 15/CMP.1 for the first commitment period. Such SEF table submissions were received from all 37 Parties included in Annex I with quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments in the first commitment period and 7 Parties provided SEF table submissions for the second commitment period as well.
- 13. The main reason for the delay of the 2015 cycle of GHG inventory submissions is the delay in the delivery of the CRF Reporter by the secretariat.¹⁴ Noting the delay, the CMP, through decision 6/CMP.9, and the COP, through decisions 24/CP.19 and 13/CP.20,

⁹ See http://unfccc.int/8452>.

¹⁰ Established in decision 3/CMP.10, paragraph 1.

¹¹ Decision 27/CMP.1, annex, chapter XIII, and decision 3/CMP.10, paragraph 1.

¹² One hundred and sixty three in 2010, 126 in 2011, 157 in 2012, 172 in 2013 and 161 in 2014.

See documents FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.9, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.16, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.8, FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.9 and FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.18.

Document FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.9, paragraphs 11 and 12.

allowed Parties to submit their CRF tables with a delay corresponding to the delay in the availability of the CRF Reporter.

- 14. The organization of the review process for the 2015 submissions faced serious challenges in 2015. Guidance on conducting annual reviews under Article 8 in the second commitment period has not yet been finalized by the CMP. The negotiations on this matter, and also other matters related to Articles 5 and 7 of the Kyoto Protocol, including accounting and reporting, are still ongoing and will be completed by December 2015 at the earliest. Given these challenges and the delayed submission of CRF tables, the secretariat has considered itself not in a position to conduct annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol in 2015, including the preparation of status reports on the 2015 submissions. Guidance on the issues relating to the 2015 submissions of information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol and their review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol will be sought at SBSTA 43 and CMP 11.
- 15. Despite the challenges noted in paragraph 14 above, the secretariat organized the 2015 reviews of four CRF and NIR submissions under the "Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part III: UNFCCC guidelines for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention" (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines): Australia, Canada (not a Party to the Kyoto Protocol), New Zealand and Ukraine. The reports on these reviews, conducted according to the UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines, are in preparation.

Submission of the annual information required under the Kyoto Protocol in 2015

Party included in	Submission dates			
Annex I	NIR	CRF tables	SEF-CP1	SEF-CP2
Australia	27 May 2015	27 May 2015 ^a	5 June 2015 26 June 2015	5 June 2015
Austria Belarus	5 November 2015	5 November 2015	29 May 2015	
Belgium	5 November 2015	5 November 2015	15 April 2015	
Bulgaria	6 November 2015	6 November 2015	15 April 2015; 28 April 2015; 8 May 2015	
Croatia Cyprus	6 November 2015	6 November 2015	15 April 2015	
Czech Republic		9 November 2015	14 April 2015	
Denmark		7 November 2015 ^b	15 April 2015	
Estonia	2 November 2015	2 November 2015	14 April 2015; 8 May 2015	
European Union			15 April 2015; 24 July 2015	

The latest version of the negotiating text on this matter can be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/2015/L.13, in annex II in particular.

¹⁶ Annex to decision 13/CP.20.

Party included in		Submissio	n dates	
Annex I	NIR	CRF tables	SEF-CP1	SEF-CP2
Finland	30 October 2015	3 November 2015	10 March 2015; 30 March 2015; 7 April 2015	
France	4 November 2015	4 November 2015 ^b	14 April 2015	4 November 2015
Germany		6 November 2015	15 April 2015	
Greece		6 November 2015	15 April 2015; 20 April 2015	
Hungary			5 May 2015	
Iceland		6 November 2015	15 April 2015; 5 June 2015; 9 June 2015	
Ireland		4 November 2015	14 April 2015; 28 April 2015	
Italy	3 November 2015	3 November 2015	15 April 2015	
Japan	23 April 2015		23 April 2015	23 April 2015
Kazakhstan	28 October 2015	13 October 2015 ^a		
Latvia	6 November 2015	6 November 2015	15 April 2015	
Liechtenstein			17 April 2015	
Lithuania	6 November 2015	6 November 2015	24 March 2015	
Luxembourg			15 April 2015	
Malta	6 November 2015	6 November 2015		
Monaco			10 April 2015	15 April 2015
Netherlands	2 November 2015	5 November 2015	15 April 2015	
New Zealand	10 April 2015; 31 July 2015	31 July 2015	10 April 2015; 13 May 2015	10 April 2015; 13 May 2015
Norway			14 April 2015	14 April 2015
Poland	6 November 2015	6 November 2015	14 April 2015	
Portugal	3 November 2015	3 November 2015	14 April 2015	
Romania			15 April 2015; 13 July 2015; 22 July 2015	
Russian Federation		30 August 2015 ^a	24 March 2015	
Slovakia		6 November 2015	15 April 2015; 6 November 2015	
Slovenia	3 November 2015	3 November 2015	14 April 2015	
Spain	5 November 2015	5 November 2015	14 April 2015; 24 April 2015; 29 April 2015; 25 May 2015	
Sweden	29 October 2015	5 November 2015	14 April 2015; 11 May 2015	
Switzerland	27 April 2015		27 April 2015; 27 May 2015	27 April 2015

