

Lessons from BTR1 submissions

Tracking NDC progress

Main findings, best practices
from CBIT-GSP quality review
self-assessment tool

April 9, 2026

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Federal Foreign Office



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on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

CBIT-GSP quality check

In 2024 the CBIT-GSP team set up a team of experts to offer countries a preliminary quality check review of the draft BTRs, offering this service for full document/single chapter/CRT/CTF tables assessment before the official submission to UNFCCC.

As of April 2026, 38 parties used this support mechanism for their first BTRs, of which 32 included their NDC tracking chapter/CTF tables.

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Assessment tool

An MPG checklist for assessing level of completeness of the information provided, with indication of where the information should be found (CTF table and/or text).

MPG Provisions <input type="checkbox"/>	Coverage <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Included as text in the chapter or in CTF tables/appendix</i>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
B. Description of a Party's nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, including updates		
64. Each Party shall provide a description of its NDC under Article 4, against which progress will be tracked. The information provided shall include the following, as applicable, including any updates to information previously provided:	CTF Appendix	
a) Target(s) and description, including target type(s) (e.g. economy-wide absolute emission reduction, emission intensity reduction, emission reduction below a projected baseline, mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions or economic diversification plans, policies and measures, and other);	Partial CTF Appendix	Targets are reported but no description or additional information is given regarding some of them. For example, clarifications on the energy efficiency target are necessary, as it is not clear how efficiency is defined (i.e. which indicator), and to which sectors will this target be applied.
b) Target year(s) or period(s), and whether they are single-year or multi-year target(s);	Partial CTF Appendix	Missing info if the target is a single year or multi-year target
c) Reference point(s), level(s), baseline(s), base year(s) or starting point(s), and their respective value(s);	No CTF Appendix	Reference point needs to be quantified with real data of 2010 emissions and efficiency indicator
d) Time frame(s) and/or periods for implementation;	Yes CTF Appendix	
e) Scope and coverage, including, as relevant, sectors, categories, activities, sources and sinks, pools and gases;	Partial CTF Appendix	The party should specify these information for each single one of the 4 targets
f) Intention to use cooperative approaches that involve the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes under Article 6 towards NDCs under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement;	Yes CTF Appendix	
g) Any updates or clarifications of previously reported information (e.g. recalculation of previously reported inventory data, or greater detail on methodologies or use of cooperative approaches).	NA CTF Appendix	

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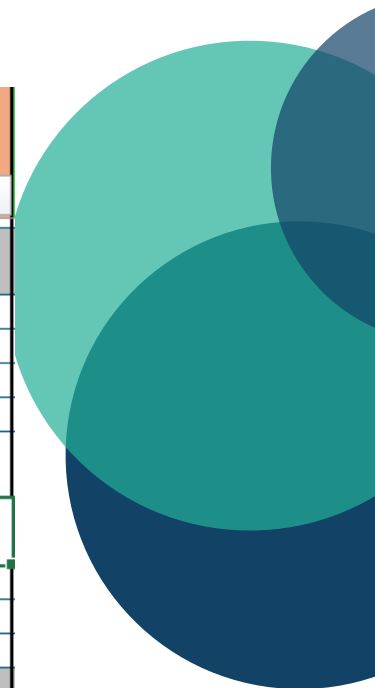
Each MPG provision fulfillment gets classified as "Yes", "Partial", "No" and "NA", and the reviewer adds relative comments on how to further improve the reporting.

