First Meeting of Lead Reviewers of Biennial Transparency Reports

UNFCCC Secretariat
Bonn, 24-25 April 2024

Results of the survey for experts and national focal points on priorities for increasing the number of active review experts

Pierre Brender

Programme Officer
UNFCCC Secretariat

Bonn, 24-25 April 2024

Respondents

Profile overview

104 Participants:

- Working for a wide range of organizations

- **Including 20** national focal points

- **73%** experts on the UNFCCC roster

- **69%** experts with review experience

- **52%** with experience as LRs

- **92%** willing to contribute to ETF reviews (79% for sure)
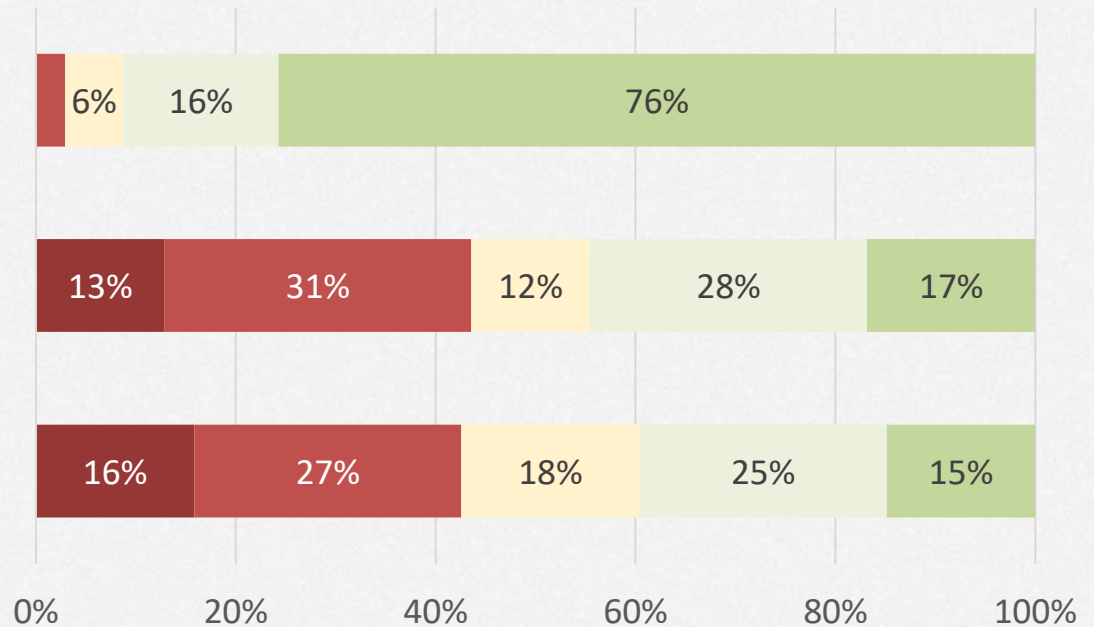

