Agenda item 3.3.
Paragraph 9 (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 – 16th meeting
7 to 11 September 2026
Bonn, Germany

UNFCCC Secretariat
Mitigation Division

Procedural background

- At MEP012 and MEP013, the Panel worked on the draft “Methodological tool: Sampling and surveys” and on the draft “Information note: Sampling requirements for designated operational entities (DOEs).
- At MEP014, the Panel agreed to launch call for public input from 3 to 24 July 2026. Two stakeholders provided comments.

Key issues and proposed solutions

- The tool applies to both Article 6.4 Activities and PoAs where the applicable mechanism methodology references it.
- The referencing methodology specifies the parameters to be determined through sampling, the nature and the approach for addressing uncertainty, including when the reliability requirements are not met.
- The tool establishes the requirements for the application of sampling and surveys, including a uniform minimum reliability requirement of 95 per cent confidence and ±10 per cent precision.
- The tool provides requirements and guidance on sampling plans, selection of appropriate sampling methods, and sample size determination for various sampling methods, supported by best-practice examples in the appendices to the Tool.

Key issues and proposed solutions

In updating the draft tool, the small group undertook the following revisions:

- Restructured and streamlining to enhance usability and align with the Article 6.4 document hierarchy;
- Undertook major editorial revision to align with the internal Style Guide and remove duplication;
- Updated sample size equations and provided uniform reliability provisions;
- Added illustrative example for sampling approaches that were previously not sufficiently covered including for systematic, cluster and multi-stage sampling; and
- Strengthened provisions on common PoA/CP-level sampling, common sampling plans, sampling frames, non-response and missing units.

DOE Information Note

- Separates DOE validation and verification guidance from the Sampling Tool;
- Covers DOE assessment of sampling plans, implementation, reliability, missing units, discrepancies, corrective actions and acceptance sampling;
- Clarifies that general methodological requirements and guidance on sampling design, sampling methods and sample size determination remain in the Sampling Tool.

Consideration of Public inputs

- Inputs were received from 2 stakeholders. The key inputs focused on:
  - Whether a common sampline plan may be used across different Article 6.4 activities with similar technology, fuel and target populations.
  - Whether cluster and multi-stage sampling could be availed to cookstoves without any restrictions
  - The treament of pshysical surveys, remote self-reported surveys and digital measurements, including whether SUMs data may be accpete d without a supporting survey.
  - Whether KPT should be recognized as preferred phsysical measurement method for fuel consumption in acookstove activities
  - The clarification of the use of relative and absolute precisions and recommendation for a thorough review of the equations, worked examples and the sample size calculator
  - Dropping use of telephones, email , post and sms as data collection methods.

How the Public comments were addressed.

- A single sampling plan cannot be used across different Article 6.4 activities with similar technology, etc
- Cluster and multi-stage sampling still restricted and only accepted subject to the approval by the applicable mechnism methodology 9no-change implemented)
- Physical surveys differentiated from other data collection methods
- Agree that the tool follows the general statistical practice in the use of absolute and relative precision (no change was implemented)
- Post and email dropped as data collection methods, but others retained as they might be most suitable for certain contexts. Text has been revised to clarify that such methods may only be used where explicitly permitted by the applicable methodology and appropriate for the parameter measured;

Impacts

- Improved statistical robustness and reproducibility of sampling and survey applications.
- Supports consistent application of reliability requirements across Article 6.4 activities and PoAs;
- Avoids duplicative penalties where reliability is not met, by requiring uncertainty treatment to be specified at methodology level;
- Better supports modern data collection, including sensors and SUMs;
- Consolidation improves usability by APs and supports scalable and efficient application of A6.4 mechanism.

Expected Outcome

- The expected outcome is that the MEP agrees to recommend the tool for adoption by the Supervisory Body, and to recommend the Supervisory Body to include the requirements and guidance in the information note in the respective standards.