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# Experience of the IAR4 cycle and outlook to the IAR5 cycle

9<sup>th</sup> BR/NC lead reviewers meeting  
2–9 March 2022

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# Requests to the secretariat at the 8<sup>th</sup> BR/NC LRs meeting, 2021



Prepare BP on the achievements of targets (para. 10)

Update the analysis on consistency (para. 6)

Update tools for NC8 review to incorporate revised NC GIs (para. 11)

Prepare a proposal on how findings on continuous improvements and recurring reporting issues could be addressed (para. 7)

Discuss BTR requirements (para. 12)

Prepare the RPG for 2021 (para. 8)

**Requests by the 8<sup>th</sup> LRs meeting**

Continue collecting information on and analyzing review-related issues (para. 9)



# IAR 4 achievements: quality and efficiency of reviews and MA remained



## Quality improved

- 22/41 resubmissions in response to the comments provided by the ERT during the review;
- Yet a few reporting matters remain challenging

## ERTs broadly balanced

- 160 experts from 75 Parties;
- 55% from non-AI;
- 48% female;
- 48% new experts (63% from NAI)
- 15 from LDCs and SIDS

## TRRs preparation timeline met

- Average completion time – 3 months,
- 39/41 TRR4s completed within mandated timeline of 4 months

## MA demonstrated Parties' continuous commitment

- 40 Parties MA-ed in 2020–2021 in two virtual sessions and one in-person session with virtual component



# BR5/NC8 review cycle preparation: experts are welcome

## Nominated experts to undertake training

- Only 1/3 of nominated experts to BR/NC reviews are eligible (about 500);
- Encouragement to complete the training programme for BR/NC reviewers.

## More new experts to be provided opportunities

- It seems sensible to involve newly certified experts to gain review experience in BR5/NC8 reviews

## Checking experts' willingness

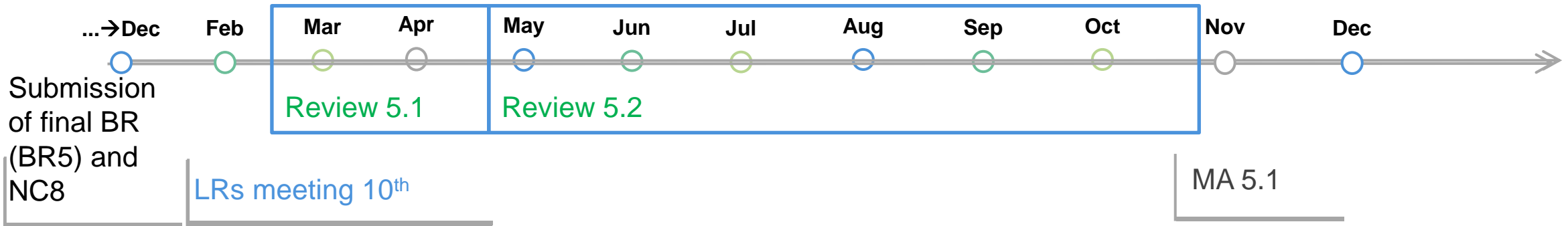
- A questionnaire on willingness and availability to all eligible experts will be sent in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2022



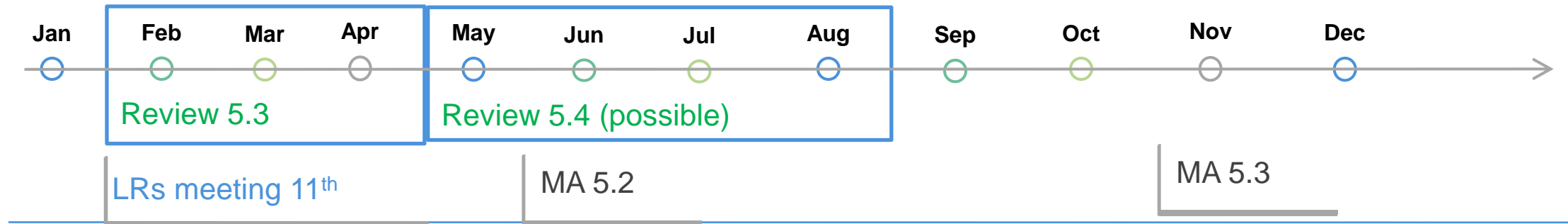
# BR5/NC8 review cycle preparation: risk of scheduling conjunction



