

A6.4-SBM016-AA-A04

Information note

Initial legal and editorial review of the regulations and procedures approved by the Supervisory Body

Version 01.0



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

COVER NOTE

1. Procedural background

1. At its tenth meeting, the Supervisory Body of the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (Article 6.4 mechanism) (hereinafter referred to as the Supervisory Body) requested the secretariat to undertake an initial structured legal and editorial review of the regulations and procedures approved by the Supervisory Body (hereinafter referred to as the initial review) to ensure consistency among these regulations, including with regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Supervisory Body, and to undertake the first review in 2024 with a view to preparing relevant proposals for consideration by the Supervisory Body in 2025.¹
2. At its fifteenth meeting, the Supervisory Body considered the concept note “Update on the initial structured legal and editorial review of the regulations and procedures approved by the Supervisory Body”² and took note of the progress of the initial review. The Supervisory Body requested the secretariat,³ in conducting the review of the regulatory documents, to ensure coherence across different regulations and maintain clarity between procedures and standards, following the information note “Decision and documentation framework”.

2. Purpose

3. The purpose of this information note is to provide an update on the progress of the initial review, which will set the foundation for future reviews, and for the establishment of a periodic review system that will ensure continued consistency, transparency and responsiveness to evolving needs in the implementation of the Article 6.4 mechanism.

3. Key issues and proposed solutions

4. This information note highlights the progress made so far on the initial review, key findings and specific revision proposals for each document, their current status, and a timeline for consideration by the Supervisory Body.

4. Recommendations to the Supervisory Body

5. The secretariat recommends that the Supervisory Body consider the inputs in this information note.

¹ Meeting report of the tenth meeting of the Supervisory Body, available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/SB010_report.pdf.

² Available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/A64-SBM015-AA-A05.pdf>.

³ Meeting report of the fifteenth meeting of the Supervisory Body, available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/A6.4-SBM015.pdf>.

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1. Introduction

1. The Supervisory Body of the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (Article 6.4 mechanism) (hereinafter referred to as the Supervisory Body) at its tenth meeting, requested the secretariat to undertake an initial structured legal and editorial review of the regulations and procedures approved by the Supervisory Body (hereinafter referred to as the initial review) to ensure consistency among these regulations, including with regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Supervisory Body, and to undertake the first review in 2024 with a view to preparing relevant proposals for consideration by the Supervisory Body in 2025.¹
2. At its fifteenth meeting, the Supervisory Body considered the concept note “Update on the initial structured legal and editorial review of the regulations and procedures approved by the Supervisory Body”² and took note of the progress of the initial review. The Supervisory Body requested the secretariat,³ in conducting the review of the regulatory documents, to ensure coherence across different regulations and maintain clarity between procedures and standards, following the information note titled “Decision and documentation framework”.

2. Progress of the review

2.1. Methodology

3. The initial review covered regulatory documents of the Supervisory Body approved until the fifteenth meeting of the Supervisory Body in February 2025. It was aimed at checking and assessing the content of these documents and identifying areas for improvement or clarification.
4. The initial review focused on the following aspects:
 - (a) Legal coherence: Making sure that the Supervisory Body’s regulatory documents are coherent with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), the Rules of Procedure of the Supervisory Body, and the “Decision and documentation framework”;
 - (b) Alignment with international law: Ensuring consistency with the Paris Agreement and relevant international legal obligations related to environmental protection, climate, human rights, and trade;
 - (c) Clarity of language and drafting: Ensuring the text of the regulatory documents is free from ambiguities or overly technical language that could lead to misinterpretation;

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² Available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/A64-SBM015-AA-A05.pdf>.

³ Meeting report of the fifteenth meeting of the Supervisory Body. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/A6.4-SBM015.pdf>.

- (d) Consistency in terminology: Verifying consistent use of terms and definitions across different parts of the regulatory documents;
- (e) User-friendliness: Ensuring the regulatory documents are accessible and easy to navigate for Parties and stakeholders involved in the Article 6.4 mechanism.

2.2. Process

5. The secretariat:

- (a) Reviewed the regulatory documents and identified the issues to be addressed;
- (b) Evaluated, labelled and highlighted each proposal in the documents as either substantive (involving changes to the document content); or corrective/editorial (minor, non-substantive adjustments);
- (c) Identified priority documents requiring revisions to resolve legal inconsistencies or other pressing issues, along with a proposed timeline, to ensure urgent matters are presented to the Supervisory Body without delay; and
- (d) Listed other documents requiring revisions that will be addressed at the earliest opportunity for document revisions, along with a proposed timeline, where possible, according to the Supervisory Body workplan.

