

Elements Paper on ICA/IAR for Durban Outcome

Paragraphs 46 and 66 of the Cancun Agreements set up a process for establishing international assessment and review (IAR) for developed countries, and international consultation and analysis (ICA) for developing countries. We consider that ICA and IAR should be tailored to an international climate regime that encompasses a diversity of targets, actions, and measures to reduce emissions, appropriate to each country's national circumstances.

We consider that ICA and IAR should therefore be flexible to reflect different countries' capacities and actions. However, the need for flexibility should be balanced by the need to facilitate common understanding of each others' actions, in order to build understanding and confidence amongst Parties. We consider that facilitating understanding and capacity-building are key; ICA and IAR should promote constructive and non-confrontational interactions rather than punitive elements. Properly designed, these processes will help generate ideas on best practices, identify opportunities and appropriate assistance if necessary, to increase further ambition and build confidence in environmental integrity.

With environmental integrity as a guiding principle, we consider that ICA and IAR could embody a process to determine: (a) whether a Party's actions are implemented and effective in achieving their objective; (b) what rules or methodologies a Party has applied; (c) how a Party achieves a reduction outcome or target; and (d) measures to avoid the double-counting of efforts. Effective IAR and ICA will provide a foundation to assess if the world is on track to meet its temperature goal.

We should aim to reach agreement in Durban on the modalities of ICA and IAR in parallel with guidelines on biennial reporting. A robust process of reporting and verification is essential to ensure high-quality inputs to the 2013/2015 Review.

ICA and IAR Guideline Elements

Annex I IAR:

- **Purpose:** aim to increase confidence and promote comparability of reported GHG emissions information and increase transparency of implementation of mitigation targets.
- **Process:** non-intrusive, non-punitive, respectful of national sovereignty, facilitative in nature, advisory, informative, building on international experience.
- **Review:** Enhance national communication review guidance, building on existing guidelines (Decisions 2/CP.1, 9/CP.2, 6/CP.3 and 33/CP.7) and inventory review guidelines (19/CP.8), as well as other processes and experiences related to review, to develop a single, comprehensive set of guidelines, to include:
 - In-depth review by expert teams, and provisions for the conduct/selection of experts
 - Basis of review - national communications, including additional reporting content required by 1/CP.16 (biennial reports, including supplementary information on emission reductions and removals and provision of support)
 - The review process for annual GHG inventories
 - An outline of the in-depth review summary report.
 - Report will be shared with the Party for review and comment, with the aim of resolving any differences of opinion between the technical experts and the Party on the report, and incorporating Party comments where differences cannot be resolved.

- **International Assessment:**

- Basis for assessment: biennial reports (including supplementary information on emission reductions and removals and annual inventories) and the in-depth review summary report.
- Conduct of Assessment: to include provisions on the procedures for the SBI session and for follow-up questions
 - Meeting under the auspices of the SBI, open to all, following completion and circulation to Parties of the in-depth review report, to include oral questions and Party responses.
 - The tenor of the session is to be a facilitative sharing of views – respectful, non-confrontational, confidence-building, and focused on the content of the biennial report and the in-depth review.
 - Parties would be invited to submit written follow-up questions within a specified time period (e.g. two weeks), to be answered by the Party shortly thereafter (e.g. two months).
- Outline of Summary Report: including provisions on the content of the summary report
 - To include the in-depth review summary report, a summary of the SBI session, the written questions and answers, and any observations the Party concerned wishes to include.

Non-Annex I ICA:

- **Purpose:** aim to increase confidence and promote comparability of reported GHG emissions information and implementation of mitigation actions and their effects. Aim to provide transparency within the UNFCCC system, and will be instructed not to analyze the appropriateness of a Party's choice of domestic policies and measures or their consistency with other international obligations.
- **Process:** non-intrusive, non-punitive, respectful of national sovereignty, facilitative in nature, advisory, and informative.
- **Analysis**
 - Selection of experts, including provisions on the nomination of experts, the role of secretariat staff, and the assignment of experts to analyses.
 - A group of [five to eight] technical experts would be selected by the Secretariat, drawing from Party-nominated experts and professional Secretariat staff, balanced for expertise (e.g., energy statistics) and developed/ developing country diversity.
 - Two to three experts would focus on the inventory alone.
 - Technical analysis of the report, including:
 - Analysis of the national inventory, focusing on methodological questions;
 - Analysis of the implementation of suite of actions and the emissions benefits gained, the methodologies and assumptions, and the Party's domestic MRV process and support received.

- The experts would be authorized to meet directly with Party representatives, request additional documentation or information from the Party, conduct in-country visits as necessary, and solicit information from stakeholders.
- Outline of the Analysis Report:
 - The analysis report will be shared with the Party for review and comment, with the aim of resolving any differences of opinion between the technical experts and the Party on the report, and incorporating Party comments where differences cannot be resolved.
 - The final analysis report should be made available at least two, and preferably four, weeks before the next COP.
- **International Consultations**
 - Basis for consultations: biennial report and analysis report
 - Conduct of the SBI session, including provisions on the procedures for the session and for follow-up questions:
 - Meeting under the auspices of the SBI, open to all, following completion of the analysis report. Parties with commonalities and anticipating fewer questions may go as a group.
 - The tenor of the session is to be a facilitative sharing of views – respectful, non-confrontational, confidence-building, and focused on the content of the biennial report(s) and the experts’ analysis.
 - Parties would be invited to submit written follow-up questions within a specified time period (e.g. two weeks), to be answered by the Party shortly thereafter (e.g. within two months).
 - Outline of the Consultations Summary Report:
 - To include the technical expert analysis report, a summary of the oral consultations, the written questions and answers, and any observations the Party concerned wishes to include.