RPG 2020: Review issues of a cross-cutting nature

7th BRs and NCs lead reviewers meeting
9–10 June 2020
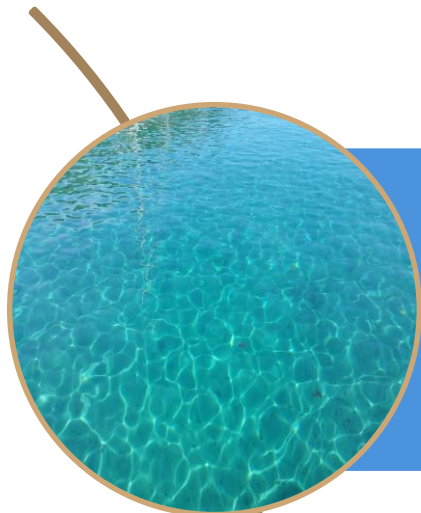Virtual meeting

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Transparency

1. How to distinguish between completeness and transparency?

2. How to review cross-references to other information reported by a Party?

Transparency

1. How to distinguish between completeness and transparency?

Review requirement

13/CP.20, para. 105. The issues identified during the technical review of individual sections of the BR shall be identified as relating to the following:

(a) Transparency; (b) Completeness; (c) Timeliness;

(d) Adherence to the biennial report reporting guidelines as per decision 2/CP.17.

Review challenges

- Reviewers can identify issues of completeness with relative ease (something is or is not reported). **However, transparency can inherently be more subjective**.

- RPG has elaborated guidance on how to distinguish completeness and transparency, but more practical guidance may be warranted.

Experience / recent findings

Over a quarter of transparency findings in TRR3 are related to one or more of the following: explanation on use of notation keys (~15 findings), inconsistencies in reporting (~34 findings), and errors in numbers (~24 findings)

1. How to distinguish between completeness and transparency?

Suggested approach

- Add reference to these common occurrences in the guidance on assessing transparency, by inserting an additional bullet to read:

To assess whether information is complete and/or transparent, the ERT may follow these steps:

(a) If the information reported by the Party corresponds fully to the particular reporting requirement of the guidelines, then this information should be considered complete;

(b) If the information reported by the Party does not give rise to questions and allows the reader to assess its credibility, reliability and relevance, then this information should be considered transparent. Information should also be considered transparent if the elements necessary for its understanding are all provided in an open, clear and factual manner;

(c) NEW: Failure to explain use of notation keys, inconsistencies within the NC/BR and/or between the text of the NC/BR and the CTF tables, and errors in the numbers presented in the NC/BR or accompanying CTF tables, are issues of transparency.
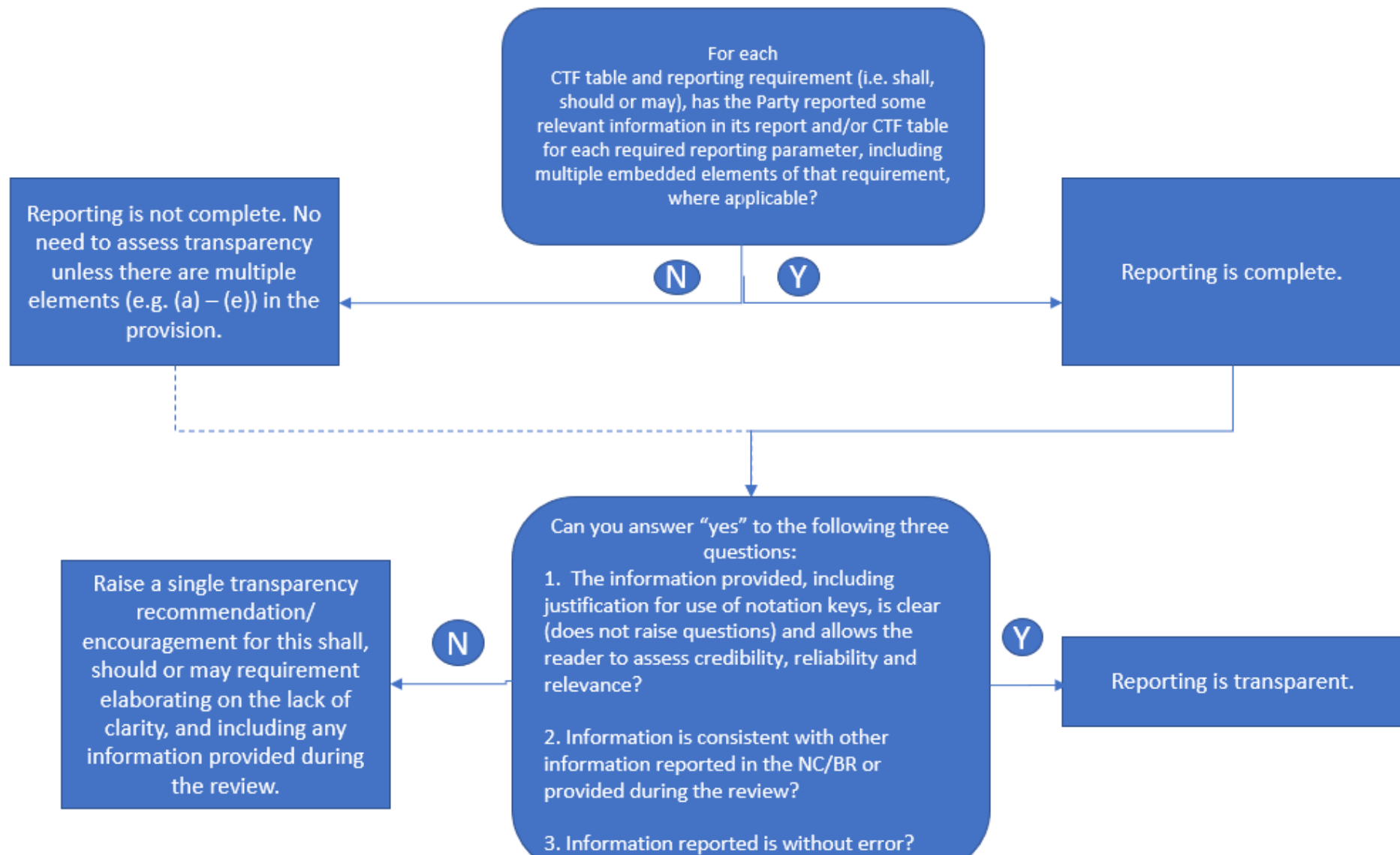
Could also illustrate the approach through a visual (next slide)

