

# Eighth Meeting of Lead Reviewers for the Review of Biennial Reports and National Communications of Annex I Parties



24–26 February 2021

Virtual meeting

Agenda – Live Session

## Day 1: Wednesday, 24 February 2021 (12:00–14:45 CET)

<b>Introduction</b>	
12:00–12:45	<p><b>Welcome and opening</b>  <i>Donald Cooper</i>, Director, Transparency Division  <i>Ruta Bubniene</i>, Team lead, Unit for Biennial Reports and National Communications (BR/NC)</p> <p><b>Overview of the agenda</b>  <i>Veronica Colerio</i>, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</p> <p><b>Approach to consider conclusions and recommendations</b>  <i>Davor Vesligaj</i>, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</p> <p><i>The Lead Reviewers (LRs) are invited to consider the approach for work on conclusions and recommendations of the virtual LRs meeting. The secretariat will prepare a draft conclusions and recommendations based on the materials published by the secretariat before the meeting and information provided and discussed during the meeting. Given the virtual format of the meeting, the draft conclusions and recommendations will be concise and largely procedural. The first draft will be posted on the LRs meeting web site for your consideration and comments at the end of Day 1 of the meeting taking into account the agenda items covered. The second draft will be posted at the end of Day 2 of the meeting reflecting the progress made during Day 2. Elements of draft conclusions and recommendations are presented at the annotation for each relevant agenda item below.</i></p>
12:45–13:00	<b>Break</b>
<b>Moving forward to the ETF</b>	
13:00–13:45	<p><b>Navigating the transition to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)</b>  <i>Ruta Bubniene</i>, Unit for BR/NC  <i>Bernd Hackman</i>, Programme officer, Unit for ETF coordination</p> <p><i>To assist the reviewers and other stakeholders of the ETF, the secretariat has prepared the ETF Reference Manual, which was considered by the LRs at the 2019 LRs meeting and is now available on the website.<sup>1</sup> To facilitate readiness of the technical expert review teams for the reviews under the ETF, the LRs are invited to exchange views on the relevant topics for the discussion during 2022–2024 annual meetings.</i></p> <p><b>Inputs for conclusions and recommendations:</b> <i>The LRs are invited to: (1) note the publication of the ETF Reference Manual that has incorporated the LRs comments; (2) acknowledge the usefulness of the relevant discussions on Technical Expert Review (TER) and ETF at the annual meetings in 2022–2024 and consider the added value of such discussions conducted jointly with the GHG LRs; (3) further acknowledge that the participation of the co-leads of Biennial Update</i></p>

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/enhanced-transparency-framework>.

	<p><i>Reports in the BR/NC LRs meetings facilitate shared understanding among the potential TER LRs about the review implementation.</i></p> <p><b>Discussions</b></p>
<b>LRs Awards 2021 and virtual celebration</b>	
13:45–14:45	<b>Lead Reviewers Awards 2021</b>
14:45	<b>End of Day 1</b>

## Day 2: Thursday, 25 February 2021 (12:00–14:30 CET)

### Tuning in

12:00–12:45	<p><b>IAR Lessons for the ETF</b> <i>Ruta Bubniene, Team lead, Unit for BR/NC</i> <i>Davor Vesligaj, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</i></p> <p><i>A few years before the launch of the technical expert review under the ETF, the BR reviews provide for opportunities to test review approaches and tools that may be helpful for reviews of BTRs. The remote reviews continue to be a challenge for the Parties under review and the ERTs. The contribution of experts that participated in reviews in 2020–2021 is acknowledged in the dedicated “hall of fame” website of the UNFCCC secretariat<sup>2</sup>. Despite the virtual modality of the reviews, BR4 reviews of 30 Parties were accomplished within the mandated timeline.<sup>3</sup> Multilateral Assessment of 10 Parties, conducted virtually at the Climate Dialogues in 2020 demonstrated Parties’ engagement and commitment to continue excel the MRV process despite the extraordinary circumstances.</i></p> <p><i>The analysis of completeness and transparency of information provided and consistency of technical review reports (TRRs) of BR4s demonstrates general improvement in reporting by Parties. Yet there are still a few reporting matters that remain challenging for the Parties throughout several reporting cycles.</i></p> <p><b>Inputs for conclusions and recommendations:</b> <i>The LRs are invited to: (1) note the progress in BR4 reviews; (2) acknowledge the experience gained and challenges faced in the remote reviews; (3) acknowledge the extra efforts by experts who participated in the remote reviews (4) acknowledge the improvements in completeness and transparency of information in BR4s and a high level of consistency in reviews and request the secretariat to continue compiling and analysing review findings;(5) note that completeness and transparency have further improved due to resubmissions of BR4s; and (6) note that acknowledging continuous improvements and noting recurring reporting issues in the TRRs would improve the comprehensiveness of technical reviews and further assist Parties in improving their reporting.</i></p> <p><b>Questions and answers</b></p>
12:45–13:00	<p><b>2021 Review Practice Guidance – overview of issues raised in BR4 review cycle</b> <i>Veronica Colerio, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</i></p> <p><i>The review practice guidance (RPG) launched in 2016 is a “living” tool, which facilitates consistency among the reviews and across the review cycles. It reflects the collective and cumulative NC/BR review practices and approaches to resolving critical issues raised during the reviews. The RPG2020 has been updated and fine-tuned after completion of BR4 reviews in 2020, reflecting the issues raised by the ERTs. This draft RPG2021 is available for your consideration<sup>4</sup>.</i></p> <p><i>The session aims to discuss the practice applied by the ERTs to resolve those issues with the view to agree and endorse review approaches for the use in the future BR reviews.</i></p>