United Nations
Climate Change
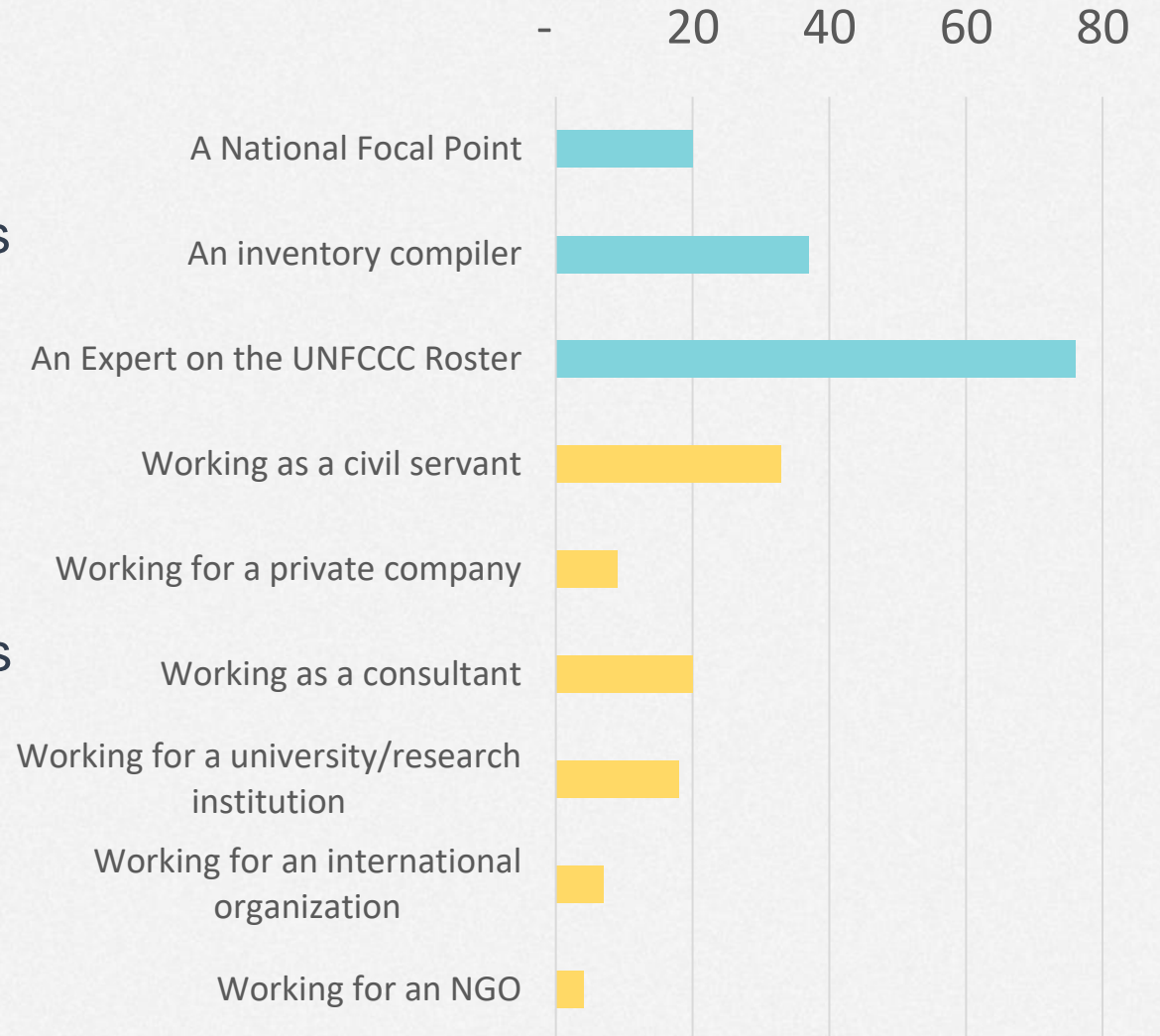
The expansion of the number of active experts in the UNFCCC roster available to support the implementation of the ETF and the first review of BTRs is:

Legend:
- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

a priority for a successful implementation of the Paris agreement needing urgent consideration.
- 6%
- 16%
- 76%

an evolution that will occur naturally as Parties will start to submit BTRs;
- 13%
- 31%
- 12%
- 28%
- 17%

currently receiving sufficient attention by Parties to the UNFCCC;
- 16%
- 27%
- 18%
- 25%
- 15%

- **Strong agreement expansion of the number of active experts is a priority**

- **Wide range of view on whether the expansion will occur naturally and is receiving sufficient attention**

United Nations Climate Change

Answered: 103   Skipped: 1

Management of the UNFCCC roster and expert resources.

Please characterize the listed actions. Are they?

■ 1 high priority (crucial to achieve results and urgent) ■ 2 important improvement (less urgent)