## 2023



## 2024



# BR5/NC8 review cycle preparation: overview of analysis conducted



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## On consistency of reviews/ improvements/issues

“Completeness and Transparency  
Assessment of Information Reported in  
TRRs of 4th BRs – 2022 Update”

## On impacts of remote reviews/what if an in-person ICR is not possible in capitals?

“An evaluation of remotely conducted  
reviews of BR4s and its implications for  
future NC/BR reviews”

## On similarities BR/NC vs BTR/how to flag issues in TRR5s

“Reporting requirements for developed countries:  
comparison of BR/NC and BTR”

## On assessing the achievement of 2020 target

“Approaches to the technical assessment of the  
achievement of the quantified economy-wide  
emission reduction targets in 2020”

Tbd after TRR5s: How have reviews facilitated transparency in 2014–2024?



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# Completeness, transparency of reporting and consistency of reviews

Based on the background paper  
*Completeness and Transparency  
Assessment of Information Reported in  
TRRs of 4<sup>th</sup> BRs – 2022 Update*



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# Quality of BR reporting has been improving, while some challenges remain



## Completeness of reporting has significantly improved

- The number of recommendations has decreased by 44% between BR1 and BR4 reviews

## Transparency of reporting has fluctuated

- The number of recommendations has increased by 14% between BR1 and BR4 reviews and remained the same in BR3 and BR4 reviews

## Consistency of reviews remains high across TRRs4

- 4 cases of inconsistency in BR4 reviews (mostly ↔ partially)

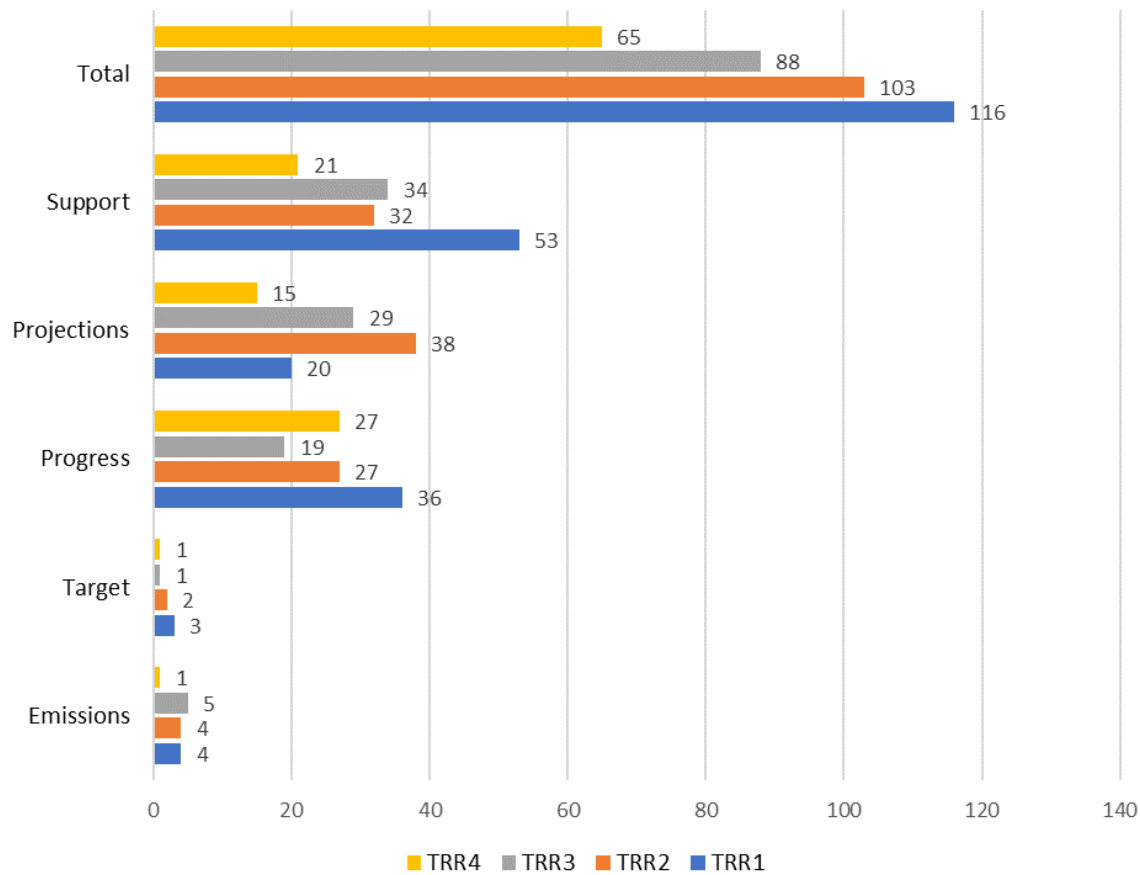
## Quality of reporting improved due to resubmissions

