

## **SUBMISSION BY IRELAND AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**This submission is supported by Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.**

**Dublin, 19 March 2013**

**Subject: Views on the general guidelines for domestic measurement, reporting and verification of domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties.**

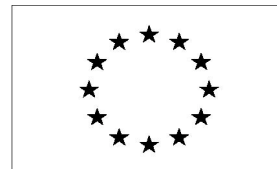
### **1 Introduction**

The EU welcomes the invitation to Parties to submit their views on the general guidelines for Domestic MRV of domestically supported NAMAs by developing country Parties to the secretariat, by 25 March 2013, according to draft conclusions adopted in Doha (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.24).

The SBSTA 37 agreed that the guidelines should be general, voluntary, pragmatic, non-prescriptive, non-intrusive and country-driven, take into account national circumstances and national priorities, respect the diversity of nationally appropriate mitigation actions, build on existing domestic systems and capacities, recognise existing domestic measurement, reporting and verification systems and promote a cost-effective approach.

It is the view of the EU that the general guidelines for Domestic MRV for domestically supported actions are an important element/tool to assist developing countries in the development of their domestic MRV system and contribute to the international recognition of their efforts with national mitigation actions, as well as an element/tool to improve the common understanding of implementing the rich diversity of nationally appropriate mitigation actions.

In the process of developing these general guidelines it is important to address and incorporate the relevant existing practices and experiences both of developing and developed countries and of international support programmes.



## 2 Objectives for the general guidelines for Domestic MRV

These general guidelines for domestic MRV should facilitate Parties:

- In creating and implementing a domestic MRV system, appropriate for Parties' mitigation plans, and taking into account national circumstances.
- In designing the domestic MRV process in such a way that it will entail minimum possible long-term costs thus implementing MRV cost-effectively.
- In building a system that enhances the clarity of Parties' mitigation efforts and actions.
- In the use of existing data and in developing and starting new data collections that would introduce benefits not only for NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions), but also for other aspects of the Party's climate policy.
- In the use of methodologies, processes and institutional arrangements in a flexible manner, appropriate to available capacities and ambitions.
- In promoting a consistent approach towards domestic MRV systems and requirements across different thematic areas

## 3 Scope and structure of the guidelines

Domestic MRV systems should be tailored to national circumstances. To be able to create domestic MRV systems for a diverse range of domestically supported NAMAs, a step-wise approach is desirable. Experiences<sup>1</sup> with creating, monitoring and reporting systems show that it is useful to follow a step-wise approach consisting of the following phases: decisions taken on what to monitor, how to collect and store data and information, and how to ensure quality. See the Appendix for an outline of what this approach would entail.

For general guidelines, this approach could be used to address the following areas:

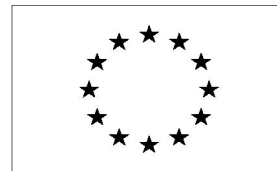
- a) domestic institutional arrangements to support the domestic MRV of NAMAs;
- b) domestic processes to support the MRV of NAMAs including the choice of approaches, methodologies, information and data collections.

### A) Institutional arrangements

A key element of the domestic MRV system for NAMAs is to ensure and clarify the institutional arrangements, roles, responsibilities of institutions involved and necessary functions of those responsible for the domestic monitoring of NAMAs, the reporting on

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. A Primer on MRV for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, Miriam Hinostroza, URC (editor), UNEP Risø Centre, November 2011



NAMAs for domestic or international purposes as well as for the domestic evaluation and assessment or any international assessment or verification, if relevant for a specific domestic NAMA.

Many developing countries have pledged a wide array of domestic NAMAs in different sectors and at different governance levels (e.g. national, regional, local) of their countries involving different actors. Therefore the domestic MRV of these NAMAs can involve a wide range of different institutions and actors.

Effective institutions are a success factor in the implementation of domestic MRV systems. To this end, Parties should ensure that there is clarity with regard to leadership in the domestic MRV process, the responsibilities of the different institutions involved in the domestic MRV process and how these institutions cooperate.

