

REVIEW PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Biennial Report and Reporting on Domestic Arrangements

Background Paper for the 4th Lead Reviewers Meeting, 6–7 March 2017, Bonn, Germany



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List of Abbreviations

BRs	Biennial reports
BR1s	First biennial reports
BR2s	Second biennial reports
COP	Conference of the Parties
ERT	Expert review team
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IAR	International assessment and review
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NC	National communication
NIA	National inventory arrangements
NIR	National inventory report
PaMs	Policies and measures
TRR	Technical review report
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

I. Background

1. The COP, by decision 1/CP.16, decided that developed country Parties should, building on existing reporting and review guidelines, processes and experiences, enhance the reporting in their NCs and submit BRs, which outline their progress made in achieving emission reductions and provide information on their provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties).

2. The COP, by decision 2/CP.17, adopted the Biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties (hereinafter referred to as the BR reporting guidelines). The COP, by decision 23/CP.19, adopted the “Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention” (hereinafter referred to as the review guidelines for NCs and BRs).

3. The technical review of the BRs is the first step in the IAR process. The purpose of the technical review of the BRs and NCs of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) is to ensure that the requirements of the reporting guidelines have been fulfilled, to promote consistency among Parties’ reports, to help Parties to improve their reporting, to examine Parties’ progress in achieving their targets and to ensure that the COP has reliable information on the implementation of Parties’ commitments under the Convention.

II. Purpose of this paper

4. The purpose of this background paper is to assess the similarities and differences between a number of reporting requirements on domestic arrangements for national inventories,¹ for mitigation actions and their effects,² and for the self-assessment of compliance with emission reduction commitments³ included in the BR reporting guidelines, and to analyse what information Parties provided in the BR2s and how they were assessed by the ERTs with a view to enhancing the overall consistency, completeness and transparency of the reporting and review processes. Examples from the BR2s and TRRs are provided throughout the paper to demonstrate best practices and to enhance Parties’ and ERTs’ understanding of each one of these reporting requirements.

III. Requirements of the BR reporting guidelines on domestic arrangements

A. Overall assessment of similarities and differences between the reporting requirements on domestic arrangements

5. The BR reporting guidelines contain three paragraphs that cover the closely related issues:

(a) Paragraph 3: “Annex I Parties shall provide summary information on their national inventory arrangements in accordance with the reporting requirements related to national inventory arrangements contained in the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines, and on the changes to these national inventory arrangements since their last national communication or biennial report.”

(b) Paragraph 7: “Each Annex I Party shall provide information on changes in its domestic institutional arrangements, including institutional, legal, administrative and procedural

¹ BR reporting guidelines for developed country Parties: chapter II, paragraph 3.

² BR reporting guidelines for developed country Parties: chapter IV.A, paragraph 7.

³ BR reporting guidelines for developed country Parties: chapter VII, paragraph 24.

arrangements used for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting, archiving of information and evaluation of the progress towards its economy-wide emission reduction target.”

(c) Paragraph 24: “Annex I Parties are encouraged to report, to the extent possible, on the domestic arrangements established for the process of the self-assessment of compliance with emission reductions in comparison with emission reduction commitments or the level of emission reduction that is required by science. Annex I Parties are encouraged to report, to the extent possible, on the progress made in the establishment of national rules for taking local action against domestic non-compliance with emission reduction targets.”

6. During the BR2 review it became apparent that Parties and the ERTs were largely uncertain as to what the differences were between each one of these reporting requirements on domestic arrangements and in certain cases what exactly should be reported under each one of these reporting requirements. This lack of clarity on what needs to be reported under each requirement made it hard to ensure the consistency of the TRRs and the ERTs’ assessments of the reported information. Table 1 below illustrates the similarities and differences between the three reporting requirements.