■ 3 good to have option but not a priority ■ 4 probably not useful or relevant

■ 5 action to avoid (please explain) ■ no view on priority

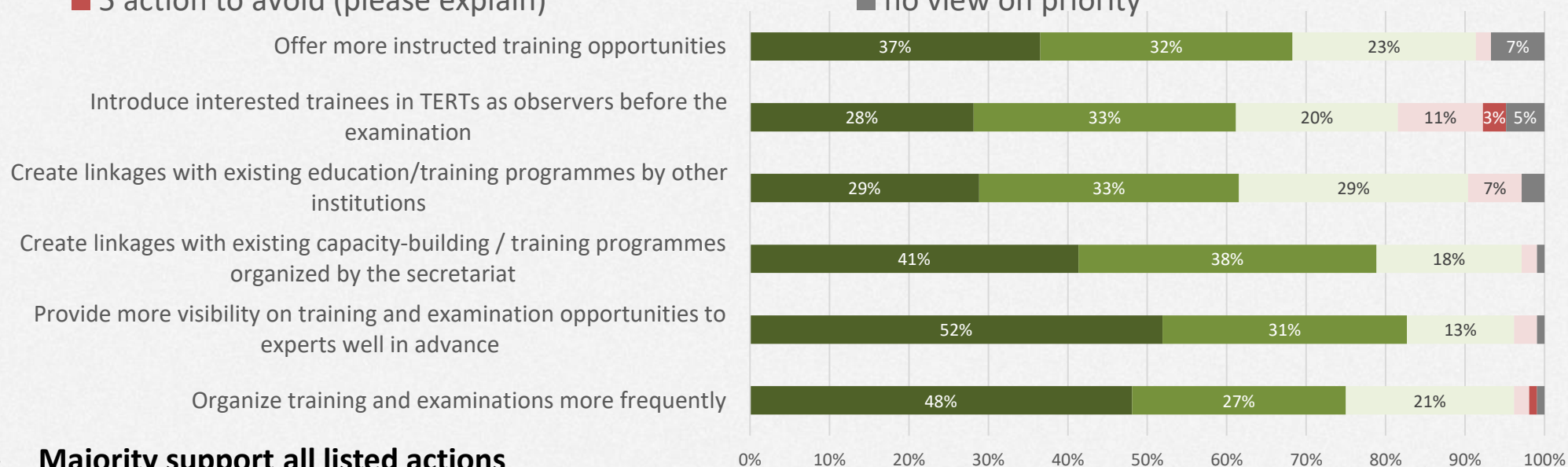| Action	1	2	3	4	5
Increase opportunities for new experts to get involved	66%	28%			5%
Increase frequency of updates to the UNFCCC roster, suggesting to NFPs to remove names of experts who are no longer active from the database. This would provide a more realistic snapshot of the gaps and needs	49%	31%	14%		
Grant access to training and examinations also to non-nominated experts, with nomination by NFP being required only afterwards, before participation in the first review	28%	29%	21%	16%	5%
Encourage nomination of experts by intergovernmental organizations and United Nations organizations	22%	42%	31%		
Encourage Parties to nominate non-governmental experts	35%	36%	27%		
Strengthen outreach and communication with Parties and experts	57%	33%	9%		

- **Majority support all listed actions (increase opportunities to new experts and strengthen outreach in particular)**
- **Minority expresses reservations regarding some actions, especially allowing to pass exams before nomination, flagging in comments especially the cost implications, and potential waste of time**

United Nations
Climate Change

Answered: 103 Skipped: 1. **28 Comments**

Training and examinations.

Please characterize the listed actions. Are they?

- ■ 1 high priority (crucial to achieve results and urgent)
- ■ 2 important improvement (less urgent)
- ■ 3 good to have option but not a priority
- ■ 4 probably not useful or relevant
- ■ 5 action to avoid (please explain)
- ■ no view on priority

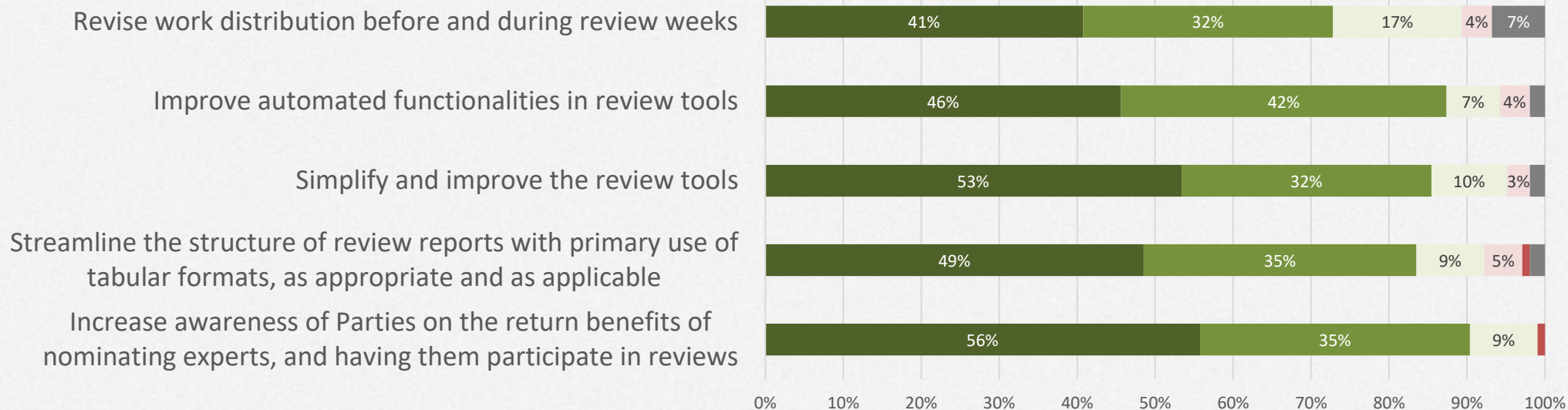| Action	1	2	3	4	5	no view
Offer more instructed training opportunities	37%	32%	23%			7%
Introduce interested trainees in TERTs as observers before the examination	28%	33%	20%	11%	3%	5%
Create linkages with existing education/training programmes by other institutions	29%	33%	29%	7%		
Create linkages with existing capacity-building / training programmes organized by the secretariat	41%	38%	18%			
Provide more visibility on training and examination opportunities to experts well in advance	52%	31%	13%			
Organize training and examinations more frequently	48%	27%	21%			