- 50% of the Parties have resubmitted resolving almost 40% of initial recommendations;
- Estimation of mitigation impacts – the biggest challenge

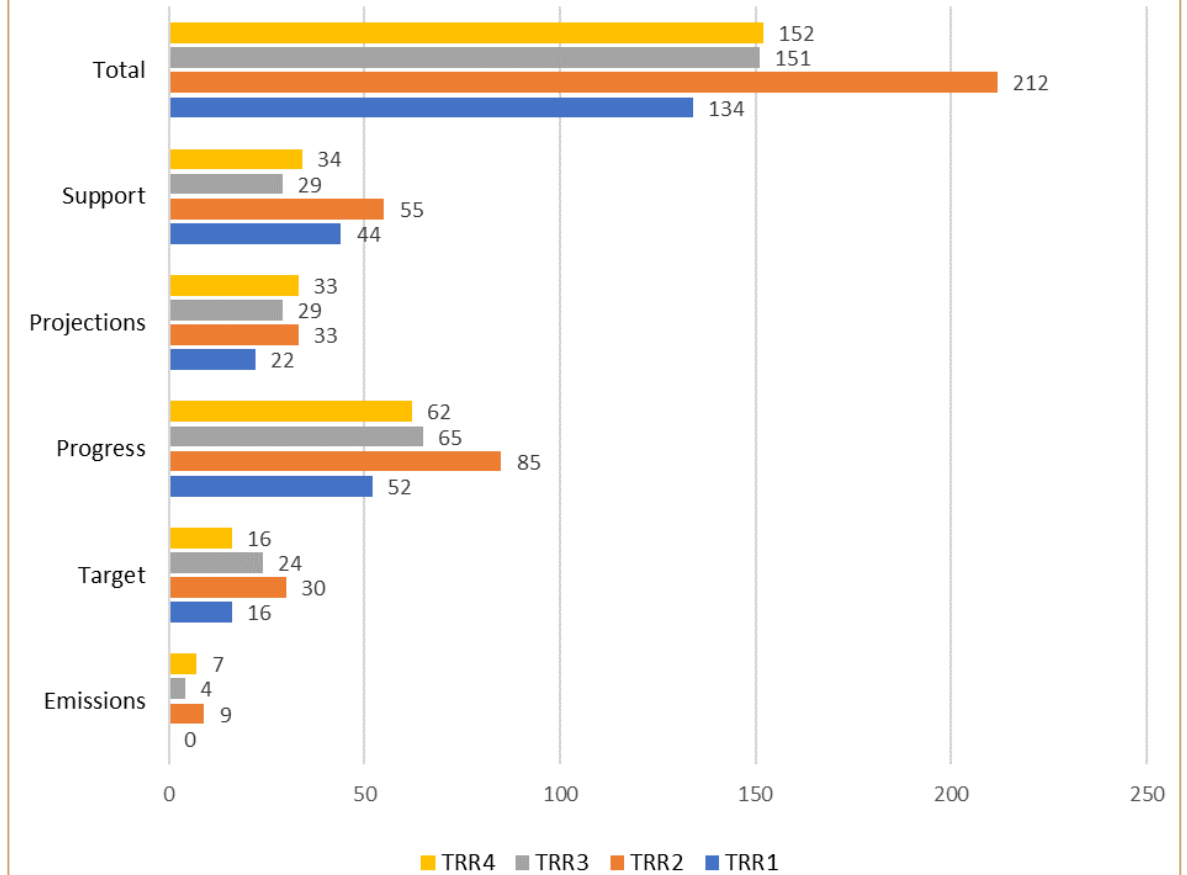
# Completeness has significantly improved while transparency has fluctuated