Table 1. Similarities and differences between the reporting requirements on domestic arrangements

	Paragraph 3	Paragraph 7	Paragraph 24
Type of requirement	<i>shall</i>	<i>shall</i>	<i>are encouraged ... to the extent possible</i>
Type of information	<i>summary information + changes</i>	<i>changes</i>	<i>detailed information</i>
Topic	<i>national inventory</i>	<i>mitigation actions and their effects/progress to target</i>	<i>Other (compliance)</i>
Arrangements for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>reporting, archiving information,</i> • <i>estimating emissions</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>domestic compliance</i> • <i>monitoring, reporting, archiving information,</i> • <i>evaluation of progress towards target</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>self-assessment of compliance with emission reduction commitments or with reductions required by science,</i> <i>(+ progress made in establishing rules against domestic non-compliance)</i>

7. The first two reporting requirements (paragraphs 3 and 7) focus on “*changes*” in the arrangements and are both mandatory (“*shall*”). However, the reporting requirement in paragraph 3 (on NIAs) does also necessitate the provision of summary information. The requirement of paragraph 3 is clearly linked to inventories while the requirement of paragraph 7 is clearly linked to mitigation actions and progress towards the target. The institutional arrangements linked to mitigation actions may or may not overlap with the arrangements for the national inventory; however, the scope of the two reporting requirements is clearly different. The third reporting requirement (paragraph 24) is not mandatory (“*are encouraged ... to the extent possible*”) and requests Parties to provide more extensive information than a simple reference to changes.

8. The scope of the reporting requirement in paragraph 7 of the BR reporting guidelines appears to some extent similar to the scope of paragraph 24. Paragraph 7 refers to “*domestic institutional arrangements ... used for domestic compliance... and for the evaluation of the progress towards the target*” with the main focus as explained above on mitigation actions and their effects. Paragraph 24 refers to “*domestic arrangements established for the process of the self-assessment of compliance with emission reduction commitments ...*”.

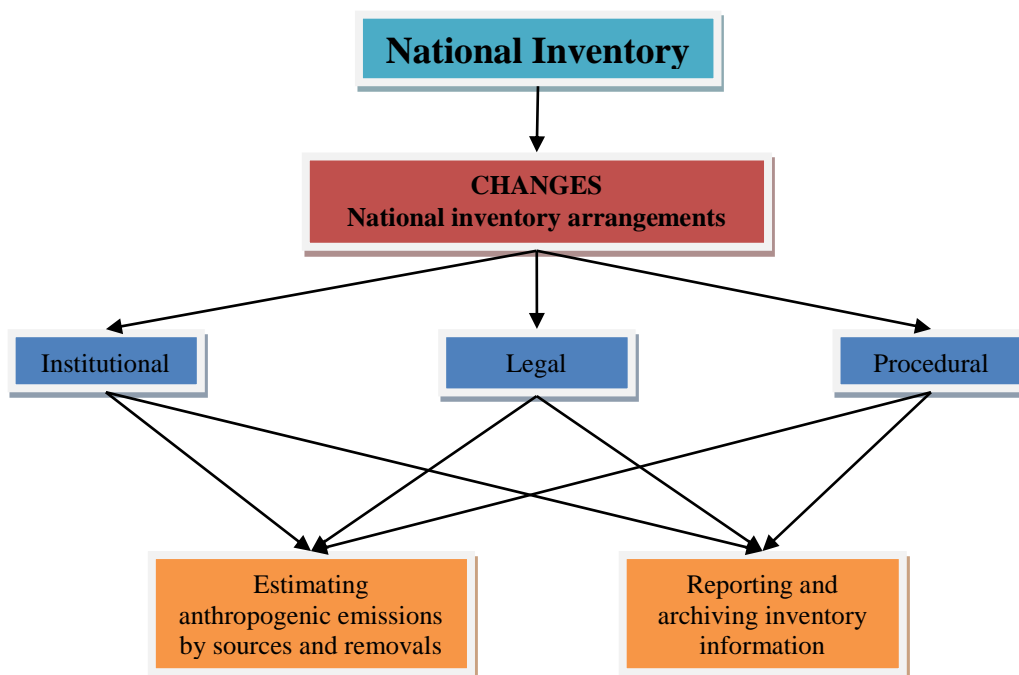
9. The reporting requirement of paragraph 7 is fairly specific as it refers to “*domestic compliance*” with regard to mitigation actions (this can include both their implementation and their effectiveness). In comparison, paragraph 24 places everything in a broader context as it asks the overarching question: “*What arrangements has a Party put in place to self-assess whether the achieved emission reductions are in compliance with its commitments or with science?*” The reference to “*emission reduction commitments*” could even be interpreted as a reference to a Party’s domestic commitments which may be different than the target under the Convention while the reference to science indicates that the goal of this particular reporting requirement is to assess to what extent Parties have arrangements in place that enable them to go beyond their targets under the Convention and are in line with what is mandated by the IPCC. It is of course very likely that Parties’ arrangements for ensuring that their mitigation actions get implemented and deliver results overlap with their arrangements for assessing compliance with their emission reduction commitments.