2.3. Status

- 6. In general, the initial review did not identify significant inconsistencies throughout the regulations and procedures approved by the Supervisory Body. Only a few of the suggested changes highlighted in the texts of the documents involve substantive revisions, while most of the suggested changes are corrective or editorial in nature, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.⁴
- 7. Corrective or editorial revisions suggested include the following:
 - (a) Addressing inconsistencies in the use of terms in the documents' titles, as well as throughout and across the documents;
 - (b) Deleting redundant paragraphs or sentences in documents;
 - (c) Including cross-references, as necessary;
 - (d) Making specific changes throughout the documents to improve the coherence, consistency, clarity, and readability of the text (these were often accompanied by textual suggestions).
 - (e) Adding missing documents that needed to be referenced in the footnotes or deleting unnecessary ones; and updating links to direct to the latest versions of the regulatory documents and procedures posted on the Supervisory Body website.
- 8. Key findings and specific proposals for each revised document, their status, and timeline for consideration by the Supervisory Body (where available, according to the Supervisory Body workplan), are set out in table 1 below.

⁴ For more information, see table 1 below.

Table 1. Progress of the initial legal and editorial review of Supervisory Body regulatory documents

Document cluster		Title of document	Key findings and specific revision proposals	Timeline SBM⁵	Status
Governance	1	Terms of Reference: A6.4 mechanism experts (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-GOV-001)	(i) Suggestion to add a table of contents, and “Background” and “Scope, applicability and entry into force” sections; (ii) Deleting “mechanism” from the title of the document; (iii) Other minor corrective or editorial suggestions not involving changes to the document content, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM 16	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Completed Editorial review - Completed

⁵ In this table, SBM refers to the Supervisory Body.

	2	<p>Procedure: Terms of reference of the Article 6.4 mechanism expert panels (Version 02.0) (A6.4-PROC-GOV-003)</p>	<p>(i) Substantive revisions in paras. 19 and 22, involving changes to the document content:</p> <p>-Paragraph 19 - Proposal to include “the Supervisory Body shall select the co-chairs of a panel, taking into account the consideration of regional and gender balance” and that “the co-chairs shall remain in office until their successors have been elected”;</p> <p>-Paragraph 22 - proposal to include “If one or both the co-chairs of a panel resign, or otherwise ceases to be able to carry out their functions or ceases to be a member or alternate member of the Supervisory Body, the Supervisory Body shall elect new co-chairs of the panel from among its members or alternate members for the remainder of the term, taking into account the consideration of regional and gender balance”;</p> <p>(ii) Corrective revision to delete paragraph 9, with the reasoning that the scope of this procedure should only reference the secretariat’s responsibilities and role in supporting the Supervisory Body within the context of the mechanism expert panels, and not address the broader role of the secretariat in relation to the Article 6.4 mechanism;</p> <p>(iii) Deleting “mechanism” from the title of the document;</p> <p>(iii) Other minor corrective or editorial revisions which do not affect the core meaning</p>	SBM 16	<p>Legal review -Completed</p> <p>Discussion with substantive team - Completed</p> <p>Editorial review - Completed</p>
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Document cluster	Title of document	Key findings and specific revision proposals	Timeline SBM ⁵	Status
		of the document and are aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.		
3	Procedure: Selection and performance evaluation of members of the expert panels under the Supervisory Body (Version 02.0) (A6.4-PROC-GOV-004)	<p>Primarily minor corrective or editorial revisions that do not affect the meaning of the document. These include:</p> <p>(i) Changing the scoring values for “Timeliness (submission delays)”, from negative to positive in the “Reference Sheet” in appendix 1; and</p> <p>(ii) Other minor changes aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.</p>	SBM 16	<p>Legal review -Completed</p> <p>Discussion with substantive team - Completed</p> <p>Editorial review - Completed</p>
4	Procedure: Direct communication with stakeholders (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-GOV-007)	<p>Minor corrective or editorial revisions, which include:</p> <p>(i) Deleting para. 9 as redundant;</p> <p>(ii) Other minor changes aimed at improving the coherence, clarity, and readability of the text;</p>	SBM 16	<p>Legal review -Completed</p> <p>Discussion with substantive team - Completed</p> <p>Editorial review - Completed</p>
5	Procedure: Selection and performance evaluation of experts on the Article 6.4 mechanism accreditation roster of experts (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-GOV-005)	<p>Primarily minor corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document. These include:</p> <p>(i) Replacing “evaluation” with “monitoring” in the title of the document and deleting “mechanism” from the title and throughout the text, in line with other accreditation documents;</p> <p>(ii) Other minor changes aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.</p>	SBM 18	<p>Legal review -Completed</p> <p>Discussion with substantive team - Completed</p> <p>Editorial review - Pending</p>

