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# Hands-on training session for technical expert reviewers under the Paris Agreement

Transparency Division

13 November 2024

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A horizontal line composed of several colored segments: teal, yellow, orange, light blue, purple, and green.



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## Agenda

- Welcome
- Course A overview
- How to build good questions?
- Q&A
- Course D highlights
- Practical activity
- Q&A

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# Overview Course

## Structure of Courses

### BTR Review Training Programme

- A. General and cross-cutting aspects for the technical expert review under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement
- B. Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- C. Tracking Progress in Implementing and Achieving NDCs
- D. Financial, technology development and transfer and capacity building support
- E. Climate change impacts and adaptation reported under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement

## Guiding principles of the ETF

The ETF is guided by a group of guiding principles set out in the Paris Agreement and its MPGs. These principles apply to all elements of the ETF, and you should take them into account when participating in a TER.

**Respecting national sovereignty and avoiding undue burden**

**Building on and enhancing the transparency arrangements under the Convention**

**Providing flexibility to those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities**

**Promoting transparency, accuracy, completeness, consistency and comparability**

**Ensuring that double counting is avoided and ensuring environmental integrity**

**Recognizing the importance of facilitating improved reporting and transparency over time**



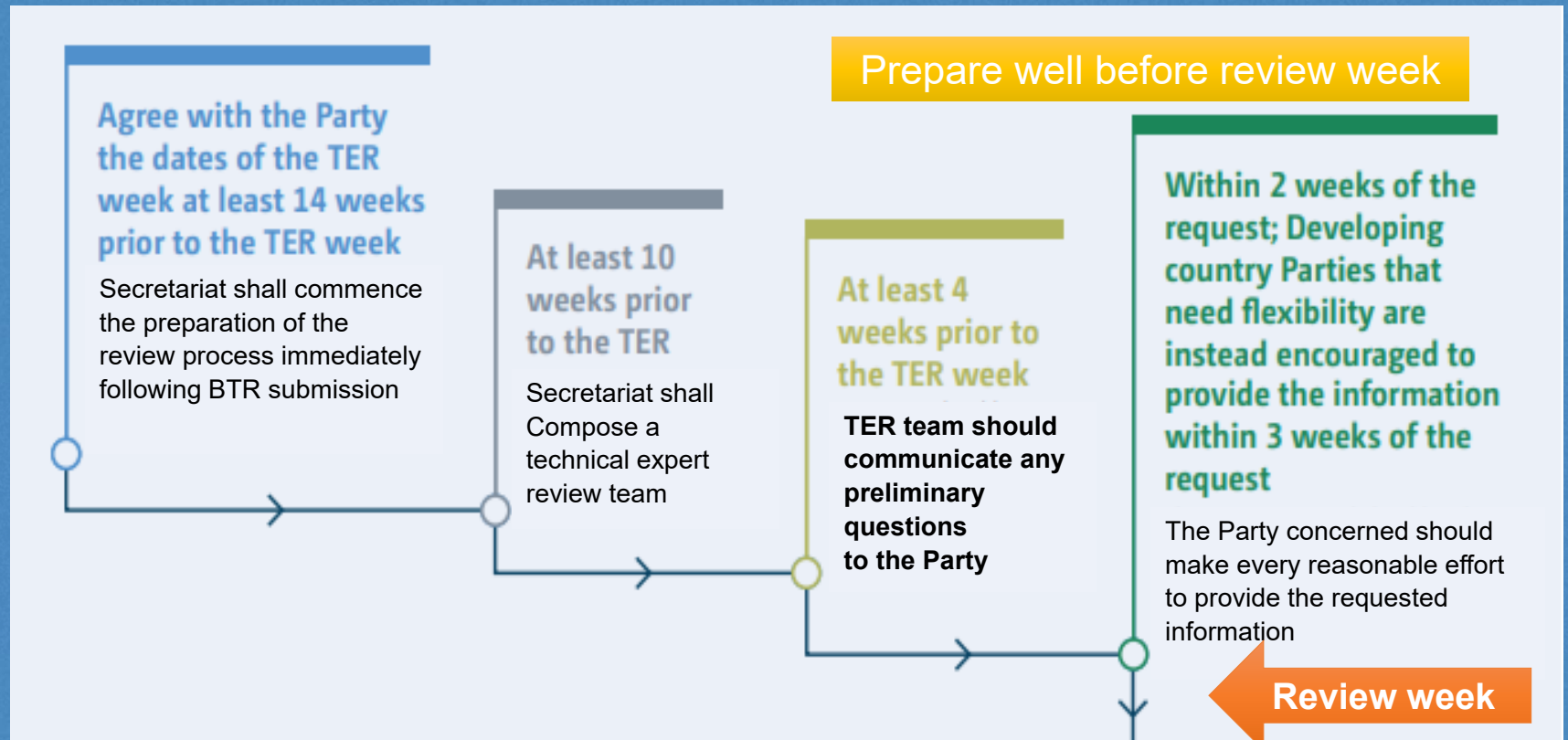
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## Scope of the TER