10. Paragraph 7 refers specifically to “*changes to ... legal arrangements ... used for domestic compliance and for the evaluation of progress towards the target*” while paragraph 24 refers to “*progress in establishing national rules for taking action against domestic non-compliance with emission reduction commitments*”. If examined closely, the focus of the two paragraphs is very different also with regard to this point. Paragraph 7 focuses on “*changes to legal arrangements*” while paragraph 24 on the “*progress towards establishing rules*”. The “*national rules*” referred to in paragraph 24 are a very different notion than the “*legal arrangements*” referred to in paragraph 7; in a sense they are wider (e.g. rules do not need to be enshrined in legislation). In addition, paragraph 7 refers to “*legal arrangements for domestic compliance*” (“*What arrangements does a Party have in place in order to ensure compliance with its target/mitigation action goals?*”), which is again a very different concept than that of “*rules for non-compliance*” (“*What happens when a Party does not reach its target?*”) referred to in paragraph 24.

B. National inventory arrangements (paragraph 3 of the BR reporting guidelines)

11. The BR reporting guidelines, in chapter II on “*Information on greenhouse gas emissions and trends*”, paragraph 3, stipulate that: “*Annex I Parties shall provide summary information on their national inventory arrangements in accordance with the reporting requirements related to national inventory arrangements contained in the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines, and on the changes to these national inventory arrangements since their last national communication or biennial report.*” Figure 1 below provides a schematic illustration of the scope of the reporting requirement.

Figure 1. National inventory arrangements



12. This reporting requirement is a mandatory requirement (“*shall*”) and is the most straightforward out of the three reporting requirements of the BR reporting guidelines on institutional arrangements. Parties have long experience of reporting on their NIAs in their annual NIRs. This paragraph of the BR reporting guidelines requires Parties to use the same guidelines for reporting on their arrangements as they do for their NIRs.⁴

13. However, in contrast to what they report in their NIRs, Parties are required to provide in their BRs only summary information on their NIAs while highlighting any changes in these arrangements since their last NC or BR. The ERTs should verify whether the detailed information is provided in the NIRs and the BRs contain the references to the relevant chapters of the latest NIRs. Below are examples from two submissions and their review reports capturing information on the NIAs.

⁴ Decision 24/CP.19, annex I, chapter F, paragraphs 20–27.

Examples from the BR2 and TRR2s:

Example from the BR2 of Switzerland:

Switzerland's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System is presented in brief. An in-depth description is provided in Switzerland's National Inventory Report (FOEN, 2015, chapter 1).

Example from the TRR2 of Switzerland:

The BR2 makes reference to the national inventory arrangements, including the changes to these arrangements, which are explained in more detail in the national inventory report (NIR) included in Switzerland's 2015 annual inventory submission (in chapter 1).

Further, Switzerland provided during the review week information on changes in the national inventory arrangements since its first biennial report (BR1). The National Inventory System Supervisory Board (NISSB) has been formally divided into two separate boards with separate mandates and responsibilities... In addition, there has been a minor change related to the external organizations that are responsible for specific tasks in the preparation of the annual inventory submission.

Example from the BR2 of New Zealand:

No changes have been made in the legal or institutional arrangements in the National Inventory System since the First Biennial Report and Sixth National Communication were submitted in December 2013.

Although there were no major changes in the structure of the national system, operational improvements designed to improve the quality of New Zealand's Inventory reports have occurred during the past two years. The focus of this work was making the National Inventory System more robust, and achieving better transparency, comparability, consistency, completeness and accuracy in the Inventory. Since New Zealand's First Biennial Report and Sixth National Communication were submitted, improvements in the Inventory have focused on:

For more information on New Zealand's National Inventory System and changes to arrangements since the First Biennial Report, see Annex B of the Sixth National Communication, and New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Example from the TRR2 of New Zealand:

The BR2 makes reference to the national inventory arrangements, which are explained in more detail in the national inventory report included in New Zealand's 2015 annual inventory submission (in chapters 1 and 13).

New Zealand reported that there have been no changes in the legal and institutional arrangements for the national inventory system since its first biennial report (BR1). The Party reported on the operational improvements to its inventory: significant mandatory changes as part of adopting the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (hereinafter referred to as the 2006 IPCC Guidelines), first applied to the 2015 GHG inventory; updated quality control procedures; and a review of the terms of reference for the Reporting Governance Group, which is responsible for approving all changes, improvements and major recalculations in the inventory.

