



## 4th Informal Forum of the Consultative Group of Experts

8 December 2021, 14:00–16:00 CET

### Summary Report

Version: 21 January 2022

#### I. BACKGROUND

1. The [Consultative Group of Experts](#) (CGE), at its fifth meeting held virtually on 2–3 March 2021, agreed to, as a part of its work plan for 2021, organize its fourth informal forum in December 2021. Owing to the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the CGE concluded that it would be not practical to organize the informal forum as an in-person event, and hence, agreed to organize it as a virtual event on Wednesday 8 December 2021 from 14:00 – 16:00 CET.
2. Experiences of both developed and developing country Parties from the existing practices show that factors such as domestic political buy-in, capacity-building and access to finance are deemed as critical to sustained national efforts to enhance and maintain institutional arrangements that enable them to prepare and to submit their national reports under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. These factors will continue to have a similar influence, especially for developing country Parties, as they prepare for transitioning to the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement.
3. To that end, the objective of the fourth informal forum of the CGE was to showcase the work of the CGE in 2021 and seek feedback from the relevant stakeholders on how its work be further reinforced in a manner that addresses the main challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties. Further, it aimed to serve as a platform to informally reflect and exchange views around the country experiences and lessons learned in the area of domestic political buy-in, capacity-building and access to finance, that are critical to sustaining national efforts to enhance and maintain institutional arrangements that enable them to prepare and to submit their national reports under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.
4. More than 100 experts worldwide participated in this forum, who are involved in the implementation of the existing measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) arrangements under the Convention and the ETF under the Paris Agreement.
5. This report contains a summary of the proceedings and discussions at the fourth informal forum of the CGE.

#### II. PROCEEDINGS

6. The fourth informal forum was convened as a 2-hours long virtual event. It was also broadcast live on YouTube<sup>1</sup>.
7. The event kicked off with opening statements by the Chair of the CGE, Ms. Virginia Sena and introductory remarks by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC secretariat, Mr. Ovais Sarmad, and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for the Implementation, Ms. Marianne Karlsen.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ex2FRH2ZNmc>

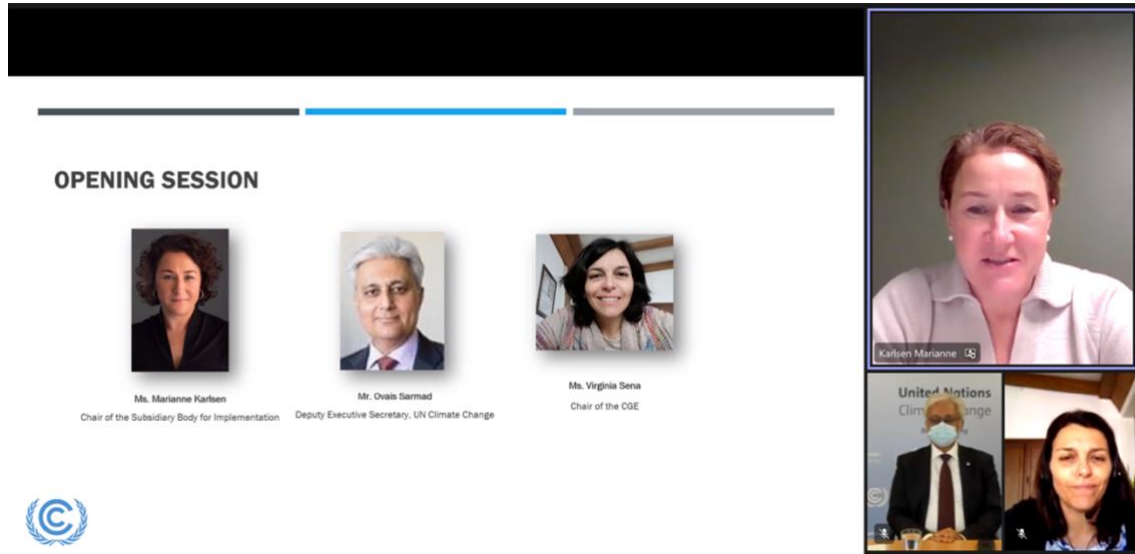


Figure 1 Opening session speakers (L-R): the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for the Implementation, Ms. Marianne Karlsen, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC secretariat, Mr. Ovais Sarmad, and the Chair of the CGE, Ms. Virginia Sena.

