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Reports on other activities

Annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol

Technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol

Annual report by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides information on the status of submission and review of the annual information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including greenhouse gas inventories and supplementary information, and review activities during the 2015 and 2016 review cycles, including the review upon the expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. It also provides information on review training activities for experts participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol. Finally, it reports on the information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), by decision 22/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 35, states that the secretariat shall prepare an annual report to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on the composition of the expert review teams (ERTs), including the selection of experts for the review teams and the lead reviewers. The CMP, in paragraph 40(a) of the annex to the same decision, also states that the lead reviewers of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory reviews collectively shall prepare an annual report to the SBSTA with suggestions on how to improve the review process.

2. The CMP requested the secretariat to include in this report information on the training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, in particular information on examination procedures and the selection of trainees and instructors, in order for Parties to assess the effectiveness of the programme.¹

3. Finally, the CMP, by decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 26, states that the secretariat shall annually compile information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.

B. Scope of the note

4. This document provides information on: the status of submission of the annual information required from Parties included in Annex I under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol (hereinafter referred to as Parties included in Annex I); and the review of that information, including the GHG inventories of those Parties (chapter II). It also provides information on the selection of experts and lead reviewers for the review process and their participation in this process (chapter III) and on the annual report to the SBSTA prepared by the lead reviewers in accordance with decision 22/CMP.1, including their conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the review process (chapter IV). Moreover, this report contains information on the training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol (chapter V). The document further reports on the information on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, as required by decision 15/CMP.1 (chapter VI).

5. In accordance with the “Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol” (hereinafter referred to as the Article 8 review guidelines), the review under the Kyoto Protocol encompasses the existing review under the Convention. The lessons learned and problems encountered in the review process under the Convention and under the Kyoto Protocol have many common elements. This document focuses on the elements of the review process that are specific to the Kyoto Protocol and should be read in conjunction with the annual report on the technical review of GHG inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties).²

¹ Decision 5/CMP.11, paragraph 3.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.11.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

6. The SBSTA will be invited to take note of this report.

II. Submission and review of information from Parties included in Annex I

A. Review upon expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol

7. The additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (true-up period) ended on 18 November 2015 based on the dates referred to in decision 3/CMP.10. In accordance with paragraph 49 of the annex to decision 13/CMP.1, upon expiration of the true-up period, Parties included in Annex I submitted their true-up reports for the first commitment period on 2 January 2016³ and made information publicly available on: the total quantities of Kyoto Protocol units (assigned amount units (AAUs), emission reduction units (ERUs), certified emission reductions (CERs) and removal units (RMUs)) valid for the first commitment period existing in their accounts and those issued, acquired, transferred, cancelled and retired until the end of the true-up period; the total quantity and serial numbers of Kyoto Protocol units valid for the first commitment period in their retirement accounts; and the total quantity and serial numbers of AAUs, ERUs and CERs proposed for carry-over to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.⁴ In addition, Parties included in Annex I have reported their standard electronic format (SEF) tables and additional information for 2014 and for the period from 1 January 2015 to 18 November 2015.⁵ The purpose of this information was to demonstrate that each Party has fulfilled its obligations under Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol.

8. The review of all the reports referred to in paragraph 7 above took place from 8 to 12 February 2016.⁶ The reviews were conducted through three simultaneous centralized reviews held in Bonn, Germany, and covering all 37 Parties included in Annex I with a quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol for the first commitment period.⁷

³ Decision 3/CMP.10, paragraph 3, establishes this deadline (no later than 45 days after the expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments).

⁴ Decision 13/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 49.

⁵ Decision 3/CMP.10, paragraph 3.

⁶ More information on the review upon expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is available on the UNFCCC website at <<http://unfccc.int/9023>>.

