

China's submission on the guidelines for the reviews of biennial reports, national communications and national inventory review for Annex I Parties

Pursuant to the FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.28, China would like to submit its views on the guidelines for the reviews of biennial reports (BRs), national communications (NCs) and national inventory for Annex I Parties.

1. Objective

The objective of the above review process is to ensure the accuracy of the accounting of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets of Annex I Parties and the delivery of their committed finance, technology transfer and capacity building support to developing countries; as well as to provide the foundation for assessing the comparability of their mitigation efforts. This review process is a crucial component of MRV system that is requested by the Convention and further elaborated by the Bali Action Plan and its negotiation outcomes.

2. Principle

The structure of the guideline for the review process should be easy to understand, covering a range of topics to guarantee the comprehensiveness of the view. The review process should be in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, with a view to implementing all agreed COP decisions and it should be conducted in a transparent and clear manner.

3. Scope of work

The scope of work should include 3 separated review guidelines for BRs, NCs, and national inventory respectively. Regarding the national inventory, we will provide further views in 2014, in accordance with FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.28. Therefore, this year work should focus on the review guidelines for NCs, BRs including international assessment and review (IAR).

4. The structure of the review guidelines

In accordance with the reporting and review requirement, there are three reviews for Annex I Parties, namely the review of NCs, the review of inventory, and the review of BRs. These three reviews are different in requirements, content, timelines and targeting objects. Any inappropriate combination of review process and any intention to weaken the requirements for reviews for Annex I Parties will not only deteriorate the review quality by resulting in confused structure, ambiguous procedure and inadequate content; but also fail to strengthen the confidence among Parties.

5. Timeline

According to the Decision 2/CP.17 and previous review practice under the Convention, the review of NCs for the Annex I Parties should be conducted quadrennially, review of inventory should be annually and the IAR of BRs biennially. The review process of each reporting should then start soon after the receipt of the submission and conclude in time.

6. Key elements

The review process of NCs for Annex I Parties shall consist of 3 parts, an initial check by the Secretariat; an in-depth review by international expert review team and a publication by the Secretariat. The in-depth review shall be conducted through an in-country review to ensure high quality review. The in-depth review could be conducted in conjunction with the review under the Kyoto Protocol where relevant.

The review process of the BRs shall be composed of an in-depth review by international expert review team, a publication by the Secretariat, a multilateral assessment by Parties through the SBI, an assessment report by the Secretariat, and a final conclusion by the SBI. The in-depth review should be conducted through in-country review.

China also provides the following outline of these review guidelines as attached to this submission.

Guidelines for the review of information reported by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I:

UNFCCC GUIDELINES FOR THE TECHNICAL REVIEW OF GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES FROM PARTIES INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION¹

Guidelines for the review of information reported by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part II:

UNFCCC GUIDELINES FOR THE TECHNICAL REVIEW OF NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

A. Objective

- The objective of these guidelines.

B. Purpose of the review

- The purpose of the review.

C. General approach

- The stages of the review process.
- The relationship of these stages.

¹As Decision 19/CP.8. This review guideline will be revised in 2014 as agreed by Parties in the 37th session of SBSTA. The content in detail is omitted in this submission. Please see the Decision 19/CP.8 for more information.

D. Initial check

- Scope
- Status reports
- Timing

E. The scope of the review

- The scope of the technical review.
- Operational approaches.
- The frequency of in-country review.

F. The expert review team

- The tasks of the expert review team.
- The composition of expert review team.
- The organizing of expert review team.
- Lead reviewers.

G. Review report

- The preparation of individual review report.
- Outline of individual review report.
- The publication of individual review report.

H. Timing

- Timing.

Guidelines for the review of information reported by Parties included in
Annex I to the Convention, Part III:

UNFCCC GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT
AND REVIEW OF BIENNIAL REPORTS

A. Objective

- The objective of these guidelines.

B. Purpose of the IAR of biennial reports

- The overall objectives of the IAR process.
- The purpose of IAR.

C. General approach

- The stages of IAR process.
- The relationship of these stages.

D. Technical review

- The scope of the technical review
- The adequacy of mitigation targets and comparability of mitigation efforts
- Operational approaches.
- The frequency of in-country review.
- The tasks of the expert review team.

- The composition of expert review team.
- The organizing of expert review team.
- Lead reviewers.
- The publication of individual review report.
- Outline of individual review report.
- Timing.

E. Multilateral assessment

- The scope of the multilateral assessment
- The adequacy of mitigation targets and comparability of mitigation efforts
- Operational approaches.
- The organizing of multilateral assessment.
- The publication of individual assessment record.
- Outline of individual assessment record.
- Timing.

F. Conclusion of SBI

- The preparation and publication of the conclusion of SBI.