MPG Provisions	Coverage	Included as text in the chapter or in CTF tables/appendix	Comments
82. Each Party shall provide the following information on its actions, policies and measures, to the extent possible, in a tabular format:		CTF Table 5	
a) Name;	Yes	CTF Table 5	
b) Description;	Yes	CTF Table 5	
c) Objectives;	Yes	CTF Table 5	
d) Type of instrument (regulatory, economic instrument or other);	No	CTF Table 5	Please add a cell for the measure classification
e) Status (planned, adopted or implemented);	Partial	CTF Table 5	"Ongoing" is not the official terminology. Please use "implemented", "adopted" or "planned"
f) Sector(s) affected (energy, transport, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, LULUCF, waste management or other);	Yes	CTF Table 5, Table 7, Table 8, Table 9	
g) Gases affected;	Yes	CTF Table 5	
h) Start year of implementation;	No	CTF Table 5	Please add start year of the implementation
i) Implementing entity or entities.	Yes	CTF Table 5	
83. Each Party may also provide the following information for each action, policy and measure reported:			
a) Costs;	No	CTF Table 5 and Text	may add info
b) Non-GHG mitigation benefits;	No	CTF Table 5 and Text	may add info

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Overview feedback

After the quality-check review the country receives back:

- Compiled MPG checklist with comments
- Textual draft with review comments
- Summary of general and technical findings

After analyzing the material received, the country can also ask for a meeting to ask for additional clarifications or, after having improved the report, submit it again for an additional check.

Key	Comment
G.I.1	There are areas where information has not <u>be</u> provided for the GHGI chapter of the BTR, additionally, the <u>manner_in_which</u> the chapter is layout does not reflect the NID suggested template, and therefore there are many instances where information is repeated unnecessarily or detailed in sections where it does not make sense.
T.I.1	There is an overall lack of methodological details provided for the GHGI, this includes information on approach, activity data, emission factors and data calculations for data gaps (interpolation and extrapolation).

Key	Recommendation	Relevant MPG
G.I.1	The structure and layout of <u>the Chapter</u> I: GHGI should more closely follow the structure and content as detailed within Decision 5/CMA.3. There are gaps of information in the report, and utilizing the structure detailed in this document could enhance overall reporting. Please also refer to the comments in the body of the text of the BTR, where details of how data and information within the report should be presented.	
T.I.1	<input type="text"/> should provide more detailed information pertaining to methodology, as well as providing the full time series of information and data for AD and EF. Where data interpolation and extrapolation have been used, <input type="text"/> should detail in full how this was done, as well as providing reference to assumptions made.	
T.I.2	<input type="text"/> should include a section within the <u>report</u> which is dedicated to where flexibility has been used, and how this has been used, and how they seek to improve upon this through their BTR improvement plan for the next reporting cycle.	
T.I.3	Timeseries: Please provide clarity on the <u>gaps in the timeseries</u> .	

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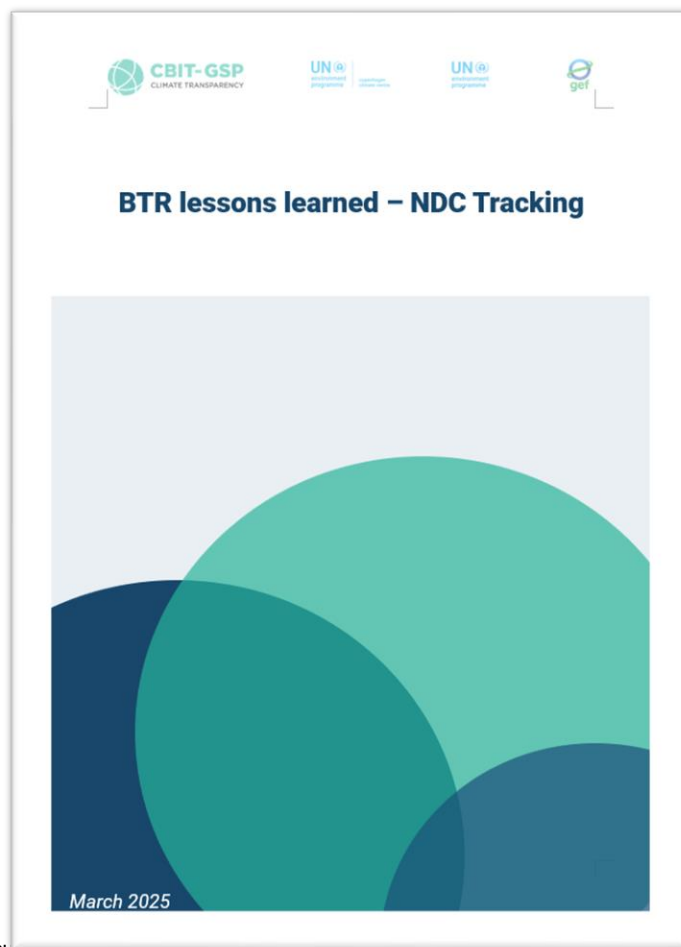
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Knowledge products