<sup>2</sup> Available at in English at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/training-programmes-for-experts/celebrating-technical-experts> and in Spanish at <https://unfccc.int/es/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/training-programmes-for-experts/reconocimiento-a-los-expertos-tecnicos>.

<sup>3</sup> Technical review reports of 28 Parties were published within the 16 weeks timeline after the review week and technical review reports of 2 Parties were published 3 and 13 days after the mandated timeline due to resubmissions.

<sup>4</sup> Available at [https://unfccc.int/event/8th\\_BRNC\\_LRMeeting2021](https://unfccc.int/event/8th_BRNC_LRMeeting2021).

	<p><b>Inputs for conclusions and recommendations:</b> <i>The LRs are invited to request the secretariat to: (1) update the RPG, incorporating the approaches discussed, revised and agreed at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of LRs to be applied by ERTs in the future BR reviews; and (2) continue collecting information on and analysing the review-related issues raised by the ERTs during the BR4 reviews in 2021 with a view to presenting them for discussion at the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of LRs in 2022.</i></p> <p><b>Questions and answers</b></p>	
13:00–13:15	<b>Break</b>	
	<b>Thematic break out groups</b>	
13:15–14:30	<p><b>Review issues related to policies and measures and projections</b></p> <p><i>Davor Vesligaj and Nalin Srivastava</i> Programme officers, Unit for BR/NC</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Ole-Kenneth Nielsen (Denmark)</i></p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How to assess the lack of WOM projections scenario.</i></li> <li>• <i>How should the ERT formulate its findings in case of complementing/overlapping reporting requirements on assumptions, models, methodologies, methods and results for GHG projections.</i></li> <li>• <i>How to assess expected use of units from MBMs included in Party’s GHG projections.</i></li> <li>• <i>Use of notation keys for estimates of mitigation impacts in CTF table 3 – specify the current review approach.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Review issues of cross-cutting nature and related to FTC support</b></p> <p><i>Karin Simonson, Martina Kuehner and Veronica Colerio</i> Programme officers, Unit for BR/NC</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Thelma Krug (Brazil)(<i>tbd</i>) and Caroline Tagwireyi (Zimbabwe)</i></p> <p><i>Issues for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How to assess information on public financial support provided to Annex I Parties in BR CTF tables 7 and 7(b) – specify the current review approach.</i></li> <li>• <i>How to assess missing or non-transparent information on support for the development and enhancement of the endogenous capacities and technologies of non-Annex I Parties.</i></li> <li>• <i>How to assess how the support provided is “new and additional”</i></li> <li>• <i>How to assess information contained in external documents (e.g. submissions on indirect emissions per the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants) that are either referenced within the BR or provided by the Party during the review, in accordance with the BR guidelines.</i></li> <li>• <i>How to assess resubmissions of the BR and BR CTF tables when these are provided within the 2-week resubmission period – specify the current review approach.</i></li> </ul>
14:30	<b>End of Day 2</b>	