8. Mr. Arif Goheer, CGE member from Pakistan, presented the CGE’s achievements in 2021, and participants shared their reflections on these achievements.
9. Participants then informally reflected and exchanged views on the experiences around domestic political buy-in, capacity-building and access to finance, which are critical to sustaining national efforts to enhance reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Participants discussed these topics in three focused groups. The guiding questions for the focused group discussions are contained in the annex. The figure below provides a visual summary of discussions at the informal forum.





### III. KEY TAKEAWAYS

10. The key messages from the feedback and inputs received throughout the forum are summarized below.
11. Participants shared their reflections on the achievements and lessons learnt of the CGE and requested the CGE to continue its support on MRV and ETF in 2022 and beyond. They also proposed some areas that the CGE may take into consideration in its future work.
  - Participants highlighted that the CGE should not only focus on GHG inventories, but also put same emphasis on other topics covered under MRV and ETF.
  - Participants encouraged the CGE to address in its work the common tabular formats for the electronic reporting of the information on financial, technology capacity-building support needed and received that was adopted at COP 26.
  - Participants underlined the importance of reporting the time series of GHG inventories under the ETF. Therefore, it would be helpful to consider developing more practical guidance for addressing time series consistency as well as translating the 2006 IPCC guidelines into more practical approaches.
  - A need to consider the linkage between the sub-national actions and national targets was also expressed.
  - The added value of the virtual webinars/workshops organized by the CGE in the last two years was also highlighted. Those virtual events helped broaden the engagement of national experts from line agencies which would have not been possible otherwise due to the limits in the number of participants from each country for in-person events. Making materials and recordings accessible to the event participants also allowed more people to benefit. The CGE was encouraged to organize more of such webinars/workshops in future in addition to the in-person workshops.
  - The CGE could explore possibility of identifying focal persons in countries to assist disseminating materials and supporting other experts in the country.
  - Participants also highlighted the need for capacity-building, technical and financial support to implement the MRV system.
12. Participants' views around the experiences on domestic political buy-in are summarized below:
  - A robust MRV system is critical for all countries. MRV arrangements are not only for international reporting but also relevant for climate actions at the national level. A participant shared an example of a country where MRV supports domestic tracking and planning purposes resulting in, among other things, a clear political accountability.
  - Participants identified the following as key aspects of a robust MRV system: proper stakeholder engagement with clear roles and responsibilities; proper institutional systems and arrangements; and continuity in the availability support. Further, having robust legal frameworks is vital, and embedding institutional arrangements for reporting in relevant legislation helps promote domestic buy-in.
  - Raising awareness among the decision-makers on the importance and benefits of the MRV system helps garner support for its implementation, including necessary resources. However, there is a limited capacity to undertake such awareness raising effort and also to convince relevant stakeholders on the importance of MRV systems. In that context, some case studies



demonstrating how countries were able to make use of MRV for national purposes would be helpful to address this challenge. An example was shared where an MRV of a transport system project implemented in a country catalysed the interest of other stakeholders for other relevant sectors.

- Since climate change is a cross-cutting issue, a wide group of stakeholders need to be involved. Broadening of stakeholder engagement can be achieved by, for example, including different sectors in climate-related activities, and identifying and harvesting potential synergies with broader issues such as biodiversity, sustainable development, etc. Raising awareness on climate change reporting would help the stakeholders to better understand that it is not only to meet international obligations but also to help find solutions to the issues faced at the domestic level. Providing customized capacity-building support for different stakeholders may also encourage them to participate in the MRV process.
- Participants, based on their experiences, identified some key points that helped to engage with the decision-makers and get their support. These include highlighting the effects of climate change on all the sectors, aspects and extent of the climate change problem, the needs for better plan and work, etc.

13. Participants' views around the experiences on capacity-building are summarized below:

- There were several suggestions to enhance capacity building. For instance, increasing the availability of capacity-building activities to reach larger groups, particularly across ministries and beyond the national focal points would be helpful. Due to high turnover rates among the experts, it would also be more efficient to build the capacities of institutions rather than individuals. Conducting one-on-one tailored training would better help addressing the specific challenges and/or problems of individual countries.
- Continuing a variety of modes of capacity-building activities could be more effective, where virtual events enable reaching more experts and in-person events provide a venue for more human connection.
- Participants also expressed the areas/topics of interest to address emerging and existing capacity-building needs. These include institutional arrangements, transitioning from BURs to BTRs, the new reporting formats, tables and outlines agreed in Glasgow for the BTRs, the 2006 IPCC guidelines, tracking progress of NDCs, adaptation and impacts, averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, as well as modelling tools for baselines and trajectories.