Two short Knowledge Products on lessons learned are underway for publication:

- GHG inventory
- NDC tracking chapter

These will collect the main findings, commonalities and gaps found by the review team, and for each one further explanations, recommendations and best practices from other Parties will be presented.

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Main findings – Cross cutting

Notation Keys:

- The use of NA, NE, NO, IE, C and FX should always be justified/explained
- A measure status can be "Planned/adopted/implemented" (there is no "ongoing" or "under implementation")

Flexibility:

- Each time Flexibility is used, the Party should explain why it was applied and by when it aims to provide the information and stop using flexibility
- As a good practice, a short summary paragraph at the end of the chapter collecting all flexibility provisions and an estimated timeline (e.g. BTR2) for reporting improvement

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Main findings – NDC tracking

Three main commonalities have been selected for further analysis:

- Indicator selection and definition for NDC tracking
- Reporting of mitigation measures and adaptation measures with co-mitigation benefits (CTF5)
- GHG projections

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NDC tracking indicator selection

Multiple BTR drafts shared a varied selection of indicators for the NDC tracking purposes:

- Many Additional indicators apart from primary ones (e.g. Transport electrification %, Waste sector emission reduction etc.)
 - Additional burden for data collection, monitoring, historical data requirements
 - More chances of not reaching indicator expectations
- Not clear relation between selected indicators and NDC goals
- Poor definition of indicators (unit, sectors)
 - E.g. "Energy efficiency", is it MWh/GDP or MWh/ppl? What sectors are included in the indicator's goals?

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NDC tracking indicator selection

Recommendations and best practices:

- Select most impactful indicators as possible, according to the country's NDC (work together with the NDC team)
- When selecting indicators, consider first:
 - How does this indicator relate/contribute to the NDC's progress tracking? (always report that in the BTR!)
 - What is the availability of historical data of the selected indicator? Are there institutional arrangements in place concerning the data acquisition and evaluation?
- Always carefully define indicator and its monitoring/evaluation methodology, i.e unit of measure, sectorial and geographical scope

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Measure reporting

Both in the textual format and in CTF table 5, often countries reported broad policies and frameworks consisting of several sub-measures, that were only partially relevant to NDC targets, or for which no methodology, goal or monitoring was defined.

This translates into challenges in consistently evaluating and tracking their progress and contribution to the NDC goals.

The same can be said for Adaptation measures with co-mitigation benefits. Parties often reported broad adaptation and environmental policies without focusing on the actual sub-measures with clear and measurable co-mitigation benefits.

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Measure reporting

Recommendations and best practices:

While in the textual report it is useful to also report the overarching framework and policies, it is then a good practice (especially in CTF table 5) to **define and report sectorial and sub-sectorial measures with a clear mitigation impact** that can be estimated in terms of equivalent CO2 emission reductions.

Create Linkages with CTF Table 3: For each measure, a clear methodology (including sectorial scope) should be defined and reported in textual format and where relevant in CTF table 3.

Expected goals and estimated achieved progresses should be estimated according to the defined methodology.

