



Consultative Group of Experts Input to the technical assessment of the global stocktake

8 December 2021

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) invited the relevant constituted bodies and forums and other institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention to prepare for the technical assessment of the global stocktake, with the assistance of the secretariat, synthesis reports on the information identified in decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 36, in their areas of expertise.¹

The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), with its extensive institutional experience in providing technical advice and support to developing country Parties in the area of transparency of climate action and support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, wishes to contribute to the global stocktake particularly towards areas listed in decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 36 and 37(d), by providing input on:

- a. Provision of support, including for the implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement;
- b. Barriers and challenges faced by developing countries in the areas of transparency of climate action and support;
- c. Good practices, experience and potential opportunities to enhance international cooperation on mitigation and adaptation and to increase support under Article 13, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement.

Provision of support, including for the implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

1. Transparency of climate action and support under the UNFCCC process includes measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) under the Convention and enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement (ETF). Transparency is essential to achieving the goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.
2. The fact that Parties are at different starting points in terms of their capacity and experience in implementing the current MRV arrangements will be reflected in their readiness to implement the ETF. Feedback from the 32 respondents from developing countries who participated in the 2021 CGE stocktake survey of MRV and transparency gaps and needs² indicated that 59 per cent are familiar with the ETF and its modalities, procedures and guidelines but need more guidance and detailed information to identify needs, 25 per cent are identify needs and start planning for the implementation of the ETF and 16 per cent have limited knowledge.
3. The 2021 updated technical paper by the CGE on problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs in preparing national communications (NCs) and biennial

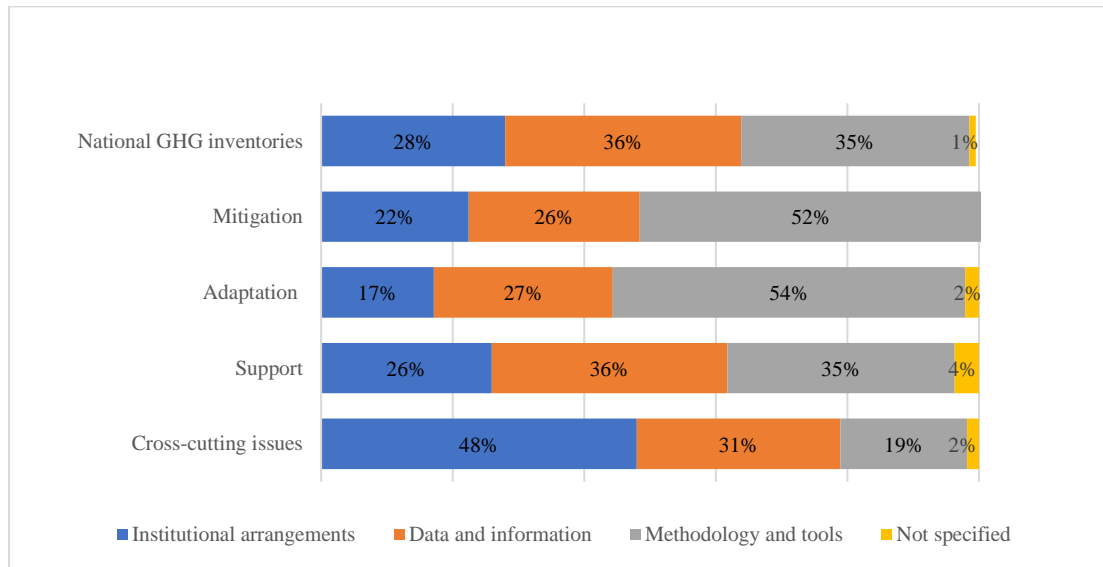
¹ Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

² The CGE stocktake report 2021 is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/307003>.



update reports³ (BURs) provides a thematic breakdown of areas in which challenges and needs were identified, as shown in figure 1. The reporting of issues related to reporting on support needed and received and to national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories showed a similar pattern, while the majority of challenges and needs associated with reporting on mitigation actions and climate change impacts and adaptation pertained to methodologies and tools.

Figure 1: Areas in which challenges and needs were identified, by theme



4. While existing domestic MRV systems will provide a solid basis for Parties to prepare for and implement the ETF, capacity-building support to developing countries will remain crucial to ensure all Parties are able to engage fully and effectively in the new and enhanced processes and requirements established under the ETF, and that no Party is left behind.
5. Taking into account the evolution of the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF, the CGE, in line with its strategic priorities,⁴ will:
 - a. In **2020–2022**, continue identifying gaps and needs and promoting understanding of the existing MRV arrangements (NCs, BURs, international consultation and analysis), and introduce and facilitate a transition to the ETF (preparation of biennial transparency reports, technical expert review and facilitative multilateral consideration of progress);
 - b. In **2022–2024**, promote and facilitate implementation of the ETF, in particular the preparation and submission of biennial transparency reports thereunder and of NCs;
 - c. In **2024–2026**, gather lessons learned and good practices, identify areas for improvement, refine the approaches and tools used to provide technical advice

³ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/307009>.