⁷ Although Belarus, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Malta and Turkey are considered Parties included in Annex I for the purposes of the Kyoto Protocol, they do not have quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol for the first commitment period. (Belarus is a Party included in Annex I and its quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment (92 per cent) was established through an amendment to Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol (decision 10/CMP.2). At the time of publication of this report, the amendment had not yet been ratified by a sufficient number of Parties to allow its entry into force).

9. The ERTs assessed whether the information submitted by Parties was reported as mandated in CMP decisions and whether it was consistent with the information available in the compilation and accounting database and the Party's registry. In addition, the ERTs assessed whether the information reported had any errors or inconsistencies and whether the aggregate GHG emissions in the first commitment period exceeded the quantity of Kyoto Protocol units valid for the first commitment period existing in the retirement account of the respective Party. The ERTs finalized a true-up period review report for each Party.

10. The true-up period review reports for all Parties reviewed have been published and are available on the UNFCCC website.⁸

11. The ERTs concluded for 36 of the 37 Parties that:

- (a) The information submitted covers all elements required;
- (b) The respective Party's aggregate GHG emissions in the first commitment period did not exceed the quantity of Kyoto Protocol units valid for the first commitment period placed in the retirement account;
- (c) The requested amounts of AAUs, CERs and ERUs to be carried over to the second commitment period are consistent with the requirements;
- (d) There were no questions of implementation.

12. Questions of implementation were raised by the ERT in relation to one Party and these were forwarded to the Compliance Committee for further resolution in accordance with the procedures set out in decision 27/CMP.1.

13. In accordance with decision 13/CMP.1, paragraph 5, and paragraph 62 of the annex to decision 13/CMP.1, following the publication of the true-up period review reports, the secretariat recorded, in the compilation and accounting database, the final information for each Party in the first commitment period and published, on 2 August 2016 on the UNFCCC website,⁹ the final compilation and accounting report for each of the 36 Parties for which no questions of implementation were raised. These reports have also been forwarded to the Compliance Committee. The compilation and accounting report for the Party for which questions of implementation were raised could not be produced owing to the absence of related accounting information. This report will be prepared following the resolution of the questions of implementation and the retirement of a sufficient quantity of Kyoto Protocol units valid for the first commitment period to cover the Party's aggregate GHG emissions in the first commitment period. The final compilation and accounting reports provide, for each Party, the following final information for the first commitment period:

- (a) The aggregate anthropogenic carbon dioxide equivalent emissions of the Party;
- (b) The total quantity of ERUs, CERs, AAUs and RMUs in the retirement account;
- (c) Where applicable, the quantities of ERUs, CERs and AAUs in the registry available for carry-over to the subsequent commitment period;
- (d) Where applicable, the quantity in tonnes by which GHG emissions exceed the units retired, if applicable.

⁸ <<http://unfccc.int/9049>>.

⁹ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/9691>>.

14. These reports will be considered at CMP 22.

B. Annual submissions for 2016

15. The annual inventory submission under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol comprises the national inventory report (NIR) and the common reporting format (CRF) tables. In addition, Parties included in Annex I have to submit supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol. The due date of the annual submission is 15 April. Submissions made by Parties after the due date can delay the review process, making the preparation of the review tools to support the review process more difficult, and the GHG inventory data of such Parties may not be included in the reports prepared by the secretariat.

16. As at 21 September 2016, the secretariat had received 42 submissions from Parties included in Annex I (see table 1). A total of 37 of those submissions, containing the information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including information on GHG inventories, were made by Parties in accordance with decisions 15/CMP.1, 3/CMP.11 and 6/CMP.9. Most of these submissions contain tables with accounting units prepared in the SEF, which are part of the supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol. A total of 27 Parties submitted SEF tables for the first commitment period and 35 Parties provided SEF tables for the second commitment period.