Table 3:
Methodologies
and accounting
approaches



Table 5:
Mitigation policies,
measures, actions
and plans

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Measure reporting - example

Name	Description	Objectives	Type of instrument	Status	Sector(s) affected	Sub-sector(s) affected	Gases affected	Start year of implementation	Implementing entity or entities	Estimates of GHG emission reductions (kt CO ₂ eq)											
										2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2025	2030
Promotion of the introduction of facilities and equipment with high energy-saving performance (petroleum product manufacturing sector)	Promote efforts to achieve energy reductions equivalent to 1 million kL in crude oil equivalent from BAU by (1) effective use of heat, (2) introduction of advanced control and high-efficiency equipment, (3) improvement of power system operations, and (4) large-scale improvements and upgrade of processes, based on the Industry's Action Plans for a Low-Carbon Society in the petroleum product manufacturing sector by petroleum refiners.	Effective use of heat, introduction of advanced control and high-efficiency equipment, improvement of power system operations, and large-scale improvements and upgrades of processes	Subsidy	Implemented	Energy	Energy conversion	CO ₂	2013	METI	86	319	556	748	1,007	1,137	1,164	1,127	1,273	1,416	1,412	2,047
Promotion of the introduction of facilities and equipment with high energy-saving performance (across industries)	Introduction of high-efficiency air conditioning	Introduction of high-efficiency air conditioning	Law / Standard, Taxation, Subsidy, Technology Development	Implemented	Energy	Industry	CO ₂	2008	METI	46	93	147	205	260	306	398	447	504	548	860	690
	Introduction of industrial HP (heat pump)	Introduction of industrial Heat pump	Law / Standard, Taxation, Subsidy, Technology Development	Implemented	Energy	Industry	CO ₂	2008	METI	2	19	36	51	71	92	108	117	137	155	660	1,610
	Introduction of industrial high-efficiency lighting	Introduction of industrial lighting	Law / Standard, Taxation, Subsidy, Technology Development	Implemented	Energy	Industry	CO ₂	2008	METI	670	1,259	1,881	2,552	3,252	3,902	4,532	5,102	5,832	6,402	8,442	2,931

Exe



Projections

Very few countries included projections in their BTR and applied flexibility. But also those who did, often reported projections that were not fully aligned with the MPG provisions:

- Projections should be **extended 15 years after the next year ending in 5 or 0 after the last NDC** (e.g. NDC 2020/2024 -> projections up to 2040)
- Baseline scenarios used for measures/NDC goals is NOT the WEM scenario, but the WOM:
 - WEM = With Measures. Projection including all measures reported in CTF table 5
 - WOM = WithOut Measures. Baseline scenario/Business as Usual
 - WAM = With Additional Measures
- Of the three, only the WEM is a "shall" MPG. *Good practice is also to break-down projection by sector and gas*
- Assumptions and methodology should be reported for each reported projection