The guidelines should take into account that institutional arrangements always depend on domestic laws and regulations that stipulate authorities and responsibilities of institutions and domestic governance structures and principles.

The institutional arrangements should be designed and operated to ensure quality in the MRV system.

## **B) Procedures for domestic MRV**

Domestic procedures need to be put in place for domestic MRV systems, e.g. planning and choice of MRV objectives and approaches, related to methodologies, data collection and management, reporting, quality assurance and control, coordination of tasks, uncertainty estimation, assessment and evaluation of achievements that fit to the timelines and objectives.

The guidelines on domestic MRV systems

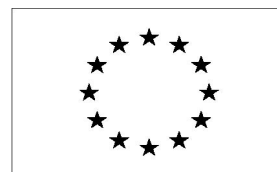
- Could describe relevant procedures and provide guidance on what they could or should entail;
- Could refer to and present procedural standards and guidelines elaborated in other countries;
- Could describe references to experiences with developing and improving timelines for procedural arrangements.

The guidelines could include the main functions and outputs of project management and references to good practices.

The guidelines could include guidance on how to establish national processes and standards for Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC).

### **What to measure**

The domestic MRV of the implementation of NAMAs requires decisions on the MRV approach for NAMAs: what actions should be measured, how they should be measured, how often and on the type of information that should be collected related to their implementation. Domestic reporting requirements for different domestic purposes will need to be defined and



addressed by the system as well as whether, how and how often specific domestic NAMAs are evaluated and assessed.

### **1) How to collect, report and store data and information**

Measurement and monitoring is a prerequisite for any effective MRV system. Measurement requires a measurable unit to be identified and recorded, and that those records are made available through reporting systems to be used in evaluation of the objectives.

Specific NAMAs may not be easily quantifiable in terms of emission reductions and domestic MRV systems may develop different sets of quantitative or qualitative metrics or indicators to monitor the implementation and whether objectives were met. In this respect the guidelines could provide an overview of MRV approaches and existing methodologies that could assist developing countries in the selection of their domestic approaches and methodologies and in putting into place practical and achievable frameworks for MRV.

If GHG reductions are the measurable unit chosen, the general guidelines for domestic MRV for domestically supported actions should incorporate appropriate methodologies and guidance on how to develop and define indicators and processes. These indicators and processes should allow Parties to track, not only GHG mitigation, but also co-benefits, impacts on sustainable development, and the environmental integrity of achieved transformational impacts.

The guidelines should give attention to existing methodologies for statistical analysis and proper documentation of additional data collections.

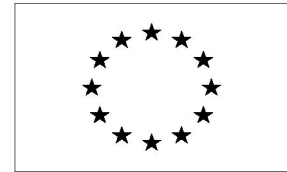
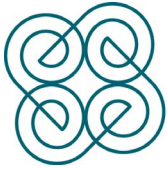
The guidelines should also address transparent documentation of approaches, methodologies, data and monitored results. The description of methodologies could be summarised in a national report, with references to more detailed reports and or documentation.

The objective of this section of the guidelines should also be to enable Parties to make their mitigation achievements transparent and visible, in order to receive recognition, as well as provide best practice examples for other countries to learn from.

### **2) How to ensure quality**

The guidelines should include a section on how to establish national processes and standards for QA/QC. These can be based on material dealing with this topic in IPCC 2006 guidelines.

Follow – up is also required, in line with the general approach of guidelines review, in light of the experience gained during their application, and the evolution of increasingly advanced domestic MRV systems which will be developed, there should be a review and revision of these general guidelines after they have been applied for a number of years (e.g. three years).



## Appendix

### Step-wise approach for creating a MRV-system

1. Parties should set the domestic objectives for their MRV system and define the approaches applied for MRV
2. Define institutional arrangements for the MRV of the NAMA
3. Choose MRV methodology
4. Define parameters and indicators to be measured and reported and attribute responsibilities in data collection and handling (including quality control and quality assurance)
5. Collect data, including, where applicable, from private sector stakeholders, estimate key parameters and indicators
6. Compile a report on the measurement of the NAMA
7. Apply a verification methodology to the compiled report
8. Use any lessons learned for a subsequent MRV process.