14. Participants' views around the experiences on access to finance are summarized below:

- Participants shared their experience in accessing financial resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for preparation of their BURs, NCs and BTRs. Initiating the application process as early as possible was highlighted as a good practice. It is noted there are other international channels, apart from GEF, that provide both financial and technical support. For example, one country received financial support from their international partners. For such cases, it helps to have a clear understanding of the needs of the governmental agencies and also a clear expression of the specific interventions to address the identified needs and gaps.
- Participants highlighted that a sustainable MRV system will require resources to address both short-term and long-term needs. To that end, having domestic resources allocated for MRV system to supplement international support is going to be key from the sustainability perspective.



## ANNEX. Programme of the fourth CGE informal forum

Date: Wednesday 8 December 2020

Time: 14:00–16:00 CET

Moderator: Ms. Virginia Sena, the Chair of the CGE

Time allocated	Agenda item
15 mins	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Opening statement</a> by the Chair of the CGE – Ms. Virginia Sena</li> <li>• <a href="#">Introductory remarks</a> by the Chair of the SBI – Ms. Marianne Karlsen</li> <li>• <a href="#">Introductory remarks</a> by Deputy Executive Secretary of the secretariat – Mr. Ovais Sarmad</li> </ul>
30 mins	<p><a href="#">Showcase of CGE achievements</a> and plenary discussion, by Mr. Arif Goheer, CGE member from Pakistan</p> <p>The narrative of the presentation will be developed around the key elements of the CGE work in 2021 with the aim of showcasing the achievements and lessons learned, and seeking feedback from its key stakeholders. After each element is introduced, a short period of time will be allocated for an interactive discussion, mainly focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking feedback on the outputs of the CGE work in 2021 from the end-user’s point of view;</li> <li>• Gathering intelligence on the additional and/or evolving needs of developing countries and their priorities.</li> </ul>
45 mins	<p>Focused group discussion (FG)</p> <p>The focused group discussion will be convened in three smaller groups running in parallel. Each group will take up one of the following topics: domestic political buy-in, capacity-building and access to finance.</p> <p><a href="#">FG #01: domestic political buy-in</a> - facilitated by Mr. Arif Goheer, CGE member from Pakistan</p> <p>This group will, on the basis of experiences, lessons learned and expert judgment, aim to answer the following (but not limited to) questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>How does domestic political buy-in affect the national efforts to successfully implement the existing MRV arrangements under the Convention and transition to the ETF under the Paris Agreement?</i></li> <li>2. <i>What are the root causes of a weaker domestic political buy-in?</i></li> <li>3. <i>How can these identified root causes be addressed and who are the key actors?</i></li> </ol> <p><a href="#">FG #02: capacity-building</a> – facilitated by Ms. Toby Hedger, CGE member for the US</p> <p>This group will, on the basis of experiences, lessons learned and expert judgment, aim to answer the following (but not limited to) questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>What are key factors that determine the impact and effectiveness of the current mode of capacity-building for MRV/transparency?</i></li> </ol>



Time allocated	Agenda item
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. <i>How to make the best use of the capacity built and also ensure that the knowledge and skills gained is retained sustainably?</i></li><li>3. <i>What are the key emerging needs of capacity-building?</i></li></ol> <p><u>FG #03: access to finance</u> – facilitated by Ms. Tian Wang, CGE member for China</p> <p>This group will, on the basis of experiences, lessons learned and expert judgment, aim to answer the following (but not limited to) questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>How are key lessons learned and/or good practices in the process of preparing for and accessing financial support for the preparation of biennial update reports/national communications/biennial transparency reports in a timely manner?</i></li><li>2. <i>What are the success factors for mobilizing financial support from other international sources?</i></li><li>3. <i>What lessons can be learned or inspirations can be drawn from those Parties that managed to allocate financial resources for MRV/transparency work from its domestic sources?</i></li></ol>
25 mins	Plenary discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report back from the focused groups</li><li>• Plenary input to the focused groups</li></ul>
05 mins	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summary of key takeaways</li><li>• Closing remarks by the Chair of the CGE</li></ul>