17. As at 21 September 2016, status reports for 41 submissions¹⁰ were prepared and published on the UNFCCC website¹¹ and 38 of them (with the exception of those for Belarus, Kazakhstan and Turkey) forwarded to the Compliance Committee. The secretariat coordinated individual reviews of the 42 submissions referred to in paragraph 16 above. A total of 39 of those reviews followed the requirements established under the Article 8 review guidelines.¹² Nine of the individual reviews were organized as in-country reviews between 5 September and 15 October 2016, while the rest were organized as centralized reviews (in Bonn between 29 August and 1 October 2016) or desk reviews (between 17 and 22 October 2016). The reports of these reviews are in preparation.

18. As indicated in the previous annual report on the technical review of GHG inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, the secretariat considered itself not in a position to organize annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol in 2015.¹³ The secretariat has organized these reviews in conjunction with the reviews of the 2016 submissions, as requested by the CMP.¹⁴ The reports on these reviews are in preparation.

¹⁰ As at 21 September 2016, Monaco had not submitted its NIR and its CRF tables. Therefore, its status report could not be prepared.

¹¹ <<http://unfccc.int/9492>>.

¹² The submissions of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Turkey were made under the Convention.

¹³ FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.10/Rev.1, paragraphs 12–14.

¹⁴ Decision 10/CMP.11, paragraphs 1 and 2.

Table 1
Submission of the annual information required under the Kyoto Protocol in 2016

<i>Party included in Annex I</i>	<i>Original submission dates</i>			
	<i>NIR</i>	<i>CRF tables</i>	<i>SEF-CP1</i>	<i>SEF-CP2</i>
Australia	7 May 2016	27 May 2016	19 May 2016	19 May 2016
Austria	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	14 April 2016	14 April 2016
Belarus	10 June 2016 ^a	10 June 2016 ^a		
Belgium	15 June 2016	15 June 2016		15 April 2016
Bulgaria	27 May 2016	27 May 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016
Croatia	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	15 June 2016
Cyprus	15 June 2016	15 June 2016		
Czechia	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	25 August 2016
Denmark	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016
Estonia	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	1 June 2016
European Union	21 June 2016	27 June 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016
Finland	15 April 2016	15 April 2016	11 March 2016	11 March 2016
France	14 April 2016	15 April 2016		26 May 2016
Germany	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016
Greece	31 May 2016	23 May 2016	25 April 2016	2 August 2016
Hungary	15 June 2016	15 June 2016		15 April 2016
Iceland	6 May 2016	6 May 2016		15 April 2016
Ireland	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016
Italy	15 April 2016	15 April 2016	14 April 2016	14 April 2016
Japan	14 April 2016	14 April 2016	14 April 2016	14 April 2016
Kazakhstan	2 September 2016 ^a	15 April 2016 ^a		
Latvia	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	15 June 2016
Liechtenstein	27 May 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016	5 August 2016
Lithuania	15 April 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	7 June 2016
Luxembourg	15 April 2016	15 June 2016		15 April 2016
Malta	19 April 2016 ^a	29 July 2016		
Monaco			4 April 2016	4 April 2016
Netherlands	15 June 2016	15 June 2016		14 April 2016

Party included in Annex I	Original submission dates			
	NIR	CRF tables	SEF-CP1	SEF-CP2
New Zealand	20 May 2016	20 May 2016	20 May 2016	20 May 2016
Norway	15 April 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016
Poland	15 April 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016
Portugal	27 May 2016	27 May 2016	27 May 2016	15 April 2016
Romania	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	29 July 2016
Russian Federation		15 April 2016		
Slovakia	10 May 2016	10 May 2016		15 April 2016
Slovenia	15 June 2016	15 June 2016		26 May 2016
Spain	13 June 2016	13 June 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016
Sweden	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	15 April 2016	22 July 2016
Switzerland	15 April 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016	15 April 2016
Turkey ^b	15 April 2016 ^a	15 April 2016 ^a		
Ukraine	24 May 2016	24 May 2016		
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	15 June 2016	15 June 2016	14 April 2016	15 April 2016

Note: Blank cells indicate that no submission had been received as at 21 September 2016. Once these submissions have been made, they will be available on the UNFCCC website at <<http://unfccc.int/9492>>.