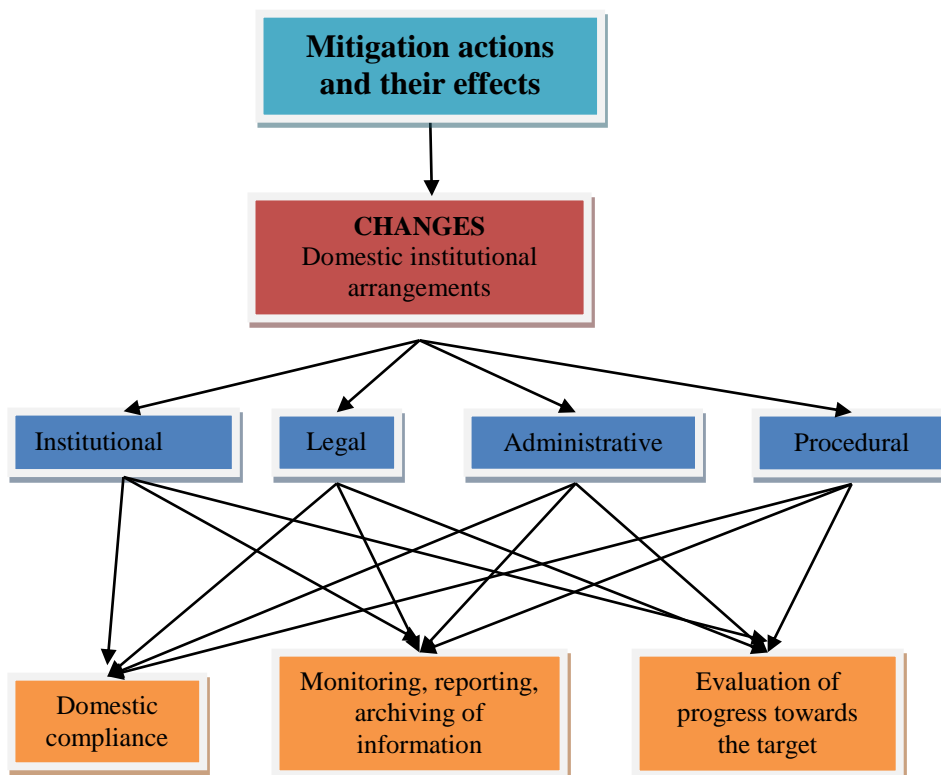
C. Domestic institutional arrangements for mitigation actions and their effects (paragraph 7 of the BR reporting guidelines)

14. The BR reporting guidelines, in chapter IV.A, “Mitigation actions and their effects”, paragraph 7, stipulate that: “Each Annex I Party *shall* provide information on changes in its domestic institutional arrangements, including institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements used for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting, archiving of information and evaluation of the progress towards its economy-wide emission reduction target.”

15. As with the requirement of paragraph 3 of the BR reporting guidelines on NIAs, this is a mandatory requirement (“*shall*”) for Parties to report on changes to their domestic institutional arrangements with regard to mitigation actions and their effects and more generally on the progress towards the target.

16. This reporting requirement covers four different aspects of domestic arrangements: (1) institutional; (2) legal; (3) administrative; and (4) procedural. These arrangements are linked to three different activity areas by each Party: (1) domestic compliance; (2) monitoring, reporting and archiving of information; and (3) evaluation of progress towards the target. Figure 2 below presents the essence of the reporting requirement in a graphical way.

Figure 2. Domestic institutional arrangements for mitigation actions and their effects



17. In assessing the information provided by Parties under this particular requirement of the BR reporting guidelines, the ERTs should be asking Parties whether there have been any changes with regard to:

- (a) The institutions involved in monitoring, reporting and archiving information related to mitigation actions and their effects.
- (b) The institutions involved in evaluating the progress towards the target.