## Day 3: Friday, 26 February 2021 (12:00–14:45 CET)

12:00–12:30	<p><b>2021 Review Practice Guidance: reporting back from the break out groups</b></p> <p>Reporting back to the plenary by the group facilitators on the solutions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review issues related to policies and measures and projections</li> <li>• Review issues of cross-cutting nature and related to FTC support</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Veronica Colerio, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</i></p>
<p><b>Getting ready for the BR5/NC8 cycle</b></p>	
12:30–13:00	<p><b>Possible approaches to assessing the information on achievement of 2020 targets in BR5s</b></p> <p><i>Davor Vesligaj, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</i>  <i>Karin Simonson, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</i></p> <p><i>TRRs contain the ERT's assessment of progress made towards achievement of the 2020 quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. It is expected that in BR5s (final biennial report), Parties will provide information on achievement of their 2020 targets and/or information necessary to assess whether their target was achieved. The possible approaches to assess this information are based on the types of targets and accounting approaches used by Parties (e.g. single-year, budget or KP approach).</i></p> <p><b><i>Inputs for conclusions and recommendations:</i></b> <i>The LRs are invited to: (1) acknowledge the possible approaches for the technical assessment of the achievement of 2020 quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets by the ERTs, presented by the secretariat; and (2) request the secretariat to prepare a background paper on this matter as an input for discussion at the next LR's meeting.</i></p> <p><b><i>Questions and answers</i></b></p>
13:00–13:15	<p><b>Revised guidelines for reporting of national communications by Annex I Parties: implications and challenges</b></p> <p><i>Nalin Srivastava, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</i></p> <p><i>Starting with their 8th NCs, Annex I Parties are required to report following the revised Annex I reporting guidelines on NCs<sup>5</sup> (hereinafter referred to as revised NC guidelines), which encompass the experience gained by Annex I Parties in reporting in their NCs as well as in their BRs. To facilitate a better understanding of the implications of the transition to the revised NC guidelines for the 8th NC reporting and review, it is helpful to compare the previous and revised NC reporting requirements and the BRs reporting requirements and to identify possible challenges for the reviewers.</i></p> <p><b><i>Inputs for conclusions and recommendations:</i></b> <i>The LRs are invited to: (1) note the changes in reporting requirements pursuant to the revised NC guidelines and possible implications for the NC review process; and (2) request the secretariat to update the relevant tools to be used for the reviews of 8th NCs (e.g. review report template, checklist and RPG) consistent with the revised NC guidelines.</i></p>

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<sup>5</sup> Annex to decision 6/CP.25 (Revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on national communications for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention) . These revised NC guidelines replace the previous Annex I reporting guidelines on NCs (annex to decision 4/CP.5), which were adopted in 1999 and have since been used by Annex I Parties to report in their NCs.

	<i>Questions and answers</i>
13:15–13:30	<p><b>Biennial reports versus biennial transparency reports (BTRs): a comparison of reported information subject to technical expert review</b>  <i>Karin Simonson, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</i></p> <p><i>This informational presentation will briefly compare the overall structure and information to be reported in BTRs (as outlined in the modalities, procedures and guidelines, or MPGs)<sup>6</sup> against the structure and information reported in BRs (as outlined in the BR reporting guidelines)<sup>7</sup>. The presentation will highlight where there are similarities and differences, as well as new additions to the reporting requirements, with the aim of identifying issues/areas for further discussion in future LRs meetings.</i></p> <p><b>Inputs for conclusions and recommendations:</b> <i>The LRs are invited to: (1) note the results of the comparative analysis of reporting requirements for biennial transparency reports and biennial reports stipulated by the Decision 18/CMA.1 and Decision 2/CP.17, respectively; and (2) acknowledge the new and different reporting requirements, while noting that further discussion on these would be helpful.</i></p> <p><b>Online survey</b></p>
13:30–14:00	<b>Break</b>
<b>Conclusions</b>	
14:00–14:40	<p><b>Consideration and adoption of conclusions and recommendations</b>  <i>Ruta Bubniene, Team lead, Unit for BR/NC</i>  <i>Davor Vesligaj, Programme officer, Unit for BR/NC</i></p>
14:40–14:45	<p><b>Closing remarks</b>  <i>Ruta Bubniene, Team lead, Unit for BR/NC</i></p>
14:45	<b>End of the meeting</b>

**For your information the following recorded presentations will be available on the UNFCCC website before the LRs meeting**

**Key outcomes of the 2020 Climate Dialogues and looking towards COP26**  
*Katia Simeonova, former Manager, MRV/ETF sub-division*

*Despite the challenges coursed by the global pandemic the climate discussions continued in 2020 virtually. The June Momentum and the Climate Dialogues, as well as MA and FSV sessions and the informal consultations under the SBI and the SBSTA conducted confirmed the commitment by the Parties to pursuit climate momentum and deliver on transparency. While the BTR1 is due to the end of 2024, the supporting processes, procedures and tools should be arranged ahead of that and sufficient resources should be secured for a smooth transition from the current MRV system to the ETF. The formal negotiations on technical details of the ETF will continued in 2021 and should be completed at COP26.*

<sup>6</sup> Decision 18/CMA.1: Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

<sup>7</sup> Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties.

**Experience of the international consultation and analysis as a foundation for the ETF**

Xuehong Wang, Team lead, Unit for Biennial Update Reports

*Since the ICA process was launched in 2015, 63 developing country Parties have submitted biennial update reports (BUR). In addition, an increasing number of national GHG inventory report (NIR) and REDD+ technical annex have been submitted as part of the BURs. Experience shows that the ICA process has become the key platform to provide developing country Parties with one-on-one capacity building. The ICA implementation demonstrates that the process has contributed to improved reporting, enhanced implementation of climate actions as well as the shift towards a more consolidated domestic MRV system in developing countries. The capacity building needs, identified and prioritized through the ICA process, also helped developing country Parties to prioritize resource use and domestic planning which enabled the smooth transition to the ETF.*

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