



Fourth Meeting of Lead Reviewers for the Review of Biennial Reports and National Communications of Annex I Parties

6–7 March 2017
UN Campus, Bonn, Germany
Altes Abgeordnetenhochhaus, Conference Room (AAH F-230)

Agenda Version of 14 February 2017

Day 1: Monday, 6 March	
08:00 – 08:45	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Mandate and objectives of the lead reviewers meeting Donald Cooper, Director, Mitigation, Data and Analysis programme Katia Simeonova, Manager, Transparency Framework (TF) Sub-programme
Theme 1: Measurement, reporting and verification system: experience in 2016 and outlook for the next review cycle	
09:30 – 10:30	Experience of the second round of the International Assessment and Review (IAR) and preparation for the review of the Third Biennial Reports (BR3) and Seventh National Communications (NC7) by developed country Parties Ruta Bubniene, Team lead, TF – IAR unit Veronica Colerio, Programme officer, TF – IAR unit <i>The BR2s of 42 Annex I Parties and Kazakhstan were reviewed during the centralized reviews held in March-June 2016 with the involvement of 112 experts. Efficiency and timeliness of reviews have improved compared to the BR1 reviews due to the use of improved review tools, application of agreed review practices and participation of committed reviewers.</i> <i>The submission due date for the NC7s and BR3s is 1 January 2018 and the in-country reviews are planned starting from March 2017. Early preparation for the review cycle, enhanced existing tools and streamlined approaches will ensure effective coordination of the reviews. Scheduling NC/BR reviews among the other climate change events, availability of experts and reduced resources for coordination of reviews could present the challenges for the next review cycle.</i> <i>24 Parties were multilateral assessed at SBI 45 session (November 2016). Before this session, 258 questions were submitted to all Parties with a majority of questions was on achievement of progress towards targets. During the session, the discussions focused on sharing experience on implementation of innovative policies and measures, detailed information on achievement of targets, projected emission trends and long-term climate change strategies. Remaining Parties will be multilaterally assessed at SBI 46 session (May 2017).</i> <i>Questions and answers</i> Experience with the implementation of the international consultation and analysis (ICA) process Xuehong Wang, Team lead, TF – ICA unit <i>The ICA process is a young process put in place to implement the MRV system for developing country Parties. Since its launch in 2015, 36 Parties have submitted the first biennial update reports (BUR1s) and 4 Parties have submitted BUR2s. Among these Parties, 20 went through the facilitative sharing of views under SBI and completed their first ICA cycle. The implementation of the ICA process has resulted in positive outcomes including enhanced domestic MRV system for developing country Parties and identification of their capacity-building needs in meeting the MRV</i>

	<p>requirements. The lessons learned through implementing the process will help to explore ways to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>Reviews and budget: challenge of 2017 Sergey Kononov, Manager, Implementation Services Sub-programme</p> <p><i>Questions and answers</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:45	<p>National communication (NC) reporting guidelines for Annex I Parties Kyoko Miwa, Programme officer, Training and Certification unit</p> <p><i>The revision of the NC reporting guidelines was made on the basis of the experience gained during the preparation of the BR1s. The guidelines were updated taking into account the use of Common Tabular Format for reporting of NCs; and consistent reporting requirements on gases, years and financial, technological and capacity-building support. The revised NC reporting guidelines have not been adopted by the COP yet, but they are available for the use by Parties on the UNFCCC website¹ and could be used in preparation of the NC7s that are due on 1 January 2018.</i></p> <p>Training of BRs/NCs reviewers and technical teams of experts (TTE) for BUR analysis Javier Hanna, Team lead, Training and Certification unit</p> <p><i>Since April 2015, the secretariat successfully implemented the online courses of the training programme for experts for the technical review of BRs and NCs. To date, 202 experts out of 324 registered experts passed one or more examinations in 2015 and 2016. As a result, experts improved and deepened their professional knowledge of substantive matters and enhanced their technical skills for the review process, facilitating a consistent approach to reviews across Parties. The experience gained during the NC6/BR1 and BR2 reviews may be used to update and further develop the training courses with a view to further enhancing common understanding of the review process, consistent approach across Parties and efficiency of the reviews.</i></p> <p><i>Decision 20/CP.19 requested the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) to develop a training programme for TTEs undertaking the BUR analysis with a view to enhancing their capacity in conducting efficient and effective technical analyses. As 2016, 158 experts (86 from non-Annex I Parties and 72 from Annex I Parties) have successfully completed the requirements of the training programme and corresponding examinations offered in four training cycles.</i></p> <p><i>Questions and answers</i></p>
Theme 2: Review Practice Guidance 2017	
11:45 – 13:00	<p>Review practice guidance 2017: overview of challenges during BR2 review cycle Veronica Colerio, Programme officer, TF – IAR unit</p> <p><i>In response to the request of the 3rd LRs meeting, the secretariat has updated the review practice guidance (RPG)². The RPG is a “living” tool, which facilitates consistency among the reviews and across the review cycles and reflects the collective and cumulative NC/BR review practices and approaches to resolving critical issues raised during the reviews. The RPG has been updated after the BR2 reviews and will be recommended for the use during the upcoming review cycles after the in-depth discussion at this LRs meeting. The presentation will provide an overview of the new issues included in the 2017 RPG and explanation of organisation of work in groups and its expected outcomes. The lead reviewers are invited to propose additional issues to be included in the RPG.</i></p>

¹ Available at:

<http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/in-session/application/pdf/revision_of_annex_i_nc_guidelines_.pdf>.

