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Mr. Michał Kurtyka
COP 24 President
Ms. Carolina Schmidt-Zaldivar
COP 25 President-Designate

Date: 31 October 2019
Reference: TAM/J/BD
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Dear Mr. Kurtyka and Ms. Schmidt-Zaldivar,

On behalf of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), let me extend our appreciation for inviting the CGE to provide an input to the stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition. I have the honour to submit the CGE's input which is contained in the annex to this letter.

The input by the CGE outlines how it supported developing countries on the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) arrangements under the Convention and how it started supporting the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gervais Itshoua Madzous', with a large flourish extending to the right.

Gervais Itshoua Madzous
CGE Chair



Annex

Stocktake on the pre-2020 implementation and ambition at COP 25

Input by the Consultative Group of Experts

30 October 2019

I. Introduction

1. The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) was established for the first time in 1999 at the fifth session of the Conference of Parties. Initially, the objective of the CGE was to improve the process of and preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. The objective was expanded in the recent years to cover enhanced measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) requirements resulting from the Cancun Agreements and the Durban Outcomes which included the preparation of biennial update reports (BURs) and the training of experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts to conduct the technical analysis of BURs under the international consultation and analysis (ICA) process.
2. Most recently, at COP 24, the CGE was renamed to “Consultative Group of Experts”. Further the CMA decided that the CGE shall serve the Paris Agreement, starting from 1 January 2019, to support the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (ETF) by, inter alia: facilitating the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties, as applicable, including for the preparation and submission of their biennial transparency reports, and facilitating improved reporting over time. In addition, the CGE will also provide technical advice to the secretariat on the implementation of the training of technical expert review teams.
3. This input by the CGE is an update to the submission¹ it made in 2018.

II. Supporting Pre-2020 action

4. The Conference of the Parties, at its twenty-first session, expressed its resolution to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts in the pre-2020 period, including by:

¹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/combined%20input%20CGE.pdf>.



- a) Urging all Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that have not already done so to ratify and implement the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol;
 - b) Urging all Parties that have not already done so to make and implement a mitigation pledge under the Cancun Agreements;
 - c) Reiterating its resolve, as set out in decision 1/CP.19, paragraphs 3 and 4, to accelerate the full implementation of the decisions constituting the agreed outcome pursuant to decision 1/CP.13 and enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention by all Parties;
 - d) Inviting developing country Parties that have not submitted their first biennial update reports to do so as soon as possible;
 - e) Urging all Parties to participate in the existing measurement, reporting and verification processes under the Cancun Agreements, in a timely manner, with a view to demonstrating progress made in the implementation of their mitigation pledges.
5. The CGE is of the view that its work contributed, either directly or indirectly, to two of the actions listed in paragraphs 2(d) and 2(e) above. The details are provided in section III below.

III. Contributing towards improving the process of and preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties through technical advice and support

6. Improving the process of and preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties constitute a core focus of the work of the CGE, which is primarily achieved through technical assistance and support in the form of development and delivery of knowledge products such as the training and guidance materials and tools, workshops, and webinars. These products are geared towards enhancing the knowledge and understanding of:
- a) Processes agreed and adopted under the Convention, including relevant modalities, procedures and guidelines relating to the preparation and submission of national communications and biennial update reports, and the technical analysis of biennial update reports and the facilitative sharing of views under the international consultation and analysis process;
 - b) Science, methods, approaches and tools to be used for: preparing national GHG inventories, conducting mitigation assessment, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, compiling information on support needed and received, and putting in place and enhancing institutional arrangements essential to support the MRV-related work.

Development, update and dissemination of knowledge products

7. The CGE has developed set of training materials on vulnerability and adaptation assessment, national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories; and mitigation assessment. In addition, supplementary training materials for the preparation of BURs was prepared on



institutional arrangements; mitigation actions and their effects; and constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity-building needs and support received, to address the elements within the scope of BURs. Subsequently, the CGE translated these training materials on the preparation of BURs into Arabic, French and Spanish.

8. The CGE has continued to update the training materials in order to incorporate feedback and suggestions from those who attended training workshops and/or utilized training materials, and to reflect the most recent science and any developments in the reporting of developing country Parties under the Convention, and thus maintaining the relevance and value to the target audience.
9. Further, in 2019 the CGE has initiated developing a technical guide that can facilitate developing country Parties prepare for the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework.

Training programmes for the preparation of NC and BURs

10. From 2014 to 2018, the CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, has organized **16** regional hands-on training workshops, with financial and technical support provided by Parties and international organizations. Of the **13** CGE regional hands-on training workshops, **6** focused on the preparation of BURs; **4** on V&A assessments; **3** on the preparation and reporting of mitigation actions.
11. Between 2014 to 2018, a total of **863** national experts from non-Annex I Parties have been trained through these workshops.
12. These workshops aimed to enhance the capacity of national experts to prepare their NC and BURs consistent with the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention” and the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, improve their technical knowledge on science, methods and tools to conduct vulnerability and adaptation assessment and mitigation assessment, and also serve as a platform for the exchange of views, lessons learned and related experiences relating to the process of, and preparation of, national communications and BURs, as appropriate.
13. In addition, the CGE, in 2019, organized 3 regional hands-on workshops aiming to help developing country Parties institutionalize data management for GHG inventories. **106** national experts from developing country Parties were trained through those workshops.
14. According to the post-workshop survey results, most surveyed participants found the quality of the regional hands-on training workshop to be [note: input to be added once the CGE workshops are completed]. The feedback and lessons learned from the training



workshops allowed the CGE to identify a number of areas for enhancing the design and delivery of technical assistance to developing country Parties.