### Completeness recommendations



### Transparency recommendations



# MRV system continues to deliver in line with the mandate



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Parties, reviewers and the secretariat are demonstrating high level of cooperation and 'hands-on' approach that are essential for **building capacities and trust**

All components of the MRV system have been **continuously improving** owing to the effective and comprehensive feedback loop build in each reporting and review cycle

**Experience and lessons learned** from the current MRV system are invaluable for developing enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement



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# Remote reviews

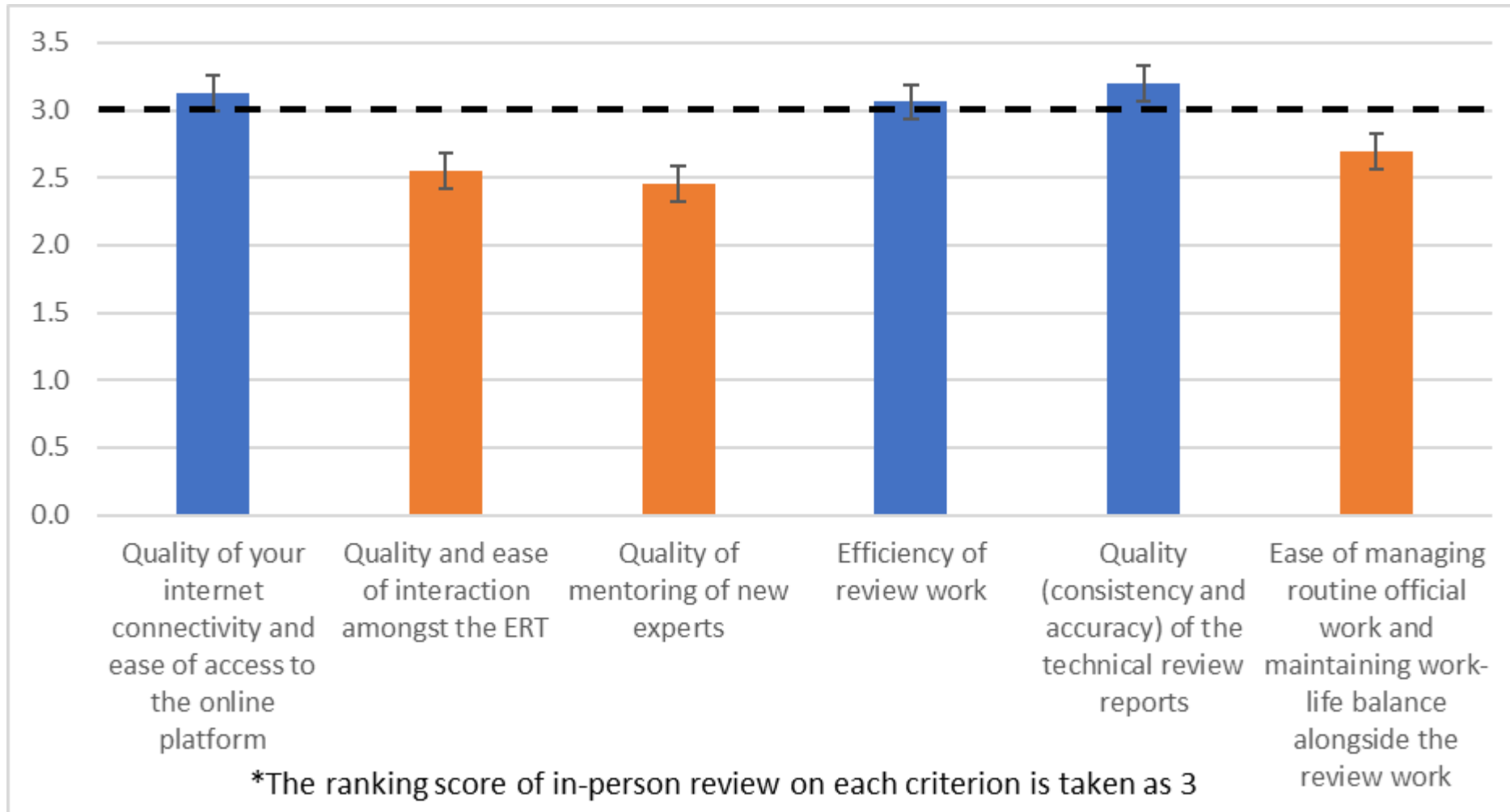
Based on the background paper  
*An evaluation of remotely conducted  
reviews of BR4s and its implications for  
future NC/BR reviews*



