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Item 9(b) of the provisional agenda

Methodological issues under the Convention

**Revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories
for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention**

**Report on the workshop on issues relating to the revision of
the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides a summary of the third workshop under the work programme of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to revise the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories” (UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines). The workshop was held on 24–25 March 2011 in Bonn, Germany. At the workshop, participants shared their views on the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, prepared by the secretariat based on Parties’ submissions. The workshop participants considered both the text of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines and the common reporting format (CRF) tables contained in the guidelines. The annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.4, will be considered by the SBSTA at its thirty-fourth session.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirtieth session, agreed to launch a work programme to revise the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories” (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines), including the common reporting format (CRF) tables, with a view to recommending the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines for adoption by the Conference of the Parties, for regular use starting in 2015.¹
2. The SBSTA, at its thirty-second session, agreed on the process and timeline of the work programme mentioned in paragraph 1 above. It requested the secretariat to prepare, taking into account all options included in Parties’ submissions² and further guidance provided by the SBSTA at its thirty-third session, an annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables.³
3. At its thirty-third session, the SBSTA requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of funding, to organize a third workshop under the work programme, to be held in early 2011. It agreed that participants should address the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines.⁴

B. Scope of the note

4. This document contains information about the proceedings of and discussions during the workshop. The main outcome of the workshop is the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.4.

II. Proceedings of the workshop

5. The third workshop under the work programme was organized by the secretariat in Bonn, Germany, on 24–25 March 2011. Ms. Katia Simeonova, Manager of the Review and Analysis Sub-programme of the secretariat, read a statement addressing the participants from Mr. Mama Konaté, the Chair of the SBSTA. The workshop was chaired by Ms. Helen Plume (New Zealand).
6. The workshop covered the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, which the secretariat had prepared for the third workshop on the basis of the submissions from Parties referred to in paragraph 2 above. In addition, the secretariat provided information on the development of the CRF Reporter software.
7. Eighteen experts from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), 49 experts from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, paragraph 101.

² Parties’ submissions are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.7 and Add.1–3.

³ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/6, paragraph 72.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/13, paragraph 76.

Parties) and three representatives from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change attended the workshop.

8. The workshop was divided into five parts. In the first part the chair presented the mandate and objectives of the workshop and the secretariat introduced the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines. The second part covered the draft text of the guidelines. The third part covered the CRF tables, where the participants split up into two groups. One group addressed the CRF tables for the energy, industrial processes and product use (IPPU), and waste sectors, while a second group addressed the CRF tables for the agriculture and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors. All participants jointly discussed the summary and cross-sectoral tables. Part four covered the CRF Reporter software. The secretariat provided information to the workshop participants on the planned development of the CRF Reporter software. In the final part of the workshop the facilitators of the two groups addressing the CRF tables presented the outcome of the work of the respective groups; the agreed changes have been included in the revised CRF tables, together with the discussed changes to the text, in the revised annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.4, which will be considered by the SBSTA at its thirty-fourth session.

III. Summary of discussions

9. This chapter provides a summary of the main points of the discussions during the workshop. The main outcome of the workshop is the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.4.

A. Issues related to changes to the text of the guidelines

10. The workshop participants, under the guidance of the chair, went through the text of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines paragraph by paragraph. The chair made it clear that accounting issues such as the following would not be discussed during the workshop: total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, especially in relation to indirect carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions; global warming potentials; and rules for accounting of LULUCF emissions and removals and related issues. She emphasized that the focus should be on methodological issues, principles and definitions contained in the guidelines and the suggested revisions of the particular paragraphs. The accounting issues will be discussed once decisions have been taken on them in other forums under the Convention. During the discussions, participants agreed on deleting or merging different options for the text.

11. Participants also agreed on including placeholders in the guidelines text for issues such as those coming from other processes under the Convention; a new section of the guidelines on national systems; and one on how to report on models and higher-tier methods. These issues were not discussed during the workshop, but participants agreed that they are important and that by including placeholders they will not be forgotten during the consideration at SBSTA 34 of the revised annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines.

12. One participant suggested that an additional section should be included in the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines to cover actions by Annex I Parties to minimize the adverse impacts of response measures on non-Annex I Parties. The additional section should also contain reporting tables, in line with the CRF tables. The suggestion was based on decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10 and the need to include some of the reporting

requirements under the Kyoto Protocol in the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines under the Convention.

13. Some participants opposed the inclusion of the new section referred to in paragraph 12 above. They stated that the suggested additional section is outside the scope of the agreed work programme for the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines. As the work programme concerns the revision of the GHG inventory reporting requirements for Annex I Parties under the Convention, the issue should be discussed in other processes under the Convention.

B. Issues related to changes to the common reporting format tables

14. Workshop participants discussed the CRF tables in two groups: one group focused on the energy, IPPU and waste sectors, while the other focused on the agriculture and LULUCF sectors. The summary and cross-sectoral tables were covered in a joint meeting.

15. The participants discussed the changes to the organization of the CRF tables and each table individually. The outline of suggested new tables was considered. In some cases where different options were presented for one table, participants expressed their preferences on which option to keep or suggested merging the options. They also discussed the suggested modifications to the tables and disaggregation of categories, subcategories, fuels, animal species and other parameters and agreed on the level of disaggregation for some tables. Most of the suggestions from the participants have been kept for further discussion and only minor changes to the CRF tables were agreed and introduced in the revised CRF tables. Suggested revisions of the tables are included in the revised tables contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.4.

16. The main topic for discussion in the group discussing the energy, IPPU and waste sectors was the level of detail needed in the revised CRF tables, in terms of new categories and subcategories, and the restructuring of categories and subcategories following the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (hereinafter referred to as the 2006 IPCC Guidelines). The group considered that the 2006 IPCC Guidelines should be the reference for the level of detail. They also considered it important that Annex I Parties use the same units when reporting activity data and other inventory parameters in a specific category. Again the participants agreed that the 2006 IPCC Guidelines should be the reference for deciding which units should be used when reporting a specific category.

17. Earlier workshops under the work programme and SBSTA conclusions have concluded that the current agriculture and LULUCF sectors should be reported separately in future. Therefore, discussions in the group focusing on the agriculture and LULUCF sectors started with the mapping of the combined sector agriculture, forestry and other land use, as included in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and the agriculture and LULUCF sectors, as in the current CRF. Some changes to the proposed category split across the agriculture and the LULUCF sectors were suggested. The group reaffirmed the conclusion from the second workshop⁵ that the changes to the CRF tables and structure should be minimized to the extent possible. They also considered the suggested new tables for the agriculture and LULUCF sectors and the suggested modifications to the current CRF tables.

18. Participants agreed that the cross-sectoral and summary tables should be simplified by deleting some redundant tables and keeping some of the tables only in the national inventory report. Some specific suggestions for the revision of existing tables were made.

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.10, paragraph 42.

IV. Outcome of the workshop

19. The outcome of the workshop is the revised annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, which is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.4.