Webinar series

15. The CGE launched the webinar series, which is aimed to provide a platform for the practitioners to take an in-depth focus on specific methods or tools, supplementing the level of technical details and scope of details of tool(s) covered in the hands-on training workshops across all the substantive themes covered in national communications and biennial update reports (BURs), namely, GHG inventory, mitigation, vulnerability and adaptation, and support. Between 2014 – 2018, total of **21** webinars, with 1,142 participants, were organized by the CGE in collaboration with various partners.
16. In 2019, the CGE conducted 3 webinars, which were directly linked to its regional hands-on training workshop on how to institutionalize data management for GHG inventories. A total of **85** participants attended these webinars.

Responding to the needs of developing country Parties

17. With the view to ensure that its actions respond to the capacity-building needs of developing countries in the best possible way, the CGE has been periodically conducting assessment of constrains and gaps, and associated needs for both existing MRV arrangements under the Convention and the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. This assessment was first conducted in 2014², again in 2017³ and recently in 2019⁴ and results have been used to update the technical support provided to Parties, thereby ensuring that Parties have sufficient know-how to be able to participate in the MRV arrangements and prepare for the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework.

IV. Contribution to the ICA

Training programme on the technical analysis of biennial update reports

18. As requested by the COP, the CGE developed and put in place a training programme⁵ for the experts from both developed and developing countries nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts. The primary objective of the training programme is to train the experts on the roster on the technical analysis of biennial update reports under the ICA process. With the assistance of the secretariat, the CGE runs 2 rounds of the training programme annually. As of September 2019, 9 rounds of this training have

² FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.16.

³ FCCC/SBI/2017/16.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/TP/4.

⁵ <http://unfccc.int/9279.php>.



been conducted, and 289 experts who passed one or more proficiency assessments are qualified to take part in the TTEs.

19. In 2018, one of the modules of this training programme was updated to consider up-to-date experience, lessons learned and observations from the implementation of the ICA process so far.
20. The CGE has also developed a technical tool to facilitate developing country Parties in their preparation for and participation in ICA process. The technical tool was developed taking into account the experience, lessons learned, and feedback received from the first eight rounds of the technical analysis of BURs and the three workshops for the facilitative sharing of views.

Periodic advice to the secretariat to assist it in fulfilling the selection criteria for the composition of the team of technical experts for the technical analysis of biennial update reports

21. The CGE provides periodic advice to the secretariat, in the selection of members to be included in a TTE, as per the guidelines contained in decision 20/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2. The CGE has undertaken an in-depth analysis of challenges faced in composing the team of technical experts and identified and recommended a set of solutions that respond to or mitigate the constraints and challenges identified.
22. As of June 2019, the secretariat organized 13 rounds of the technical analysis of BURs, covering 79 BURs of from **47** non-Annex I Parties, including 46, first BURs, 28 second BURs, and 6 first BURs). A total of **202** experts from both Annex I and non-Annex I Parties, including current and former members of the CGE, participated in these technical analyses as members of the TTEs.

V. Conclusion

23. The CGE, since it was established in 1999, provides technical advice and support to developing country Parties to help improve the process of and the preparation of their NCs and BURs. As a result, the CGE has gained appropriate experience and a pool of technical resources. Parties acknowledged that the contribution of the CGE to be substantial.⁶
24. Most developing countries have experience of preparing, at least, two NC and in some cases, at least, one BUR. It is encouraging to note that the time period between each round of reports has become shorter. The average time between submissions of NC1 And NC2 was on average 10 year (143 Parties); between NC2 and NC3 was 5 and half years (for 57 Parties); between NC3 and NC4 was 4 years (4 Parties), and NC4 and NC5 was 3 years (1 Party). The time between BUR1 and BUR2 was on average 2 and half

⁶ Decision 20/CP.19.



years (18 countries). This shows significant improvement in efficiency to prepare and submit, in particular, national communications.

25. At the same time, the MRV arrangements continue to evolve, and as the result, the technical capacity-building needs continue to exist for developing. With the adoption of the Paris Agreement, which established the enhanced transparency framework, the capacity-building needs of developing countries increased significantly. The survey conducted in 2019 shows that the experts from a number of developing country Parties have either limited knowledge of MPGs or are familiar with MPGs but would need more guidance in order to start implementing them.
 26. These highlight the importance of the need to have continued technical support and advice for developing countries to enhance the capacity of their national expertise to be able to participate effectively in the MRV arrangements and prepare for the enhanced transparency framework.
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