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# Challenges for remote and in-person CRs balances each other



# In person ICRs with virtual component (hybrid) have advantages and disadvantages



Benefits of and challenges in conducting hybrid in-country reviews

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution, thus options tailored to the specific circumstances of Parties and experts may be explored in future reviews.

Actor	Connectivity	Collaboration	GHG emission/costs	Participation	Quality / efficiency	Working arrangements
Experts	X <b>Connectivity issues in remote participation (e.g. poor and/or expensive internet)</b>	✓ <b>Potentially better interaction within the ERT and mentoring of new experts and with country experts (relative to remotely conducted reviews)</b> X <b>Potentially less effective team interaction and mentoring of new experts (relative to in-person reviews)</b>			No impact	✓ <b>Greater flexibility to work according to personal preferences</b>
UNFCCC Secretariat	X <b>Technical challenges in managing both in-person and remote participation</b>	✓ <b>Better interaction with the ERT (e.g. time-zone management) (relative to remotely conducted reviews)</b>	✓ <b>Reduced GHG emissions/costs (relative to in-person reviews)</b>	✓ <b>Greater flexibility to form ERTs by accommodating experts' personal preferences</b>		X <b>Increased workload for the secretariat</b>
Parties	X <b>Technical challenges in enabling virtual participation</b>	✓ <b>Opportunity to interact in-person with some ERT members</b> X <b>Challenges in interacting with experts both in-person and virtually at the same time</b>	✓ <b>Potential saving of costs in national experts' participation in reviews (developed country Parties)</b>	✓ <b>Opportunities to involve more national experts in the review process</b>		



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# Elements of possible conclusions



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- Acknowledge that the BR reviews provide for **opportunities to design and test the review approaches** and tools that will facilitate implementation of TER;
- **Acknowledge the experience gained in the remote** reviews and extra efforts by experts who participated in the remote reviews;
- Note that **remote format presents both advantages and disadvantages** for the review experts depending on their particular circumstances.
- Note the **contribution of all experts who participated in the reviews of the BR4s is acknowledged** on a dedicated page of the UNFCCC website.



# Elements of possible conclusions (II): Completeness/transparency of BR4s and TRR4s consistency



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- Note the background paper “Completeness and transparency assessment of BR4s – 2022 update and **request the secretariat to continue to evaluate** the consistency of the assessment of TRR5s and improvement of reporting in BR5 as well as assess how the reporting and review practice has evolved in a decade (2014-2024) of the MRV under the Convention;
- Acknowledge the **improvements in completeness and transparency** of information in BR4s and a high level of consistency in reviews;
- Note that completeness and transparency have further **improved due to resubmissions of BR4s** during the review;



## Elements of possible conclusions (III): Outlook to the IAR5 cycle



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- Note that 2/3 experts nominated to the BR/NC reviews on the UNFCCC Roster of Experts have not yet undertaken training and certification to become a reviewer; and **encourage these experts to enroll in the training program** at the earliest opportunity.
- Note that it would be sensible to **include newly certified experts**, to extend possible, to the ERTs of BR5/NC8 aiming to expand the pool of experienced review experts.
- **Encourage the experts to prepare** and participate in upcoming reviews.
- Note that following BR5/NC8 submissions, **the reviews are planned to be conducted during February 2023 – 2024** followed by MA during SBI sessions in second half of 2023 and in 2024 and the first half 2025.
- Note that a practical approach to planning future ICRs may encompass options tailored to the specific circumstances. Given the continued uncertainty around the in-person participation of review experts stemming from the COVID 19 pandemic, **an in-person in country reviews with a virtual component may be implemented** in the upcoming NC8/BR5 review cycle with the concurrence of Parties and ERTs.