Party included in	Submission dates			
Annex I	NIR	CRF tables	SEF-CP1	SEF-CP2
Turkey ^c	9 November 2015			
Ukraine	14 August 2015	14 August 2015 ^a	8 April 2015; 15 April 2015; 16 April 2015; 21 April 2015	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	30 October 2015	30 October 2015	15 April 2015	

Notes: (1) Blank cells indicate that no submission had been received as at 9 November 2015. Some Parties, such as Cyprus, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania and Turkey, submitted their CRF tables after 9 November 2015; such submissions could not be reported on in this document. (2) The European Union and its member States that had not submitted their CRF tables as at 9 November 2015 (Cyprus, Hungary, Luxembourg and Romania) have communicated to the secretariat that they plan to submit their inventory submissions prior to the start of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties. Once these submissions have been made, they will be available on the UNFCCC website at http://unfccc.int/8812.

Abbreviations: CRF = common reporting format, NIR = national inventory report, Party included in Annex I = Party included in Annex I as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol, SEF-CP1 = standard electronic format for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, SEF-CP2 = standard electronic format for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

- ^a The Party submitted its CRF tables with information on activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol.
 - ^b The Party submitted its CRF tables under the Convention only.
- ^c Although Turkey is considered to be a Party included in Annex I for the purposes of the Kyoto Protocol, in the absence of commitments under Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period, its reporting obligations under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol do not appear to be triggered in relation to that period.

C. Review upon expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol

- 16. The additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (true-up period) will end 100 days after the deadline set by the CMP for the completion of the review process for the 2014 submissions, including of GHG inventory data from the base year to 2012, the last year of the first commitment period. Considering that the review process for the 2014 submissions was completed before the deadline set by the CMP, referred to above, of 10 August 2015, ¹⁷ the true-up period ends on 18 November 2015. Until the end of the true-up period, Parties included in Annex I may continue to make transactions with Kyoto Protocol units valid for the first commitment period for the purpose of fulfilling commitments under Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol.
- 17. Parties included in Annex I have to submit their reports upon expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments for the first commitment period by 2 January 2016¹⁸ and make publicly available information on: the total quantities of Kyoto Protocol

¹⁷ The last annual review report was published on 10 July 2015.

Decision 3/CMP.10, paragraph 3, establishes this deadline (no later than 45 days after the expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments (see para. 16 above)).

units valid for the first commitment period existing in their accounts, and issued, acquired, transferred, cancelled and retired until the end of the true-up period; the total quantity and serial numbers of Kyoto Protocol units valid for the first commitment period in their retirement accounts; the total quantity and serial numbers of assigned amount units, emission reduction units and certified emission reductions proposed for carry-over to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. ¹⁹ In addition, Parties included in Annex I have to report their SEF tables and additional information for 2014 and for the period 1 January 2015 to 18 November 2015. ²⁰

- 18. The review of all the reports referred to in paragraph 17 above is scheduled to take place from 8 to 12 February 2016.²¹ This review will be conducted through three simultaneous centralized reviews to be held in Bonn, Germany, and covering all 37 Parties included in Annex I with a quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol for the first commitment period.²²
- 19. The ERTs will assess if the information submitted by Parties included in Annex I was reported as mandated in CMP decisions and is consistent with the information available in the compilation and accounting database and the Party's registry. In addition, the ERTs will assess if the information reported has any errors or inconsistencies and if the aggregate GHG emissions in the first commitment period exceed the quantity of Kyoto Protocol units valid for the first commitment period existing in the retirement account of the respective Party. The ERTs will prepare a draft true-up period review report for each Party which will be finalized after the Parties consider and provide comments on the draft report.
- 20. After the finalization of the review process, the secretariat will record, in the compilation and accounting database, the final information for each Party in the first commitment period and will publish a final compliance and accounting report to be forwarded to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the respective Party, indicating the aggregate GHG emissions in the first commitment period; the total quantity of Kyoto Protocol units in the retirement account for the first commitment period and the Kyoto Protocol units available for carry-over to the second commitment period, if applicable; or the quantity by which the aggregate GHG emissions exceed the total quantity of Kyoto Protocol units in the retirement account, if applicable.²³

D. Initial reporting and review for the second commitment period

21. CMP 8 decided that each Party with a quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment inscribed in the third column of Annex B in the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was to submit to the secretariat by 15 April 2015 a report to facilitate the

¹⁹ Decision 13/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 49.