- (c) The institutions involved in assessing/assuring domestic compliance with the goals set for the mitigation actions.
- (d) The legal arrangements (instruments/acts) which underpin the monitoring, reporting and archiving information related to mitigation actions and their effects.
- (e) The legal arrangements (instruments/acts) which are in place in order to evaluate the progress towards the target.
- (f) The legal arrangements (instruments/acts) in place to assess/assure compliance with the goals set for a country's mitigation efforts.
- (g) The administrative arrangements in place in order to monitor, report and archive information related to the mitigation actions and their effects.
- (h) The administrative arrangements in place to evaluate the progress towards the target.
- (i) The administrative arrangements in place to assess/assure compliance with the goals set for a country's mitigation efforts.
- (j) The procedures followed in order to monitor, report and archive information related to the mitigation actions and their effects.
- (k) The procedures followed to evaluate the progress towards the target.
- (l) The procedures followed to assess/assure domestic compliance with the goals set for the mitigation efforts.

18. It is important to note that all of these issues are interlinked and the answers to these questions may largely overlap. Ultimately what is important is for Parties: (1) to provide an understanding of the main elements of the domestic arrangements that underpin their target and their mitigation actions and ensure that results are delivered; and (2) to demonstrate effectively that this is not a one-off ad hoc exercise they are undertaking and that their actions and their target are based on solid, well thought out structures and arrangements.

19. As highlighted above and demonstrated in figure 2, the focus of this reporting requirement is on "*changes*", as with the NIAs. It is interesting to note, however, that unlike the NIAs for which a summary is requested, there is actually no requirement for Parties to provide any information on what their domestic institutional arrangements are. Paragraph 7 refers strictly to changes in domestic arrangements. However, for transparency reasons it would have made sense for Parties to clarify in their first BR what their domestic arrangements are before proceeding with enumerating any changes or noting the lack thereof in subsequent BRs.

20. Based on the above, it is clear that Parties that have already provided information on their domestic arrangements in their BR1 or BR2 can fulfil this particular reporting requirement by stating in their subsequent BRs that there was no change in their domestic arrangements or, if there were changes, that they describe these changes.

Examples from the BR2 and TRR2s:

Example from the BR2 of Denmark:

*Information on Denmark's domestic institutional arrangements, including institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements used for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting, archiving of information and evaluation of the progress towards Denmark's economy-wide emission reduction targets described in section III of this biennial report, is included in Chapter 4 of Denmark's Sixth National Communication (NC6). Since the last biennial report (BR1/CTF1 submitted in conjunction with Denmark's NC6 in January 2014) **the only change in Denmark's domestic governmental institutional arrangements** in relation to climate change is a change of the name of the responsible minister/ ministry from Minister for Climate, Energy and Building/ Ministry of Climate, Energy and Building to Minister for Energy, Utilities and Climate/ Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate cf. the Royal Resolution of 28 June 2015.*

In 2014 the Danish Parliament passed the Danish Climate Change Act. The Act and related notes have the following main content: 1) Establishment of an independent, academically based Climate Council. 2) An annual Climate Policy Report for the Danish Parliament. 3) A process for setting national greenhouse gas reduction targets. In accordance with the Climate Change Act an independent, academically based Climate Council was established in 2015. The Climate Council will provide the government with independent advice on the transition to a low-emission society...

Example from the TRR2 of Denmark:

In its BR2, Denmark provided information on changes in its domestic institutional arrangements, including institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements used for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting, archiving of information and evaluation of the progress made towards its target. The only change in Denmark's domestic institutional arrangements in relation to climate change between the BR1 and the BR2 is a change in the name of the responsible minister or ministry from the Minister/Ministry for Climate, Energy and Buildings to the Minister/Ministry for Energy, Utilities and Climate.

Example from the BR2 of Estonia:

Estonia has not made changes in the domestic institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting and archiving of information and evaluation of the progress towards Estonia's emission reduction obligations and targets since the NC6 and BR1. The national inventory system of Estonia and changes in national inventory arrangements since NC6 and BR1 are described in Chapter 2.

Example from the TRR2 of Estonia:

This report highlights the changes made since the publication of the Party's NC6/BR1. In its BR2, Estonia provided information that there were no changes in its domestic institutional arrangements, including institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements used for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting, archiving of information and evaluation of the progress made towards its target since the publication of its NC6/BR1.