² Available at: <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/items/10059.php>.

	<p>Assessment of completeness and transparency: experience of BR2 reviews Davor Vesligaj, Programme officer, TF – IAR unit</p> <p><i>As requested by the lead reviewers at the 3rd LRs meeting, the secretariat updated a background paper on completeness and transparency assessment. The paper provides an updated analysis of completeness and transparency assessment based on the BR2 review practices. In addition, this paper provides some insights, such as the identification of most frequently raised review issues and comparisons with the previous review cycle, the application of the proposed guiding principles to enhance consistency of assessment and the updated completeness and transparency assessment scoreboard.</i></p> <p>Discussion facilitated by Amit Garg, India, and Mikhail Gytarsky, Russian Federation</p>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	<p>2017 Review practice guidance: group work and discussion (parallel work in groups)</p> <p><i>The groups will have in-depth discussions on substantive topics with the aim to agree on common approach and solutions to the issues included in the 2017 RPG. The discussions will be informed by the introductory presentations providing an overview of the issues, specific examples from the technical review reports (TRRs) and suggested solutions. As the result of the discussions, the groups should endorse the suggested solutions to the new issues in order to improve the consistency of review practices.</i></p> <p>Group 1: Review issues of cross-cutting nature – group work facilitated by Helen Plume, New Zealand, and Jongikhaya Witi, South Africa Supported by Veronica Colerio, Programme officer, TF – IAR unit and Nalin Srivastava, Programme officer, Sectoral Issues unit</p> <p>Group 2: Review issues related to target, progress to target and projections – group work facilitated by Harry Vreuls, Netherlands (the), and Yang Hongwei, China Supported by Kyoko Miwa, Programme officer, Training and Certification unit, and Davor Vesligaj, Programme officer, TF – IAR unit</p> <p>Group 3: Review issues related to policies and measures and support – group work facilitated by Rob Sturgiss, Australia, and Marcelo Rocha, Brazil Supported by Inkar Kadyrzhanova, Programme officer, TF – IAR unit</p>
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	Reporting back to the plenary by the group facilitators
17:30	LRs Award Ceremony and International Culinary Experience
18:30	End of Day 1

Day 2: Tuesday, 7 March

Theme 3: Refresher seminar

The refresher seminar is designed to provide more detailed information to LRs and create space to discuss the approaches to review information on the critical issues raised during the BR2 reviews such as assessment of progress to target and provision of support to developing country Parties. Review of information reported by Parties on these aspects of the climate policy implementation requires in-depth understanding of policymaking background, specifics and challenges of national or regional contexts and knowledge of the review scope and solutions.

09:00 – 09:10	<p>Opening of Day 2 Katia Simeonova, Manager, TF Sub-programme</p>
09:10 – 10:30	<p>Session I. Overcoming the challenges in reviewing information reported on assessment of progress to 2020 targets Supported by Inkar Kadyrzhanova, Programme officer, TF – IAR unit</p> <p><i>To inform the discussion during this session, two background papers have been prepared by the secretariat on assessment of progress to target and on the use of units from market-based mechanisms by the EU and its member States.³ The papers are based on information reported in the BR2s and on the TRR2s.</i></p> <p>Assessment of progress to the 2020 targets based on mitigation impacts of policies and measures and the use of units from market-based mechanisms and land use, land-use change and forestry Erasmia Kitou, consultant</p> <p>Case of the EU and its member States: Interrelationship of policies and measures to reach the 2020 target Christopher Streissler, Austria, and Ana Danila, the European Commission</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
11:00 – 11:45	<p>Three cases of assessment of progress to targets and the review approaches used during the BR2 reviews</p> <p>Case of Australia Koen Smekens, Belgium <i>Questions and answers</i></p> <p>Case of Norway Pierre Brender, France <i>Questions and answers</i></p> <p>Case of the USA Aglaia Obrekht, Canada <i>Questions and answers</i></p>
11:45 – 13:00	<p>Session 2. Provision of support: general overview and reporting issues Supported by Veronica Colerio, Programme officer, TF – IAR unit</p>

³ Available at: <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/items/10059.php>.

	<p><i>A background paper on challenges in reporting and analysing the provision on financial, technological and capacity building support to developing country Parties has been prepared to complement the presentations in this session.⁴ The paper is based on the BR1 and BR2 reviews.</i></p> <p>Interlinkages between Standing committee on Finance and MRV of support Co-chairs of SCF (tbc)</p> <p>Overview and state of play in provision of financial, technology and capacity-building support: What information is difficult to report and review? Marion Vieweg, consultant</p> <p>Challenges in reporting: What are the challenges in reporting on provision of support and how this affects the review? Vicky Noens, Belgium Randy Caruso, USA</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
Theme 4: Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting	
14:30 – 15:30	Work on the conclusions and recommendations
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 16:45	Work on the conclusions and recommendations (continued)
16:45 – 17:00	Closing remarks Katia Simeonova, Manager, TF Sub-programme
17:00	End of the meeting

⁴ Available at: <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_jar/items/10059.php>.