- **Majority support all listed actions**
- **Minority express reservation regarding some actions, especially allowing interested trainees in TERTs as observers before the examination**
- **Suggestions include giving overview of exams passed to NFPs, in countries training for reviewers, training/exams in other languages than English, etc.**

United Nations
Climate Change

Answered: 104   Skipped: 0. **16 Comments**

Organization of the reviews – challenges.

Please characterize the listed actions. Are they?

■ 1 high priority (crucial to achieve results and urgent)   ■ 2 important improvement (less urgent)

■ 3 good to have option but not a priority   ■ 4 probably not useful or relevant

■ 5 action to avoid (please explain)   ■ no view on priority

Action	1 high priority	2 important improvement	3 good to have	4 probably not useful	5 action to avoid	no view
Revise work distribution before and during review weeks	41%	32%	17%	4%		7%
Improve automated functionalities in review tools	46%	42%	7%	4%		
Simplify and improve the review tools	53%	32%	10%			3%
Streamline the structure of review reports with primary use of tabular formats, as appropriate and as applicable	49%	35%	9%	5%		
Increase awareness of Parties on the return benefits of nominating experts, and having them participate in reviews	56%	35%	9%			

- **Majority support all listed actions**
- **Comments include specifics suggestions on possible ways to reduce the workloads of reviewers (including maintaining issue references over time, summarizing finding in shorter reports, reduce iterations of QA/QCs,…)**

Answered: 104   Skipped: 0. **12 Comments**

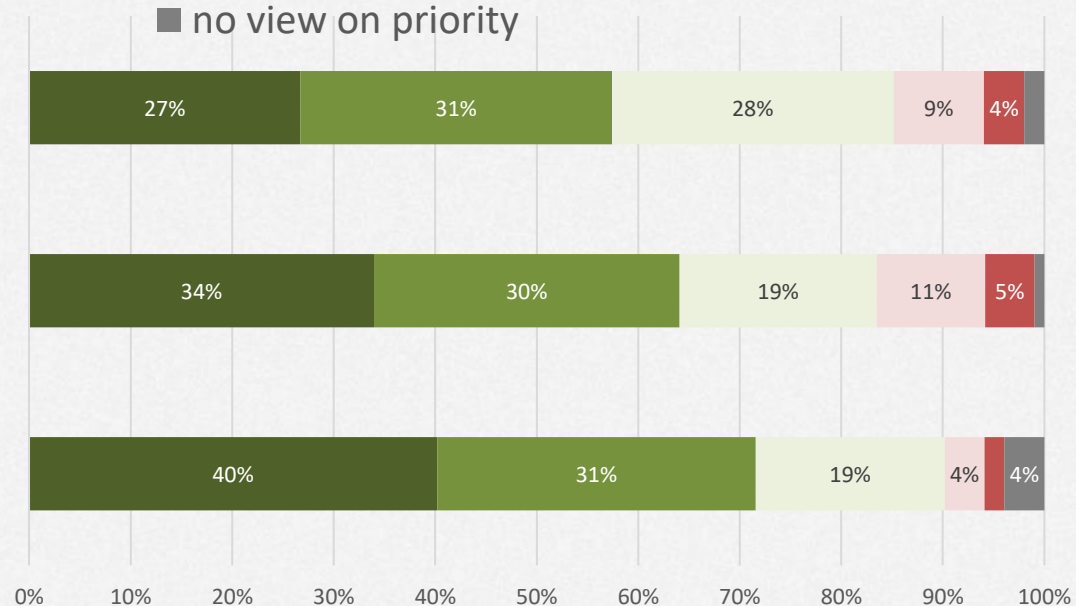# Organization of the reviews – logistical arrangements.