Example from the BR2 of Austria:

*Institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements with respect to Austria's target under the EU Effort Sharing Decision (ESD) are based on the Austrian Climate Change Act, ... Two committees have been established according to the Climate Change Act... The programmes according to the Climate Change Act consist of different policies and instruments for their implementation. The **legislative arrangements** are different for each of these elements. Areas of responsibility are spread among federal ministries as well as between the Federation, Länder and municipalities. That is why there is no uniform **legal basis** for national measures to mitigate climate change. The legal basis for the individual instruments ranges from, e. g., the Environmental Support Act and the Green Electricity Law at Federation level to the Technical Construction Regulations for buildings on Länder level. **Administrative procedures for implementation and monitoring** are as well different for the diversity of measures.*

*Enforcement rules are laid down in the respective legal acts as appropriate. Monitoring and enforcement provisions in the EU ETS are of course quite different from those in non-ETS sectors, such as housing or transport. It should be taken into account that many policy instruments are seen as multifunctional and have been introduced for other reasons too, besides climate change mitigation, e.g. for diversification of energy supply, mitigation of air pollution or reduction of noise from transport, or even for social policy reasons (e.g. housing support schemes). The Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management reports annually to the Climate Change Committee and to the Parliament on **progress with respect to the targets** of the Climate Change Act. If targets are not met, the Climate Change Act triggers negotiations on additional measures to meet the targets. Progress towards the economy-wide emission reduction target of the European Union can only be evaluated at Union level."*

Example from the TRR2 of Austria:

In its BR2, Austria provided information on changes in its domestic institutional arrangements, including institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements used for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting, archiving of information and evaluation of the progress made towards its target, which happened since the publication of the Party's NC6 and BRI. The institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements related to Austria's target under the ESD are based on the Climate Change Act (BGBl. I Nr. 106/2011). The 2013 revision of the Climate Change Act (BGBl. I Nr. 94/2013) incorporated Austria's ESD target and laid down sectoral targets for 2020 in the Party's domestic institutional arrangements. The latest revision of the Climate Change Act in 2015 (BGBl. I Nr. 128/2015) adapts the ESD target and sectors to the new UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines and the use of new GWP values as part of the domestic institutional arrangements. No other major changes have been made to Austria's domestic institutional arrangements since the publication of the Party's NC6 and BRI.

D. Other reporting matters (paragraph 24 of the BR reporting guidelines)

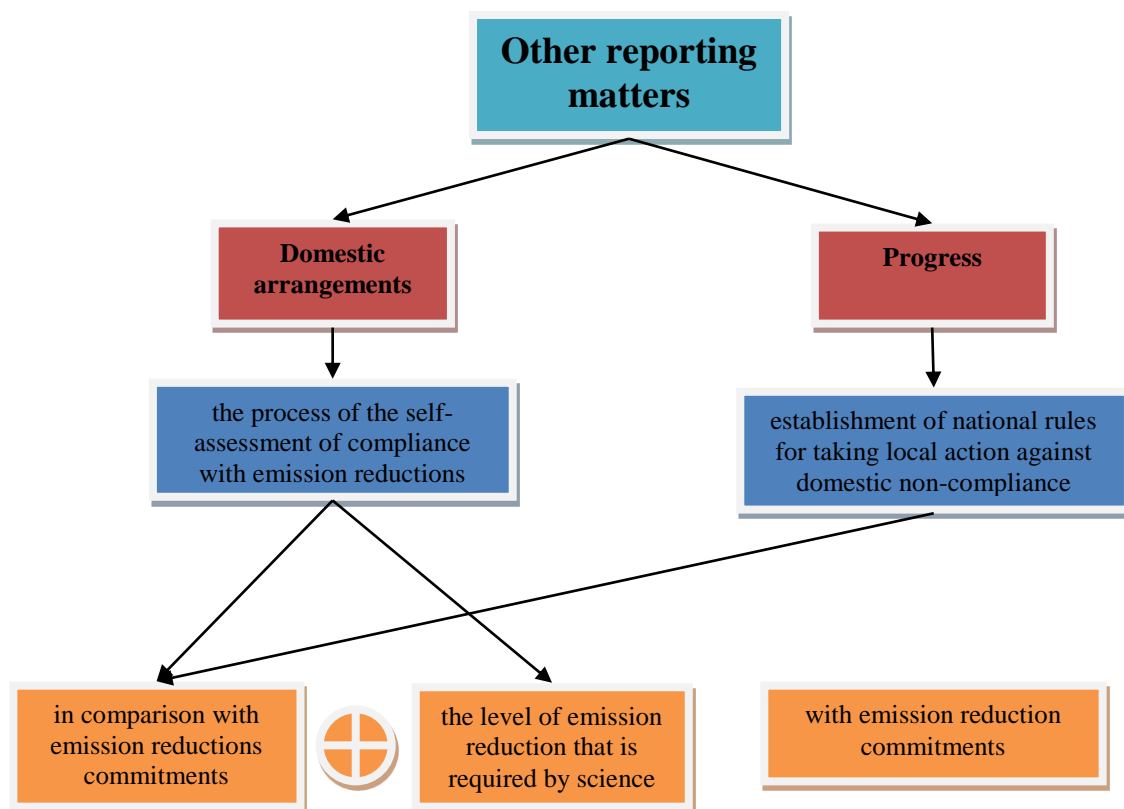
21. The BR reporting guidelines in chapter VII, "Other reporting matters", paragraph 24, stipulate that: "*Annex I Parties **are encouraged to report**, to the extent possible, on the domestic arrangements established for the process of the self-assessment of compliance with emission reductions in comparison with emission reduction commitments or the level of emission reduction that is required by science. Annex I Parties **are encouraged to report, to the extent possible**, on the progress made in the establishment of national rules for taking local action against domestic non-compliance with emission reduction targets.*"