²⁰ Decision 3/CMP.10, paragraph 3.

More information on the review upon expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is available on the UNFCCC website at http://unfccc.int/9023>.

Although Belarus, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Malta and Turkey are considered Parties included in Annex I for the purposes of the Kyoto Protocol, they do not have quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol for the first commitment period. (Belarus is a Party included in Annex I and its quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment (92 per cent) was established through an amendment to Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol (decision 10/CMP.2). As at 9 November 2015, this amendment had not yet been ratified by a sufficient number of Parties to allow its entry into force).

Decision 13/CMP.1, annex, paragraphs 59 and 62.

calculation of its assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 bis, 8 and 8 bis, of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period and to demonstrate its capacity to account for its emissions and assigned amount.²⁴

- 22. Most Parties have not submitted such a report yet²⁵ primarily owing to the delays, referred to in paragraph 14 above, in the release of the CRF Reporter and in the finalization of the full set of the accounting, reporting and review rules.
- 23. The SBSTA noted that the review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period and the review of the GHG inventory submissions under the Kyoto Protocol can start at the earliest in 2016. ²⁶

III. Expert review teams and lead reviewers

- 24. The information provided in the annual submissions under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including the GHG inventories, is examined by international teams of experts, who are selected by the secretariat from those nominated by Parties to the UNFCCC roster of experts. Invitations to experts to participate in the review are copied to the national focal point. Only experts who have taken the training courses under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and who have passed the corresponding examinations can participate in the reviews of annual submissions.²⁷
- 25. As indicated in paragraph 14 above, the secretariat was not in a position to organize the review of the annual submissions for 2015 under the Kyoto Protocol. However, as indicated in paragraph 15 above, the secretariat organized reviews under the guidelines adopted by the COP.²⁸

IV. Annual report of inventory lead reviewers

- 26. The 12th meeting of GHG inventory lead reviewers was held in Bonn on 2 and 3 March 2015. After the meeting, on 4 March 2015, the secretariat held a refresher seminar for lead reviewers and experienced reviewers. The refresher seminar focused on the transition to the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines, the UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol and the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands.
- 27. In accordance with decisions 13/CP.20, 22/CMP.1 and 24/CMP.1, the meeting referred to in paragraph 26 above facilitated the lead reviewers' task of ensuring the consistency of reviews across Parties and provided conclusions and recommendations on how to improve their quality and efficiency. Such conclusions and recommendations are

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²⁴ Decision 2/CMP.8, paragraph 2.

²⁵ As at 9 November 2015, one Party had submitted such a report (Ukraine, on 14 August 2015).

²⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2015/2, paragraph 65.

For more information on the training of review experts, see chapter V of document FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.9.

More information about the 2015 review cycle under the guidelines in decision 13/CP.20 can be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.9, paragraphs 10–23.

reported to the SBSTA, in accordance with the annexes to decisions 13/CP.20 and 22/CMP.1.²⁹

V. Compilation of information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol

- 28. The CMP, by decision 15/CMP.1, requested the secretariat to compile the supplementary information submitted annually by Parties relating to how they are striving, under Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, to implement their commitments mentioned in Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol in such a way as to minimize adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing country Parties, particularly those identified in Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention, and information on any changes that have occurred compared with the information reported in their previous annual submissions.³⁰
- 29. The compilation shall also include information on how Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so give priority, in implementing their commitments under Article 3, paragraph 14, to the actions referred to in decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 24, based on relevant methodologies referred to in decision 31/CMP.1, paragraph 11. Owing to the delay in submissions received (see paras. 12 and 13 above), the compilation has been scheduled to be published at the end of November 2015 so that more submissions can be considered. The compilation will be available on the UNFCCC website.³¹

See the annex to document FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.9 or http://unfccc.int/2762 for the conclusions and recommendations from the 12th meeting of GHG inventory lead reviewers is available on the UNFCCC website at http://unfccc.int/2762.

³⁰ Decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 26.

^{31 &}lt;http://unfccc.int/6559>.