Abbreviations: CRF = common reporting format, NIR = national inventory report, Party included in Annex I = Party included in Annex I as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol, SEF-CP1 = standard electronic format for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, SEF-CP2 = standard electronic format for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

^a The submission is made under the Convention only.

^b Although Turkey is considered to be a Party included in Annex I for the purposes of the Kyoto Protocol, in the absence of commitments under Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period, its reporting obligations under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol do not appear to be triggered in relation to that period.

C. Review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period

19. CMP 8 decided that each Party with a quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment inscribed in the third column of Annex B in the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was to submit to the secretariat by 15 April 2015 a report to facilitate the calculation of its assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 bis, 8 and 8 bis, of the

Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period and to demonstrate its capacity to account for its emissions and assigned amount.¹⁵

20. No such reports were submitted by the date indicated in paragraph 19 above, primarily owing to the delays in the release of the CRF Reporter and in the finalization of the full set of the accounting, reporting and review rules.

21. The SBSTA noted that the review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period and the review of the GHG inventory submissions under the Kyoto Protocol could start at the earliest in 2016.¹⁶

22. As at 21 September 2016, 36 Parties had submitted their reports. The secretariat has organized reviews of these reports to be conducted in conjunction with the reviews of the 2016 submissions, as requested by the CMP.¹⁷ The reports of the reviews of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period are in preparation.

III. Expert review teams and lead reviewers

23. The information provided in the annual submissions under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including the GHG inventories, is examined by international teams of experts, who are selected by the secretariat from those nominated by Parties to the UNFCCC roster of experts. Invitations to experts to participate in the review are copied to the national focal point. Only experts who have taken the training courses under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and who have passed the corresponding examinations can participate in the reviews of annual submissions.¹⁸

24. The annual report on the technical review of GHG inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention provides more information on the number and nominating Party of experts participating in reviews in 2016, the number of ERTs and experiences in organizing the reviews.¹⁹

IV. Annual report of inventory lead reviewers

25. The 13th meeting of GHG inventory lead reviewers was held in Bonn on 1 and 2 March 2016. Before the meeting, on 29 February 2016, the secretariat held a refresher seminar for lead reviewers and experienced reviewers. The focus of the refresher seminar was on experiences from reviews of GHG inventories in 2015.

26. In accordance with decisions 13/CP.20, 22/CMP.1 and 24/CMP.1, the meeting referred to in paragraph 25 above facilitated the lead reviewers' task of ensuring the consistency of reviews across Parties and provided conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the quality and efficiency of such reviews. Such conclusions and

¹⁵ Decision 2/CMP.8, paragraph 2.

¹⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2015/2, paragraph 65.

¹⁷ Decision 10/CMP.11, paragraph 2.

¹⁸ For more information on the training of review experts, see chapter V of document FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.11.

¹⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.11, paragraphs 17–24 and table 3.

recommendations are reported to the SBSTA, in accordance with the annexes to decisions 13/CP.20 and 22/CMP.1.²⁰

V. Training of experts

A. Overview

27. Training activities are of crucial importance for ensuring the required quality and consistency of the review process. Such training is particularly valuable for experts from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) who need to further strengthen their expertise because most do not work on GHG inventories on a daily basis. In addition, they are not involved in the activities of Parties included in Annex I related to the reporting of supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, on, for example, emissions and removals from activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol, information on accounting of Kyoto Protocol units, the national systems and the national registries and their changes, and information on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, which are subject to annual reviews. One of the positive impacts of the training programmes is that experts, from non-Annex I and Annex I Parties alike, who participate in training activities and subsequent reviews can use the experience gained in these activities to improve the quality of their national inventories.