22. This third requirement is not mandatory as Parties are "encouraged to report, to the extent possible". It also does not refer to "changes" as the previous two reporting requirements do. The main issues that Parties are encouraged to report on are:

(a) What arrangements they have put in place to assess for themselves whether the achieved emission reductions are in compliance with their emission reduction commitments or with science.

(b) What progress they have made in establishing national rules for taking local action against domestic non-compliance.

Figure 3. Other reporting matters



23. The focus on “*self-assessment*” of compliance in this paragraph indicates that Parties can discuss here how they assess their compliance with emission reduction commitments completely independently of what the international compliance rules and procedures may be. The same holds true for the second part of paragraph 24. The use of terms such as “*national*”, “*local*” and “*domestic*” strongly indicates that Parties can focus here on actions that they take which may have nothing to do with the international compliance framework.

Example from the BR2 of Belgium:

Belgium's domestic arrangements related to self-assessment of compliance with emission reduction commitments at European and international levels, as well as the establishment of national rules for taking local action against domestic non-compliance with emission reduction targets include:

- *The mechanism for increasing awareness of climate responsibility among the Regions for the building sector: ...*
- *A substitution right for international obligations under the UNFCCC and its Protocols: the 'substitution right' is a mechanism introduced into Belgium law, with the aim of ensuring Belgium's compliance with its international obligations.... In principle, this right enables the Federal State, under strict conditions, to substitute its action for the non-action of a federal entity when it is the subject of a non-compliance assessment reported by a relevant body under the UNFCCC or its Protocols. This mechanism also applies to European law obligations aiming at implementing the UNFCCC and its Protocols.*

Example from the TRR2 of Belgium:

Belgium reported, to the extent possible, on the domestic arrangements established for the process of self-assessment of compliance with emission reductions required by science, and on the progress made in the establishment of national rules for taking action against non-compliance with emission reduction targets. Belgium's commitments for 2020 under the EU ESD are subject to internal burden sharing among the three Belgian regions and the federal government.

Belgium explained during the review that a political agreement on the burden-sharing decision was recently concluded. This agreement will be translated by the National Climate Commission into a (legally binding) cooperation agreement between the regions and the federal authority. It will contain not only the commitments of the political agreement, but will also describe implementation modalities and responsibilities. In addition, each regional authority has already put in place the legal frameworks for their own actions including the Flemish Climate Policy Plan 2013–2020, 6 the Walloon Climate Decree, the Brussels-Capital Region Action Plan for a Low Carbon Brussels by 2025 and the Brussels Air, Climate and Energy Code. There are some other specific arrangements that apply to the whole country, including a mechanism for increasing awareness of climate responsibility among the regions for the building sector and a 'substitution right' to ensure compliance with international obligations and to remedy the contradiction between Belgian domestic law and international and European laws.

Example from the BR2 of Australia:

The Government has announced that it will consider the design of Australia's post-2020 policy framework in detail in 2017, before the end of the current commitment period. This will incorporate a review of the ERF—including crediting, purchasing and the safeguard mechanism. The Government has signaled that the ERF will remain at the core of Australia's climate change policy.