1. How to distinguish between completeness and transparency?

Suggested approach : https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2020-RPG_remote.pdf

For each CTF table and reporting requirement (i.e. shall, should or may), has the Party reported some relevant information in its report and/or CTF table for each required reporting parameter, including multiple embedded elements of that requirement, where applicable?

N / **Y**

Reporting is not complete. No need to assess transparency unless there are multiple elements (e.g. (a) – (e)) in the provision.

Reporting is complete.

Can you answer "yes" to the following three questions:
1. The information provided, including justification for use of notation keys, is clear (does not raise questions) and allows the reader to assess credibility, reliability and relevance?

2. Information is consistent with other information reported in the NC/BR or provided during the review?

3. Information reported is without error?

N → Raise a single transparency recommendation/ encouragement for this shall, should or may requirement elaborating on the lack of clarity, and including any information provided during the review.

Y → Reporting is transparent.

Reporting requirement(s)

NC Reporting GL:

- Para 4. Parties **should provide references** to additional relevant background information in an annex to the NC. Parties **should also provide this information and other relevant background information to the secretariat on its request, preferably in English,** or another official language of the United Nations

- Para 18. PaMs: In cases where a policy or measure has been maintained over time and is thoroughly described in the Party's previous NC, **reference should be made** to this and only a **brief description** contained in the latest NC, focusing on any alterations….

- Para. 44. Transparency of model/approach to projections. Parties **should provide references** for more detailed information related to (a) to (e) above.

BR GL: **No specific references to cross referencing**, however, there are requirements to report changes since the previous NC.

Review challenge:

Is there a standard way ERTs should recommend/encourage cross-references be made?

2. How to review cross-references to other information reported by a Party?

Examples

Party A was encouraged to provide **summary information on models in the NC/BR along with a reference** while Party B was encouraged **to provide a reference** for the description of the type of model/approach.

Questions?

a. Should Parties generally provide summary information in the BR in addition to the reference…

b. Regarding the reference, should the Party reference the [NIR][section of the NIR][page X of NIR]

Transparency

Suggested approach: Add new issue in the RPG

Reporting of cross-references by a Party is acceptable providing that sufficient transparency is maintained in the submission. When a Party provides a reference to an external document, the ERT should ensure that:

(a) For qualitative information, there is a **minimum summary** in the NC/BR to enable the reader to understand the content of the reference and how it relates to requirement;

(b) Reference is **publicly available** (except CBI), and any weblinks are active and relevant;

(c) Reference includes, as appropriate, **the section and/or page number**;

(d) The underlying **information responds to the reporting requirement**;

(e) If the underlying information is necessary for ensuring a Party has met a reporting requirement, and **information is not in a UN language, the Party summarizes in English**.

*If based on this analysis the ERT determines that the reference does not contain the information to satisfy the reporting requirement**, this is a recommendation/encouragement on completeness.**

* If the underlying information is relevant but is difficult to find or understand how it meets the reporting requirement, **this is a recommendation/encouragement on transparency.**

Thank you!!