28. The secretariat continues to strongly encourage and invite all available experts listed in the UNFCCC roster of experts nominated for GHG inventory review activities to take the relevant Convention and Kyoto Protocol training courses and examinations because only experts who have passed these examinations are able to participate in the reviews under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. The secretariat also facilitates the process of access by experts to the relevant training programmes, invites Parties to nominate new experts for the training programmes (see para. 27 above) and provides relevant information and updates on the organization of the training courses on the UNFCCC website²¹ and through other electronic means, such as the secretariat's newsletter.

B. Training programme for members of expert review teams participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol

29. By decision 8/CMP.5, the CMP requested the secretariat to develop and implement the updated training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, including the examination of experts. This training programme was developed on the basis of the courses focused on initial reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol implemented in accordance with decision 24/CMP.1, with the aim to train members of ERTs for the review of information submitted under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol. All training courses were designed to be offered online, in some cases with the support of an instructor, subject to the availability of resources, and in the case of the course on the application of adjustments, the support of an instructor was mandatory. The courses and examinations were offered online three to four times a year until 2011, but since 2011 they have been offered twice a year owing to the small number of participants. During the period 2010–2015, 476 experts participated in the online training

²⁰ See the annex to document FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.11 or <<http://unfccc.int/2762>> for the conclusions and recommendations from the 13th meeting of GHG inventory lead reviewers.

²¹ <<http://unfccc.int/2763>>.

courses and 389 experts passed one or more online examinations of the training programme under decision 8/CMP.5.

30. In 2016, these courses have been updated and implemented following decision 5/CMP.11 adopted at the end of 2015. The updated “Training programme for members of expert review teams participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol” consists of a course on each of the following aspects: national systems; application of adjustments; modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol; review of national registries and information on assigned amounts; and review of activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol. All training courses have been designed to be offered online, in some cases with the support of an instructor, subject to the availability of resources, and in the case of the course on the application of adjustments, the support is mandatory. Some examinations are mandatory for all reviewers, while some are mandatory for lead reviewers and some other experts qualified for the review of particular aspects of the information submitted under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol.

31. The updated training programme was launched on 11 July 2016 through the secretariat’s Learning Management System. The courses and the examinations were organized and conducted online by the UNFCCC secretariat in accordance with decision 5/CMP.11. In this first round of training (July–August 2016), 88 experts registered for courses, including new experts who passed examinations under the Convention in 2015 and 2016. Of those 88, 66 took examinations, with 63 passing one or more examination. One highly experienced expert and lead reviewer from a non-Annex I Party was invited to be the instructor for the course on review of activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol. The courses and examinations were offered for the second time in September 2016 with the support of the same instructor. A total of 82 experts registered for courses, of whom 15 participated in courses and 14 passed one or more examination. Taking into account that experts who had passed examinations of the training programme adopted by decision 8/CMP.5 are not mandatorily required to take examinations of the updated training programme in accordance with decision 5/CMP.11 (with the exception of experts in land use, land-use change and forestry and lead reviewers, who are obliged to pass the examination of the updated course on review of activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol), as at 20 September 2016, 485 experts had passed the mandatory examinations and were qualified to be members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol.

VI. Compilation of information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol

32. The CMP, by decision 15/CMP.1, states that the secretariat shall compile the supplementary information submitted annually by Parties relating to how they are striving, under Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, to implement their commitments mentioned in Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol in such a way as to minimize adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing country Parties, particularly those identified in Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention, and information on any changes that have occurred compared with the information reported in their previous annual submissions.²²

²² Decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 26.

33. The compilation shall also include information on how Parties included in Annex I that are also included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so give priority in implementing their commitments under Article 3, paragraph 14, to the actions referred to in decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 24, based on relevant methodologies referred to in decision 31/CMP.1, paragraph 11. The compilation is scheduled to be published in October 2016 so that more submissions can be considered. The compilation will be made available on the UNFCCC website.²³

²³ <<http://unfccc.int/6559>>.