Example from the TRR2 of Australia:

Australia reported, to the extent possible, on the domestic arrangements established for the process of self-assessment of compliance with emission reductions required by science, and on the progress made in the establishment of national rules for taking action against non-compliance with emission reduction targets. In its BR2, Australia discussed its National Greenhouse Accounts and emission projections reporting at the national, state and territory levels and across different industrial sectors, which underpin the assessments of progress towards national emission reduction commitments. In addition, the Climate Change Authority conducts periodic reviews of climate change measures and reports on Australia's progress in meeting its national emission reduction targets. At the policy level, the Clean Energy Regulator monitors compliance with climate change laws, including the Emission Reduction Fund (ERF), to determine the level of compliance, identify possible non-compliance and assess the education or enforcement action that may be required.

IV. Summary guidance to the ERTs on assessment of reported information

24. This chapter of the paper discusses approaches to reviewing the information reported on each paragraph. The approaches are largely consistent and follow the general practice to review the reported information. However, the key challenge is how to distinguish information reported under these three paragraphs and how to report clearly information on the overlapping arrangements and attribute different existing arrangements to the specific reporting requirements. This challenge is largely linked with the quality of reporting by Parties and their views on which national arrangements relate to the reporting requirements and how to report on them.

25. It is important to highlight that the reporting on paragraph 3 is closely linked to the annual submissions on national inventories, but does not overlap with the content of the annual submissions.

26. The reporting on paragraphs 7 and 24 could potentially be overlapping as the language of the BR reporting guidelines is not sufficiently clear in explaining the purpose of these arrangements and the differences and commonalities of the arrangements. This is why Parties have to explain clearly in the BRs which arrangements correspond to paragraphs 7 and 24.

A. Information reported on national inventory arrangements (paragraph 3 of the BR reporting guidelines)

27. In assessing the completeness and the transparency of the information reported under this particular reporting requirement, the ERT should follow the approach suggested below:

<i>Review challenge</i>	<i>Suggested approach</i>
How should the ERT assess the information on NIAs reported under paragraph 3 of the BR reporting guidelines?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ERT should assess whether summary information on the NIAs for GHG inventory has been provided. • If the Party has provided a reference in the BR to its latest NIR, the ERT is encouraged to check the information provided in that NIR. • The ERT should also assess whether the Party highlighted the changes compared to the last NC or BR. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If not, then the ERT should assess whether the Party clearly stated that there were no changes. • If the Party did not provide summary information on its NIAs and/or did not report on changes or the lack thereof then the ERT should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarify during the review why the required information was not reported. ▪ Provide a relevant recommendation in the TRR.

B. Information reported on domestic institutional arrangements (paragraph 7 of the BR reporting guidelines)

28. In assessing the completeness and the transparency of the information reported under this particular reporting requirement, the ERT should follow the approach suggested below:

<i>Review challenge</i>	<i>Suggested approach</i>
How should the ERT assess the information on domestic arrangements reported under paragraph 7 of the BR reporting guidelines?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ERT should check whether the Party has provided comprehensive information on its domestic arrangements in a previous BR or NC. • If the Party has provided comprehensive information on its domestic arrangements in a previous BR or NC, then the ERT should check whether the Party highlighted any changes to that information or the lack thereof in its current BR. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the Party did not report on changes or the lack thereof then the ERT should: ▪ Clarify during the review why the required information was not reported. ▪ Provide a relevant recommendation in the TRR. • If the Party has not provided comprehensive information on its domestic arrangements in a previous BR or NC, then the ERT should note this in the TRR and proceed with assessing whether the Party reported on changes to its domestic arrangements or the lack thereof

C. Information reported on other reporting matters (paragraph 24 of the BR reporting guidelines)

29. In assessing the completeness and the transparency of the information reported under this particular reporting requirement, the ERT should follow the approach suggested below:

<i>Review challenge</i>	<i>Suggested approach</i>
How should the ERT assess the information provided by Parties on their domestic arrangements for self-assessment of compliance and on progress made in the establishment of rules against non-compliance under paragraph 24 of the BR reporting guidelines?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ERT should check whether the Party has provided any information on its domestic arrangements for self-assessments of compliance with emission reduction commitments or with science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If not, the ERT should encourage the Party to provide such information to the extent possible. • The ERT should check whether the Party has provided any information on the progress it has made in establishing rules for taking action against domestic non-compliance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If not, the ERT should encourage the Party to provide such information to the extent possible.