Agenda item 3.3.
Paragraph 14 (a) (b) of the annotated agenda

Standard: Sampling and Surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities
Guidelines: Sampling and Surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities

Methodological Expert Panel – 12th meeting
9 to 13 March 2026
Bonn, Germany

Procedural background

- MEP 011 considered the revision of the “Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities” and the associated “Guidelines: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities” and agreed to continue to work on both documents
- During MEP 011, the Panel further decided that:
  - The sampling standard would be more appropriately structured as a **methodological Tool** and hence the CDM Sampling standard would be revised for 6.4 as a Tool.
  - Further, it was agreed to include the guidelines for sampling and survey as an annex to the sampling tool.
  - Lastly, the guidance to the DOEs would be included in a separate information note for the SBM.

Purpose

- This methodological tool establishes **requirements and procedures for undertaking sampling and surveys** to determine of parameter values used in the calculation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or removals under the Article 6.4 mechanism.
- The tool specifies the **minimum reliability requirements** and describes the appropriate sampling methods and defines the information that needs to be provided in a sampling plan. The general requirements shall be applicable to both Article 6.4 project activities and PoAs, unless otherwise specified in the applicable mechanism methodology, in which case it takes precedence.
- The tool also provides **best-practice guidance for sampling design and implementation**, including illustrative examples in an annex; and information on how to address **random errors associated with sampling and surveys.**

Key issues and proposed solutions

- A key issue addressed is the alignment of sampling and survey requirements with the **environmental integrity objectives of the Article 6.4** mechanism, while building on established approaches under the CDM.
- The tool introduces a higher minimum reliability requirement of 95 per cent confidence, with ±10 per cent precision for sampled parameters, compared to the 90/10 requirement applied under the CDM sampling standard. This higher confidence level is applied consistently across Article 6.4 activities and POAs, irrespective of scale.
  - As an exception, methodologies applicable to activities implemented in **LDCs and SIDs** may use less stringent reliability requirements of up to 90 per cent confidence with ±15 per cent precision. This approach strengthens the robustness and credibility of sampled parameter estimates while allowing targeted flexibility where justified.
- The tool explicitly recognises that Article 6.4 mechanism methodologies may include methodology-specific sampling and survey requirements. Where such requirements are specified, they shall take precedence over the general provisions of the tool, ensuring both consistency across the mechanism and flexibility at the methodology level.

Impacts

This methodological tool enhances the consistency, transparency and robustness of sampling and survey applications under the Article 6.4 mechanism by establishing clear minimum requirements for reliability, acceptable sampling approaches and sampling plan content.

By consolidating requirements in a single tool and providing informative guidance through appendices and annexes, it improves usability for activity participants and supports the scalable and efficient application of the Article 6.4 mechanism.

Recommendations to the MEP

The MEP may wish to continue work on the revision of the sampling tool, the standard and the associated guidelines, with a view to publishing the revised tool and information note for stakeholder inputs.