

DRAFT TEXT

on

SBI 62 agenda sub-item 4(d)

Term, composition and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts

Version 20/6/2025 6:50

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixty-second session considered the composition and terms of reference, and the extension after 2026 of the term, of the Consultative Group of Experts taking into account the needs of developing countries for capacity-building in relation to reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and recommended a draft decision on this matter for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its thirtieth session (November 2025) (for the text of the draft decision, see document FCCC/SBI/2025/L.~~X~~/Add.~~X~~).

[Draft COP decision on the term, composition and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 4, paragraphs 1, 3 and 7, and Article 12, paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 7, of the Convention,

Also recalling Article 13, paragraphs 1, 14 and 15, of the Paris Agreement,

Further recalling decisions 8/CP.5, 3/CP.8, 17/CP.8, 5/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 14/CP.17, 17/CP.18, 18/CP.18, 19/CP.19, 20/CP.19, 1/CP.21, 20/CP.22, 11/CP.24 and 14/CP.26,

Recalling decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 15,

Recognizing that the Consultative Group of Experts plays an important role in facilitating the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties and in facilitating improved reporting over time, as applicable, in relation to the preparation and submission of national communications, biennial update reports, national greenhouse gas inventories and biennial transparency reports, as relevant,

1. *Emphasizes* that the Consultative Group of Experts plays a dual role in that it serves both the Convention and the Paris Agreement and that it shall continue to provide technical advice and support to developing country Parties for fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

2. *[TERM]*

[OPTION 1: Decides to extend the term of the Consultative Group of Experts for [three][six] years, from 1 January 2027 to 31 December [2029][2032];]

[OPTION 2: Decides that the term of the Consultative Group of Experts will continue until otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties;]

3. *[COMPOSITION]*

[OPTION 1: Also decides that the composition of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain unchanged from that set out in paragraphs 3–5 of the annex to decision 3/CP.8 and paragraphs 2–3 of decision 14/CP.26;]

[OPTION 2: Also decides that the Consultative Group of Experts shall be composed of XX members as follows:

- (a) [x][4] from African States;
- (b) [x][4] from Asia-Pacific States;
- (c) [x][4] from Eastern European States;
- (d) [x][4] from Latin American and Caribbean States;
- (e) [x][4] from Western European and other States;

- (f) [x][2] from the least developed countries;
- (g) [x][2] from small island developing States;
- (h) [x][1] from three international organizations with relevant experience in providing technical assistance to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention in the preparation of national communications[, biennial update reports] and biennial transparency reports;]

4. *Further decides* that the Consultative Group of Experts shall be composed of experts drawn from the UNFCCC roster of experts with expertise in at least one of the sections of national communications, biennial update reports and biennial transparency reports in accordance with the relevant guidelines;¹

5. *Encourages* regional groups, least developed countries and small island developing States, in nominating their experts to the Consultative Group of Experts, to make every effort to ensure balanced representation in the areas of expertise referred to in paragraph 0 above above, as well as take into account gender balance in accordance with decisions 36/CP.7 and 23/CP.18;

6. *Decides* that the members of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain in office until their successors are elected and that, in such a case, the Consultative Group of Experts shall notify, via the secretariat, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;

7. *[OFFICERS ROLE]*

[OPTION 1: Also decides that the requirements for the Chair and the Rapporteur of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain unchanged from those set out in paragraph 6 of the annex to decision 3/CP.8;]

[OPTION 2: Also decides that the Consultative Group of Experts shall elect, from among its members, two Co-Chairs, for a term of one year each, taking into account the need to ensure geographical balance;]

8. *[TOR]*

[OPTION 1 (NEW): Adopts the revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts contained in the annex;]

[OPTION 2 (NO CHANGE): Decides that the mandate and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts, as contained in decision 14/CP.26 and its annex, shall remain unchanged;]

9. *[FUTURE REVISION]*

[OPTION 1: Requests the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its [xx] session (20xx), to initiate consideration of the extension of the term of the Consultative Group of Experts after 20xx, the composition of the Consultative Group of Experts and its terms of reference, taking into account the needs of developing countries for capacity-building in relation to reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, with a view to recommending a draft decision on these matters for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its [xx] session (20xx);]

[OPTION 2: Requests the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to review the terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts at its seventy-eighth session (2033) and every eight years thereafter, taking into account the evolving needs of developing countries for capacity-building in relation to reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, with a view to recommending a draft decision on these matters for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at the relevant session;]

10. *Also requests* the Consultative Group of Experts to submit a progress report annually on its work to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation for consideration at the session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation that is held in conjunction with the sessions of the

¹ See decisions 17/CP.8, 2/CP.17, 18/CMA.1, 5/CMA.3 and 9/CMA.4.

Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;

11. *Further requests* the secretariat to facilitate the work of the Consultative Group of Experts pursuant to this decision;
12. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraph ~~11 above~~^{11 above};
13. *Requests* that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.]

Note from Co-Facilitators on a text that may be reflected in a CMA decision: (CMA) Takes note of decision x/CP.30 and decides that the Consultative Group of Experts shall continue to serve the Paris Agreement.