Please characterize the listed actions. Are they?

- ■ 1 high priority (crucial to achieve results and urgent)
- ■ 2 important improvement (less urgent)
- ■ 3 good to have option but not a priority
- ■ 4 probably not useful or relevant
- ■ 5 action to avoid (please explain)
- ■ no view on priority

To address challenges for virtual participation, offer access to a UN office in the expert country when applicable
27% | 31% | 28% | 9% | 4%

To address challenges for in person participation, offer virtual participation as an option as often as possible
34% | 30% | 19% | 11% | 5%

To address challenges for participation in Bonn (centralized reviews), establish standardized arrangements for experts to conduct reviews in regional facilities (e.g. regional climate centers)
40% | 31% | 19% | 4% | 4%

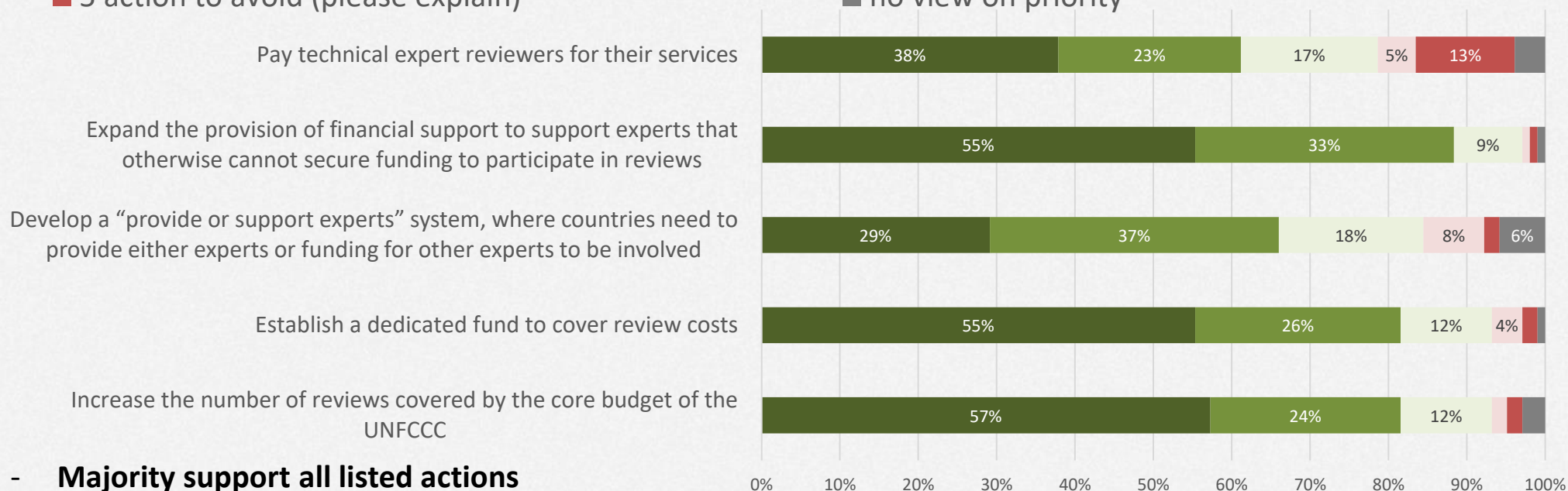0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

- **Majority support all listed actions**
- **Minority express reservation regarding offering virtual option as an option and access to UN office in the expert country**

United Nations
Climate Change

Answered: 103   Skipped: 1. **16 Comments**

Review funding

Please characterize the listed actions. Are they?

