



Informal activities by the SBSTA Chair on methodological issues under the Paris Agreement

Submissions, informal technical workshop and informal consultations on matters related to the Enhanced Transparency Framework

Concept Note

The Bureau at its meeting on 25 February 2021 requested the presiding officers to make available a plan of upcoming activities in preparation for a successful COP 26 in November 2021. Following this guidance, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Information, Mr. Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, is convening a series of activities, including informal consultations, technical expert meetings and other events.

This concept note presents the information on this series of activities related to methodological issues under the Paris Agreement.

I. Context

The Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) that were adopted in the Katowice Climate Package through decision 18/CMA.1 set the rules for the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) further requested the SBSTA to develop, pursuant to the MPGs, for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its third session, the following¹:

- (1) Common reporting tables (CRT) for the electronic reporting of the information in the national inventory reports of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases (GHG);
- (2) Common tabular formats (CTF) for the electronic reporting of the information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement;
- (3) CTFs for the electronic reporting of the information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building (FTC) support provided and mobilized as well as support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement;
- (4) Outlines of the biennial transparency report (BTR), national inventory document and technical expert review report pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support; and
- (5) The training programme for technical experts participating in the technical expert review.

To advance understanding on this matter, and minimize disruption and delay stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to urgently expedite the work due to the large amount of remaining technical work, the SBSTA Chair requested the secretariat to assist in organizing another series of technical informal dialogues among Parties on these matters in the lead up to COP26 as guided by the Bureau.

¹ Decision 18/CMA.1, para. 12



Successful adoption of further methodological guidance in 2021 will provide sufficient time for the secretariat to develop necessary data systems and training programmes to enable operationalization of the ETF and the submission of the first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) no later than 2024, and the review of them thereafter.

Given the uncertainty about how the pandemic will evolve in 2021, the SBSTA Chair is building on the goodwill of Parties and is proposing a series of activities in preparation for the next session of the SBSTA. The proposed activity series aims to build on the technical discussions undertaken at SBSTA 50² and 51³ on these matters and the informal consultations last year.

II. Objective

The objective of this activity series is to provide an informal space for Parties under the guidance of the SBSTA Chair to advance discussions on the methodological issues under the Paris Agreement. The focus of work from now until June 2021 will be around the development of CRT tables for GHG inventory and CTF tables for tracking progress and FTC support, given the large volume of technical work involved and hence the time needed for this work. An enhanced understanding and progress made on these three sub-items will facilitate the other work under this agenda item, for the adoption of the entire package at CMA.3.

III. Description

Between now and the end of June 2021, a technical workshop, convened in three parts, is envisioned, informed by submissions from Parties and admitted observer organizations as well as an information note/notes with background information and a synthesis of submissions and guiding questions. Each part of the technical workshop aims to identify possible options for the outstanding reporting tables and will be open to participation by Parties. Admitted observer organizations will be invited to follow the informal workshop via a broadcast link.

The work in the first half of the year 2021 will culminate in informal consultations with Parties to share views on experience and lessons learned from the workshop and discussion on possible next steps.

IV. Proposed Timeline

Title	Time	Details
Submissions of views	7 April 2021	The SBSTA Chair encouraged Parties and admitted observer organizations to make further submissions via the submission portal, by 7 April 2021, on their further views on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The CRT for the electronic reporting of the information in the national GHG inventory, including examples and options for the formats and contents of tables, in particular background and sector tables, and options for implementation of flexibility;

² <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/past-conferences/bonn-climate-change-conference-june-2019/sessions/sbsta-50#eq-23>

³ <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-51#eq-23>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The structured summary, including examples to demonstrate how the proposed format could encompass different types of indicators (both quantitative and qualitative) and facilitate tracking of progress;• The CTF on FTC, including examples and options for the summary tables, the structure and content of the tables, and how to improve comparability and ensure consistency across specific tables.
Informal technical workshop: Part I	5 May 2021 (3 hours)	Informal technical workshop on transparency under the SBSTA. Part I: Possible options for the CRT of national GHG inventory. To facilitate this workshop, an information note will be prepared under the responsibility of the SBSTA Chair and taking into consideration Party views.
Informal technical workshop: Part II	6 May 2021 (3 hours)	Informal technical workshop on transparency under the SBSTA. Part II: Possible options for the CTF of the structured summary. To facilitate this workshop, an information note will be prepared under the responsibility of the SBSTA Chair and taking into consideration Party views.
Informal technical workshop: Part III	7 May 2021 (3 hours)	Informal technical workshop on transparency under the SBSTA. Part III: Possible options for the CTF of FTC support. To facilitate this workshop, an information note will be prepared under the responsibility of the SBSTA Chair and taking into consideration Party views.
Informal consultations	June 2021 (2 hours)	Informal consultations with Parties to exchange views on experience and lessons learned from the workshop and discussion on possible next steps on the road to Glasgow.

V. Contact/Additional Information

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