[Annex

Terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts

1. The objective of the Consultative Group of Experts shall be to provide technical advice and support to developing country Parties for enhancing their institutional and technical capacity to prepare and submit national communications[, biennial update reports], national greenhouse gas inventories and biennial transparency reports[, as applicable], with a view to facilitating improvements in their reporting over time, with a particular emphasis on the transition to and preparation of biennial transparency reports. Taking into account paragraph 98 of decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 38 and 43(a–b) of decision 1/CP.24, paragraphs 3–4 of decision 18/CMA.1 and paragraph 1 of decision 5/CMA.3, the Consultative Group of Experts shall ensure that it prioritizes its work in a manner that addresses the challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties and ensures the full and effective implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement, paying particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States in the light of their special circumstances, as recognized in Article 13, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement.

2. In fulfilling its mandate² to support implementation of the [existing]measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), the Consultative Group of Experts shall, as appropriate:

(a) Provide, taking into account paragraphs 38 and 43(a–b) of decision 1/CP.24, technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the process of and the preparation of their national communications³ [and biennial update reports] in accordance with the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, contained in the annex to decision 17/CP.8[, and the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, contained in annex III to decision 2/CP.17], and any relevant subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties with regard to the reporting obligations of non-Annex I Parties;

(b) [Provide recommendations, as appropriate, on elements to be considered in a future revision of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from

² Decision 11/CP.24.

³ In accordance with decision 1/CP.24, para. 43(a), Parties may submit their national communication and biennial transparency report as a single report in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, as contained in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, for information also covered by the national communication reporting guidelines contained in, as applicable, decisions 4/CP.5 and 17/CP.8.

Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, taking into account the experience of non-Annex I Parties in preparing their national communications;¹

(c) Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, on the provision of the information to be reported on steps taken to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1(f), of the Convention;

(d) Provide guidance and periodic advice to the secretariat to assist it in fulfilling the selection criteria for the composition of teams of technical experts, in accordance with paragraphs 3–5 of the annex to decision 20/CP.19, taking into account the reports provided by the secretariat in this regard on a semi-annual basis;

(e) Continue updating and organizing, as needed, with the assistance of the secretariat, the training programmes for nominated technical experts for the technical analysis of biennial update reports, on the basis of the most up-to-date training materials of the Consultative Group of Experts, with a view to improving the technical analysis, taking into account the experience of non-Annex I Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in preparing their biennial update reports, and increasing the representation of the least developed countries and small island developing States in teams of technical experts.

3. In fulfilling its mandate⁴ to support implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, the Consultative Group of Experts shall:

(a) Facilitate the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties⁵, as applicable⁵, including for the preparation and submission of their biennial transparency reports, and facilitate improved reporting over time in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement;⁵

(b) Provide technical advice to the secretariat on the implementation of the training for technical expert review teams referred to in paragraph 12(c) of decision 18/CMA.1, and on the development of targeted training programmes designed to strengthen the capacities of developing country Parties to nominate qualified experts and prepare them for participation in technical expert reviews with a view to increasing regional representation and expertise in technical expert review teams;

(c) Focus on matters relating to paragraph 10(a–b) of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1.

4. The Consultative Group of Experts, in providing technical advice and support, ~~should, to the extent possible:~~

(a) [Should, to the extent possible,]~~[Shall]~~ give special consideration to the least developed countries and small island developing States, including in the context of the need to improve the ability of experts to participate in technical expert reviews;

(b) Should, to the extent possible, identify and take into account, as appropriate, lessons learned and best practices, and the challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties pertaining to preparing, as appropriate, the reports referred to in paragraph 1 above, including in relation to financial and other support available, as well as the areas for improvement and capacity-building needs identified in [the] [use of flexibility provisions in] biennial transparency reports, [technical analyses of biennial update reports] and the technical expert review of biennial transparency reports;

(c) Should, to the extent possible, seek to promote sectoral, gender and geographical balance among experts from developing country Parties eligible to participate in technical expert reviews;

⁴ Decisions 11/CP.24, para. 4, and 18/CMA.1, para. 15.

⁵ Decision 18/CMA.1, annex.

(d) Should, to the extent possible, facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of the processes for preparing, as appropriate and relevant, the reports referred to in paragraph 1 above, including by providing technical advice and support on elaborating appropriate institutional arrangements and establishing and maintaining national technical teams;

(e) Should, to the extent possible, [provide, upon request,][collate, disseminate and publicize] information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation, as appropriate, of the reports referred to in paragraph 1 above;

(f) Should, to the extent possible, support the development of sustainable national and regional pipelines of experts trained to participate in technical expert reviews from developing country Parties, for example through the facilitation of targeted training, mentoring and knowledge exchange, with a view to enhancing the availability and capacity of qualified experts to participate in technical expert reviews and improving representation in technical expert review teams;

(g) Should, to the extent possible, actively seek to increase the pool of qualified technical experts through targeted outreach and training initiatives, focusing on building and maintaining a sustainable pool of reviewers, particularly from developing country Parties.

5. The Consultative Group of Experts shall determine the share of resources to be allocated to implementing the activities referred to in paragraphs 2–3 above taking into account the needs of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and report on this matter in its annual reports to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

6. The Consultative Group of Experts [should][will][shall] collaborate[, to the extent possible,] with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as with representatives of relevant multilateral programmes and organizations, while avoiding duplication of work.

7. [The Consultative Group of Experts shall develop [an annual work programme] [, at its first meeting in 20xx, a work programme for 20xx–20xx.] [every four years and include information on its progress in implementing the work programme in its annual reports to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.]]

8. The Consultative Group of Experts shall include information in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on any resource constraints identified in implementing the work programme referred to in paragraph 7 above.

9. The Consultative Group of Experts shall forward recommendations on the matters referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 above for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, as appropriate.]