Document cluster		Title of document	Key findings and specific revision proposals	Timeline SBM ⁵	Status
	6	Procedure: Appeal and grievance processes under the Article 6.4 mechanism (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-GOV-006)	Primarily minor corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
Accreditation	7	Standard: Article 6.4 mechanism accreditation (Version 01.0) (A6.4-STAN-ACCR-001)	(i) A suggestion in para. 17 that: A DOE shall establish, document, implement and maintain a procedure for regularly monitoring, at least annually, "through a third-party accounting and financial audit", its income and expenditure to determine the financial stability and resources required for its validation and/or verification/certification functions"; (ii) Other minor corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM 18	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Completed Editorial review - Pending
	8	Procedure: Article 6.4 accreditation (Version 01.2) (A6.4-PROC-ACCR-001)	Primarily minor corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM 18	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Completed Editorial review - Pending

Document cluster		Title of document	Key findings and specific revision proposals	Timeline SBM ⁵	Status
	9	Performance monitoring of the Article 6.4 designated operational entities (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-ACCR-002)	Primarily minor corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document. These include: (i) Deletion of paragraph 8, as it was redundant; (ii) Other minor changes aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM 18	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Completed Editorial review - Pending
Activity cycle	10	Standard: Article 6.4 activity standard for projects (Version 01.0) (A6.4-STAN-AC-002)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM 16	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Completed Editorial review - Completed
	11	Standard: Article 6.4 validation and verification standard for projects (Version 01.0) (A6.4-STAN-AC-003)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM 16	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Completed Editorial review – Completed
	12	Standard: Article 6.4 activity standard for programmes of activities (Version 01.0) (A6.4-STAN-AC-004)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending

Document cluster		Title of document	Key findings and specific revision proposals	Timeline SBM ⁵	Status
	13	Standard: Article 6.4 validation and verification standard for programmes of activities (Version 01.0) (A6.4-STAN-AC-005)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
	14	Procedure: Article 6.4 activity cycle procedure for projects (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-AC-002)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
	15	Procedure: Article 6.4 activity cycle procedure for programmes of activities (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-AC-003)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
	16	Article 6.4 sustainable development tool (Version 01.0) (A6.4-TOOL-AC-001)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending

Document cluster		Title of document	Key findings and specific revision proposals	Timeline SBM ⁵	Status
Transition of CDM activities	17	Standard: Transition of CDM activities to the Article 6.4 mechanism (Version 03.0) (A6.4-STAN-AC-001)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
	18	Procedure: Transition of CDM activities to the Article 6.4 mechanism (Version 04.1) (A6.4-PROC-AC-001)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
Methodologies	19	Standard: Application of the requirements of Chapter V.B (Methodologies) for the development and assessment of Article 6.4 mechanism methodologies (Version 01.0) (A6.4-STAN-METH-001)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
	20	Standard: Requirements for activities involving removals under the Article 6.4 mechanism (Version 01.0) (A6.4-STAN-METH-002)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending

Document cluster		Title of document	Key findings and specific revision proposals	Timeline SBM ⁵	Status
	21	Procedure: Development, revision and clarification of methodologies and methodological tools (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-METH-001)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
	22	Procedure: Development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-METH-002)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
	23	Standard: Demonstration of additionality in mechanism methodologies (Version 01.2) (A6.4-STAN-METH-003)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending
Registry	24	Procedure: Article 6.4 mechanism registry (Version 01.0) (A6.4-PROC-REGS-001)	Primarily corrective or editorial changes that do not affect the meaning of the document, aimed at improving the coherence, clarity and readability of the text.	SBM xx	Legal review -Completed Discussion with substantive team - Pending Editorial review - Pending

3. Next steps

6. The secretariat legal and substantive teams will continue their discussions to finalize the suggested changes and proposals in the remaining revised documents, with the aim of submitting them for the Supervisory Body’s consideration in 2025, in line with the agreed process for prioritizing documents for review outlined in paragraph 5 above.

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Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
01.0	28 April 2025	Published as an annex to the annotated agenda of SBM 016.
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