

Submission by the Government of Japan of views on experiences with reporting the first biennial reports for the revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

March 14, 2014

The Government of Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit views on experiences with reporting the first biennial reports for the revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention in accordance with Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 17.

1. Views on experiences with reporting the first biennial reports toward the next reporting

- Japan submitted our first biennial report (BR) as a separate report to the UNFCCC at 27th December, 2013. In the preparation process of BR and national communication (NC), Japan had a little difficulty for preparing two reports in parallel because the reporting elements, detailed structure and reporting tables of BR and NC defined by each reporting guideline are not completely consistent. The reporting elements of the revised UNFCCC reporting guidelines on national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (hereinafter, NC reporting guidelines) should be consistent with those of the biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties (hereinafter, BR reporting guidelines) with regard to the overlapped elements which should be reported in both BR and NC.
- Japan prepared the common tabular format (CTF) for BR by using BR CTF application developed by the secretariat in accordance with the decision 19/CP.18. This application was useful for ensuring consistency and comparability between Parties, however, technical problems and constraints of data input led to the extra workload and delay of work by BR compilers. Since the usability of BR CTF application should not disturb Parties' transparent reporting and compilation process for the BR, it is necessary to improve the BR CTF application continuously. Especially, the following issues should be improved from the viewpoint of usability.
 - ✓ More flexibility for data input should be given. For instance, the figures with range could not be reported for "Estimate of mitigation impact" in Table 3 (Progress in achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target; information on mitigation actions and their effects). The BR CTF application should enable Parties to report diverse information in order to enhance transparency and accuracy taking their national circumstances into consideration.
 - ✓ Operability should be improved. For instance, the order of rows in the table which data have been inputted could not be changed later. The rule of data input in the BR CTF application should not disturb Parties' reporting work but assist and facilitate them.
 - ✓ Availability of Excel file exported from the BR CTF application should be ensured. The Excel file exported from the current version of BR CTF application could not be edited because the file was protected. The BR CTF application will be better if the Excel file exported can be edited for quality check, data analysis and other purposes.

2. Concept of the revision of NC reporting guidelines

- The NC reporting guidelines should be revised based on the reporting elements required in the BR reporting guidelines because the BR reporting guidelines was newly developed based on the present situation of reporting by Annex I Parties and the enhanced reporting elements by decision 1/CP.16. The reporting elements defined in the NC reporting guidelines should cover all elements defined in the BR reporting guidelines, and these elements should be consistent between both reporting guidelines. In particular, the reporting tables provided in the NC reporting guidelines should be consistent with tables in the CTF for the BR. The table 1 shows the result of simple assessment on relationship of reporting element between BR and NC. This kind of exercise is useful for revising reporting elements of NC in a manner consistent with BR.

Table 1 Assessment on relationship of reporting element between BR and NC

Reporting elements	Common/Unique
Executive summary	✓ Unique to NC
National circumstances relevant to GHG emissions and removals	✓ Unique to NC
Information on greenhouse gas emissions and trends	✓ Similar requirements for NC and BR, with additional requirements on national inventory arrangements for BR.
Quantified economy-wide emission reduction target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unique to BR, although information on overall policy context including any national targets for greenhouse gas mitigation are required in the section of “Policy and measures” for NC. ✓ The common tabular format (CTF) for reporting this element is provided for BR.
Policy and measures (Progress in achievement of quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets and relevant information)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Similar requirements on information on mitigation actions for NC and BR ✓ Information on the estimates of emission reductions and removals and the use of units from the market-based mechanisms and LULUCF is unique to BR. ✓ Information on the costs, non-GHG mitigation benefits and other related matters to P&Ms is unique to NC. ✓ The CTF for reporting this element is provided for BR.
Projections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Similar requirements for NC and BR ✓ More detailed information on methodology for projections is required for NC. ✓ The CTF for reporting this element is provided for BR.
Vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts and adaptation measures	✓ Unique to NC
Provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing country Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Similar requirements for NC and BR, with some additional and detailed requirements for BR. ✓ The CTF for reporting this element is provided for BR. The CTF for reporting information on financial support for BR is more detailed and elaborated than the tables of NC.
Research and systematic observation	✓ Unique to NC
Education, Training and Public awareness	✓ Unique to NC

- The structure of NC should be prepared as an annex to the revised NC reporting guidelines in order to assist the preparation of NC by Parties and enhance transparency and comparability in the same way as the current NC reporting guidelines (FCCC/CP/1999/7).
- The SBSTA are requested to develop methodologies for reporting financial information based on experiences gained in preparing the first BR and a decision on this matter is adopted at COP 20 in accordance with the decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 19. The decision on this matter covers only

methodological elements for reporting financial information and does not intend to revise the BR reporting guidelines.

3. Work programme of the revision of NC reporting guidelines

- The work programme including timeline toward the completion of the revision of NC reporting guidelines at COP20 should be approved at SBI 40.
- The consideration process through submission on views by Parties and the preparation of draft guidelines by the secretariat based on their submissions is useful in order to complete the revision work of the NC reporting guidelines at COP 20.
- Given the technical nature of the reporting processes, the NC reporting guidelines should be discussed and drafted through technical workshop in which compilers, reviewers and other relevant experts participate.

4. Timeline of activities

In order to complete the revision work of NC reporting guidelines at COP 20 as required by the decision 2/CP.17 paragraph 18, the work should be done in following timelines.

- The secretariat prepares a miscellaneous document which includes the submissions of views by Parties for discussion at SBI 40.
- Parties discuss and approve the work programme including timeline at SBI 40.
- Parties are requested to submit their views on the structure, outline, key elements and content of the NC reporting guidelines after SBI 40, and the secretariat is requested to prepare a technical paper of Parties' submissions in accordance with the decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 19 and the draft of NC reporting guidelines based on the Parties' submissions, in which the options proposed by Parties should be traceable in a transparent manner, as inputs to the discussions at the technical workshop as mentioned below.
- Technical experts' workshop is organized before COP 20 to discuss the revision of NC reporting guidelines from technical viewpoints. The secretariat prepares a summary report of the technical workshop and the revised draft NC reporting guidelines for the discussion at SBI 41.
- Parties finally discuss and approve the revised NC reporting guidelines at SBI 41 and COP 20.