- ■ 1 high priority (crucial to achieve results and urgent)
- ■ 2 important improvement (less urgent)
- ■ 3 good to have option but not a priority
- ■ 4 probably not useful or relevant
- ■ 5 action to avoid (please explain)
- ■ no view on priority

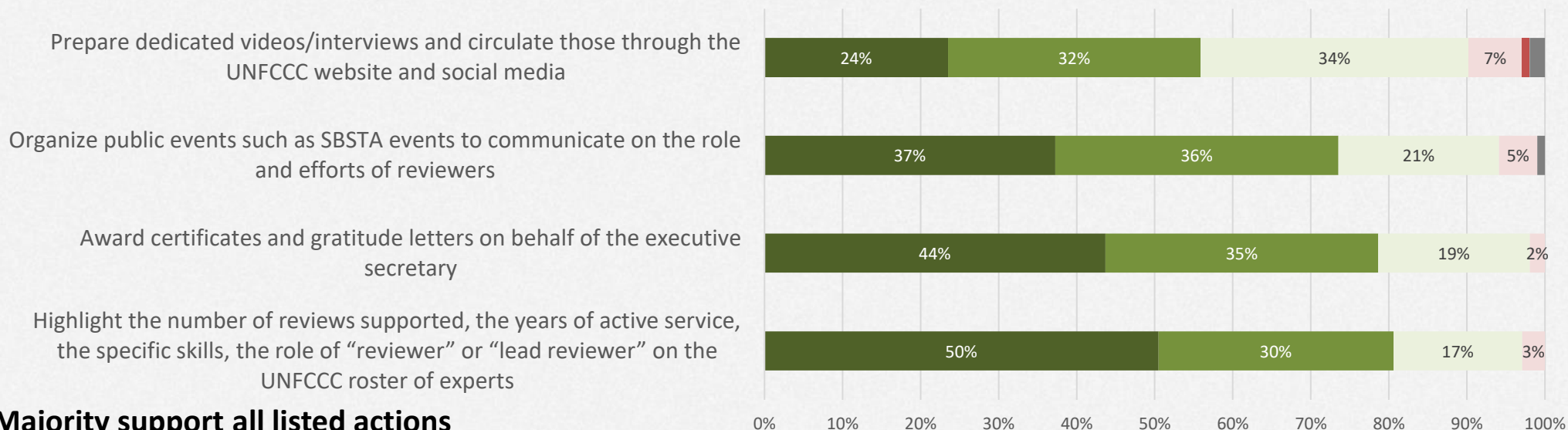| Action	1	2	3	4	5
Pay technical expert reviewers for their services	38%	23%	17%	5%	13%
Expand the provision of financial support to support experts that otherwise cannot secure funding to participate in reviews	55%	33%	9%		
Develop a "provide or support experts" system, where countries need to provide either experts or funding for other experts to be involved	29%	37%	18%	8%	6%
Establish a dedicated fund to cover review costs	55%	26%	12%	4%	
Increase the number of reviews covered by the core budget of the UNFCCC	57%	24%	12%		

- Majority support all listed actions
- Least support for the development of a "provide or support experts" system and "paying experts for their services". Some comments on the latter mentioning reservation due to cost implications, fear paying experts could lead to bias or views that "professional" reviewers is not desirable.

United Nations
Climate Change

Answered: 103   Skipped: 1. **26 Comments**

Recognition for participation

Please characterize the listed actions. Are they?

- ■ 1 high priority (crucial to achieve results and urgent)
- ■ 2 important improvement (less urgent)
- ■ 3 good to have option but not a priority
- ■ 4 probably not useful or relevant
- ■ 5 action to avoid (please explain)
- ■ no view on priority

Action	1	2	3	4
Prepare dedicated videos/interviews and circulate those through the UNFCCC website and social media	24%	32%	34%	7%
Organize public events such as SBSTA events to communicate on the role and efforts of reviewers	37%	36%	21%	5%
Award certificates and gratitude letters on behalf of the executive secretary	44%	35%	19%	2%
Highlight the number of reviews supported, the years of active service, the specific skills, the role of "reviewer" or "lead reviewer" on the UNFCCC roster of experts	50%	30%	17%	3%

(Chart x-axis: 0% to 100% in 10% increments)

- - **Majority support all listed actions**
- - **Some further suggestions made in comments, including listing names of reviewers in relevant SBI conclusions, order countries supplying reviewers in the relevant SBSTA document by number of reviewers provided, send not only recognition letters to experts, but also to Parties.**

United Nations
Climate Change

Answered: 103   Skipped: 1. **12 Comments**

Take out message

Survey on priorities to increase the number of active reviewers

✓ More than hundred respondents. Thanks to all those who shared their views!

✓ Significant support for most listed actions

✓ Some (minority) reservation, often associated with possible cost implications of some actions

United Nations
Climate Change