⁴ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2020_CGE%20strategic%20priorities.pdf.



and support, and continue facilitating implementation of the ETF and preparation and submission of NCs.

6. The CGE, as part of its mandate to support the implementation of the ETF, has provided technical advice and support to developing country Parties since 2019 by:⁵
 - a. Training **715** national experts through 17 regional hands-on training workshops on various aspects related to existing MRV arrangements and the ETF;
 - b. Organizing a series of regional webinars on transitioning from using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* on synergies at the national level in data collection for reporting under the existing MRV arrangements, the ETF, the monitoring framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and other international instruments, and on embedding climate reporting in national statistics as a way to enhance institutional arrangements in a sustainable manner, which reached **709** experts;
 - c. Developing, translating and disseminating online training resources, including animation videos, technical handbooks and a hands-on exercise on the ETF;⁶
 - d. Continuing the e-learning programme on NCs;
 - e. Continuing to offer the training programme on the technical analysis of BURs to experts on the UNFCCC roster of experts;
 - f. Increasing awareness of CGE activities among stakeholders that are actively engaged in providing support to developing country Parties in the area of MRV and transparency, including bilateral and multilateral entities, through special events on the margins of UNFCCC climate change conferences, and through its website⁷ and interactive online platform⁸;
 - g. Undertaking targeted analytical work, such as compiling and summarizing problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs for the preparation of NCs and BURs.⁹
7. The CGE 2021 stocktake survey has further strengthened the alignment of the strategic priorities of the CGE to the needs and expectations of developing country Parties. As per the survey, developing country Parties' key expectations of the CGE relate to:

⁵ The CGE progress reports for 2019–2021 are available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-cge/meetings-of-the-cge>.

⁶ CGE training materials are available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts/cge-training-materials>.

⁷ <https://unfccc.int/CGE>

⁸ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/transparency/Pages/Home.aspx>

⁹ Available <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-cge/transparency-needs-assessment>.



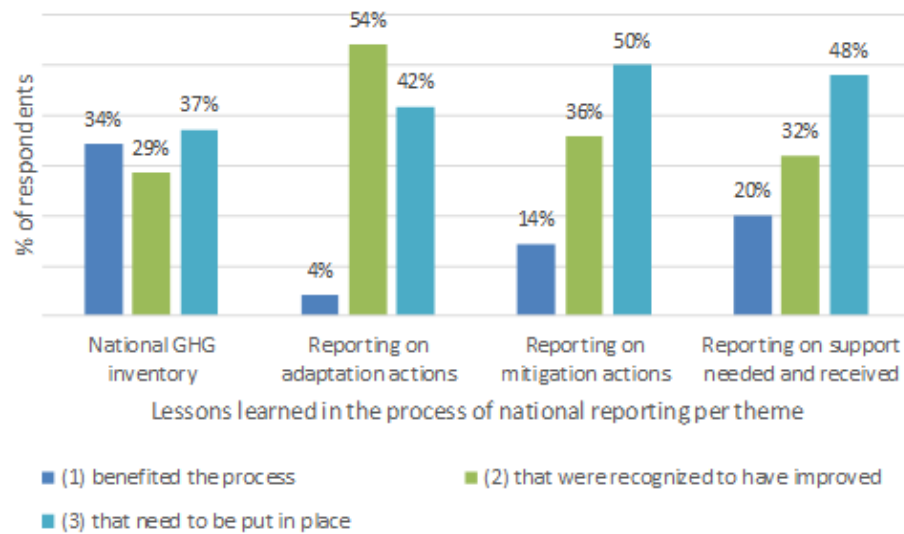
- a. Developing and disseminating guidance documents and tools on topics such as transitioning from existing MRV arrangements to the ETF;
- b. Conducting hands-on training workshops on specific issues related to MRV and ETF arrangements;
- c. Convening information sessions, such as on sharing lessons learned and experience;
- d. Creating and maintaining (sub-)regional platforms for promoting exchanges and networking among practitioners and strengthening South–South cooperation to further enhance reporting under the existing MRV arrangements and the enhanced transparency framework over time;
- e. Compiling and disseminating information on practical tools and methods for enhancing national MRV arrangements and sharing good practices and examples related to the national benefits of climate reporting.

Summary of barriers and challenges, and lessons learned and good practices

8. In 2021, the CGE conducted the second biennial online survey of the existing and emerging problems and constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs of developing country Parties in implementing the existing MRV arrangements and preparing for the implementation of the ETF.
9. The results of the survey referred to in paragraph 8 above show that developing country Parties continue to face constraints and challenges in preparing NCs and BURs, with similar constraints and challenges observed across regions. These challenges and constraints predominantly relate to preparing national GHG inventories, followed by reporting on adaptation, reporting on mitigation, reporting on support needed and received, and cross-cutting issues.
10. As illustrated in figure 2, respondents to the survey accounted for whether the process of reporting to the UNFCCC had benefited them, improved their processes or identified gaps that need to be addressed. Respondents acknowledged that the reporting process led to improvements in their report preparation and that some issues still need to be addressed.