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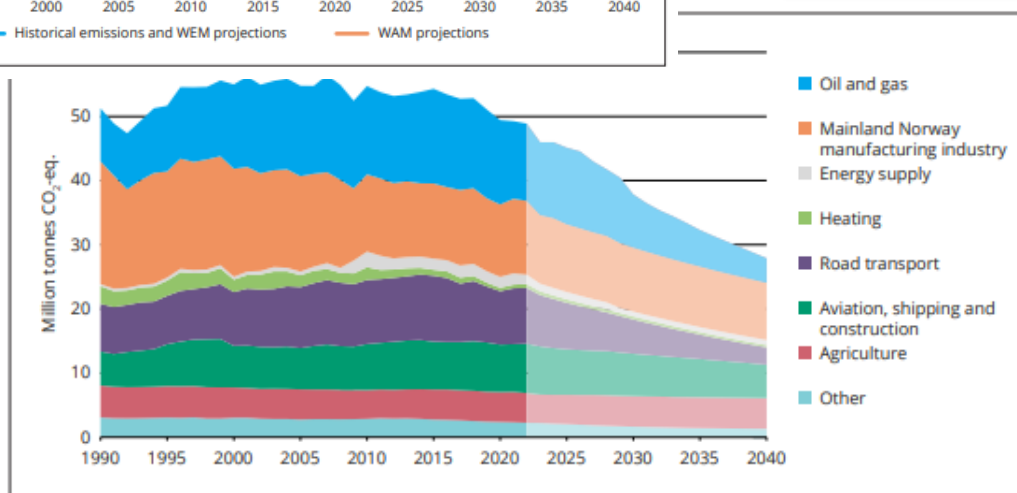
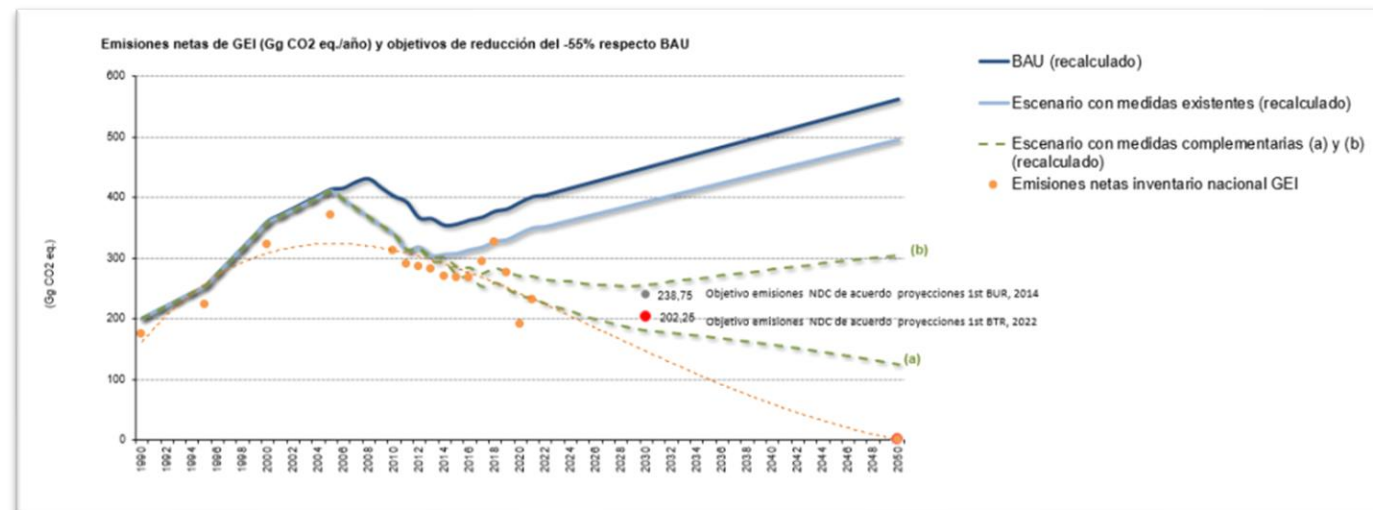
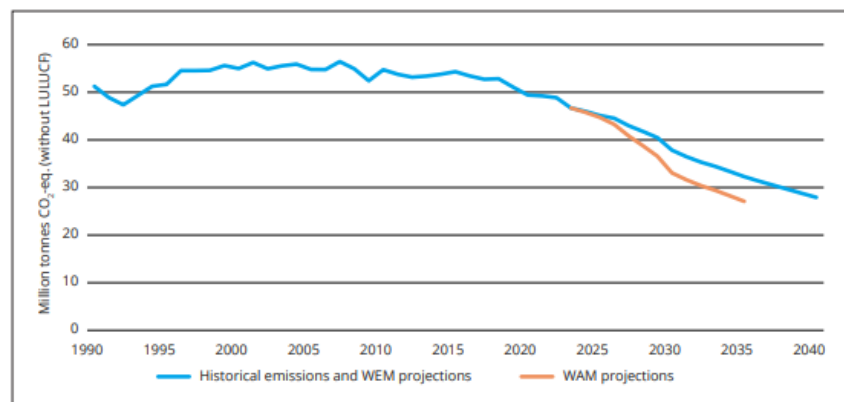


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Projections - examples

Figure 2.7 Historic emissions and WEM and WAM projections without LULUCF (million tonnes CO₂ equivalents)



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Thank you!

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