Figure 2: Lessons learned in the process of national reporting to the UNFCCC, by theme

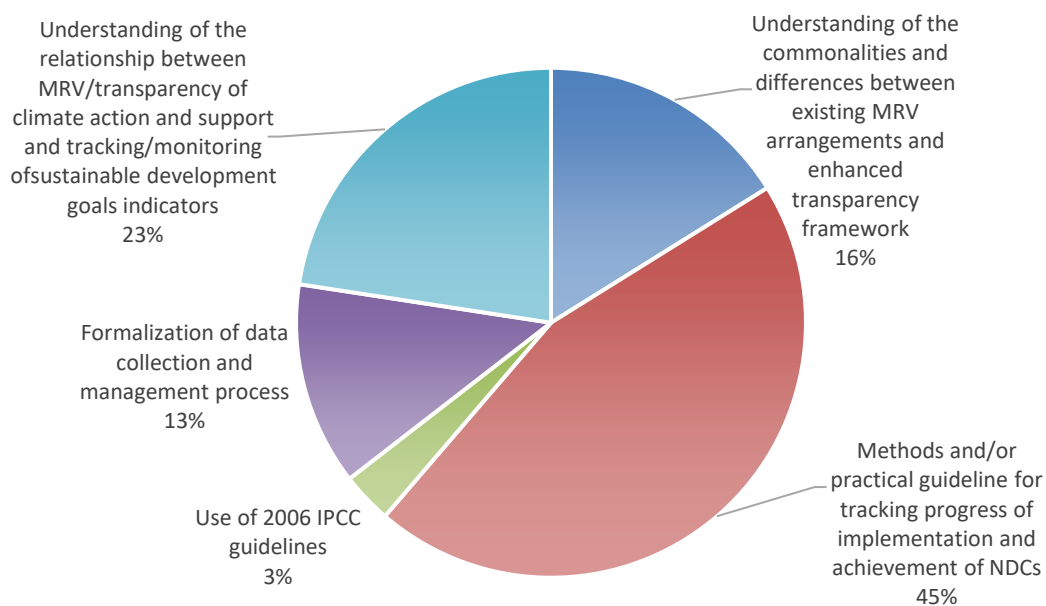


11. For GHG inventories under institutional arrangements, some respondents indicated that, compared with in previous years, they had benefited from improved inventory preparation investment made in training national experts, standardization of the process using inventory preparation protocols and constant resource planning to ensure adequate resources. They highlighted that, in terms of institutional arrangements, their planning improved, their coordination with stakeholders improved and some countries are using a tier 2 approach for some sectors. Some respondents also highlighted that there is still a need for a national inventory management system to be put in place to ensure that a pool of competent staff with the required skills and experience is retained after training. In terms of data and information, respondents indicated that they benefited from setting up a quality assurance/quality control process and from finding innovative ways to obtain the data required. They further highlighted that the coordination of data collection has improved but there is still a need to expand the scope of data collection and to make sure memorandums of understanding with data providers are in place to ensure confidentiality and develop country-specific emission factors.
12. For mitigation, responses highlighted aspects that have improved, such as the increase in capacity of national experts for mitigation and the mainstreaming of mitigation into national planning processes. In terms of institutional arrangements, respondents explained that there is a need to establish a framework for reporting of mitigation actions by sector and to build capacity with respect to applying methodologies and tools for carrying out mitigation assessments and improving the coordination of mitigation reporting across sectors.
13. For adaptation, in terms of institutional arrangements, respondents highlighted the need to establish a framework for continuous reporting from the national, provincial, district and ward level. In terms of methods and tools, respondents highlighted the need to build capacity to carry out adaptation assessments, and, in terms of data and information, respondents highlighted the need for templates and guidelines for data collection.



14. For support needed and received, in terms of institutional arrangements, respondents highlighted the need to strengthen existing institutional arrangements for reporting information, and to clearly define roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders. Respondents also noted, in terms of methods and tools, that a support tracking tool will prove useful for tracking climate finance flows and differentiating between climate finance and development assistance.
15. The most frequently selected capacity-building areas that countries can benefit from the most in facilitating the implementation of the ETF, as indicated by 31 respondents, were developing methods and practical guidelines for tracking the progress of implementation and achievement of nationally determined contributions (45 per cent), understanding the relationship between the MRV and transparency of climate action and support, and the tracking and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal indicators (23 per cent), understanding the commonalities and differences between existing MRV arrangements and the ETF (16 per cent), formalizing data collection and management (13 per cent) and using the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (3 per cent). Figure 3 summarizes these results.

Figure 3: Areas of capacity-building that developing country Parties could benefit the most from, to facilitate the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement



16. Lastly, the CGE collaborates with other constituted bodies and international organizations and initiatives to share experiences and know-how to address the capacity-building needs and gaps for MRV and transparency mentioned in paragraph 15 above.