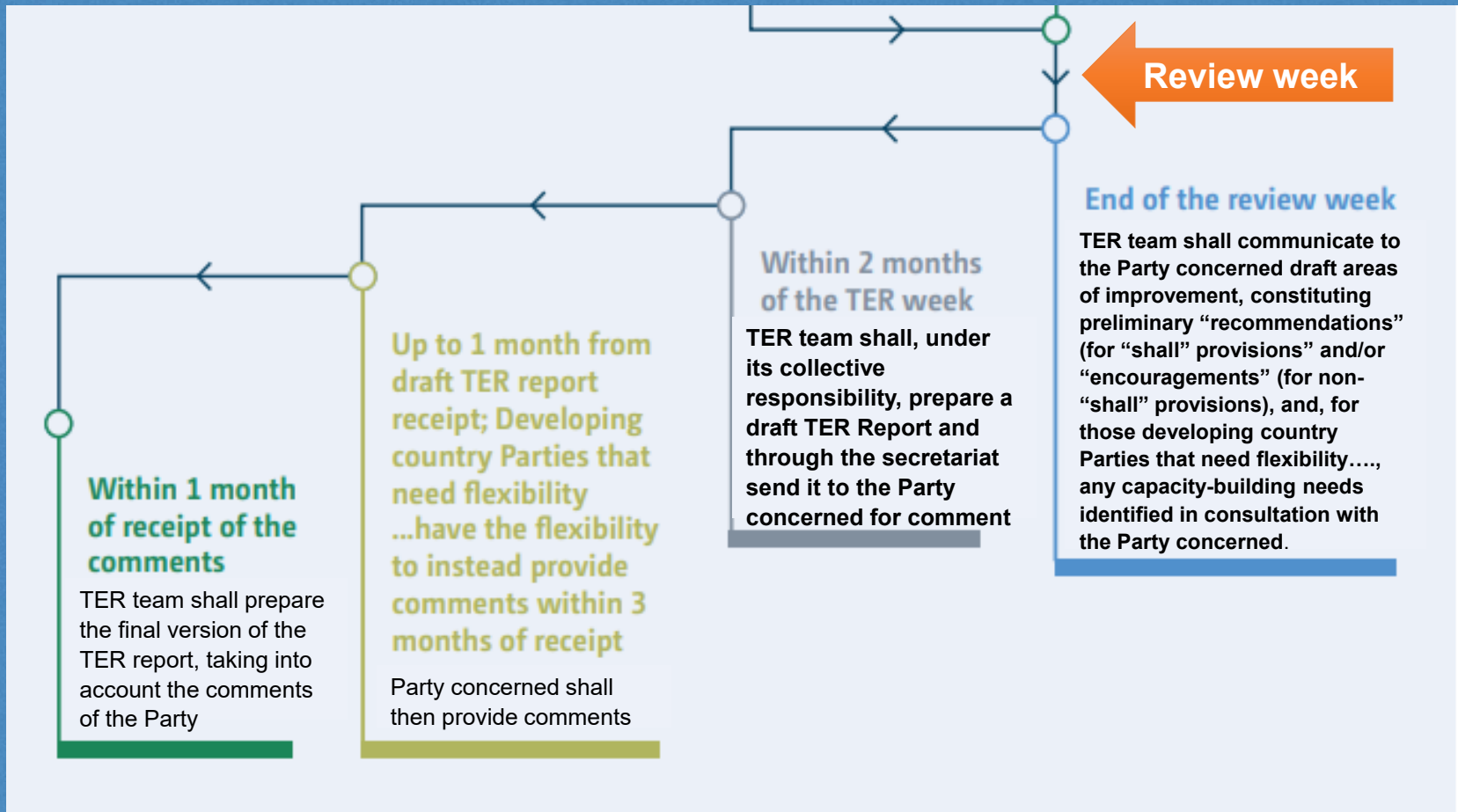
- Review of consistency with the MPGs
- Consideration of the Party's implementation and achievement of its NDC
- Consideration of the Party's support provided, if applicable
- Identification of areas of improvement for the Party related to ETF implementation
- For those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, assistance in identifying capacity-building needs



# Procedures and schedule of TER



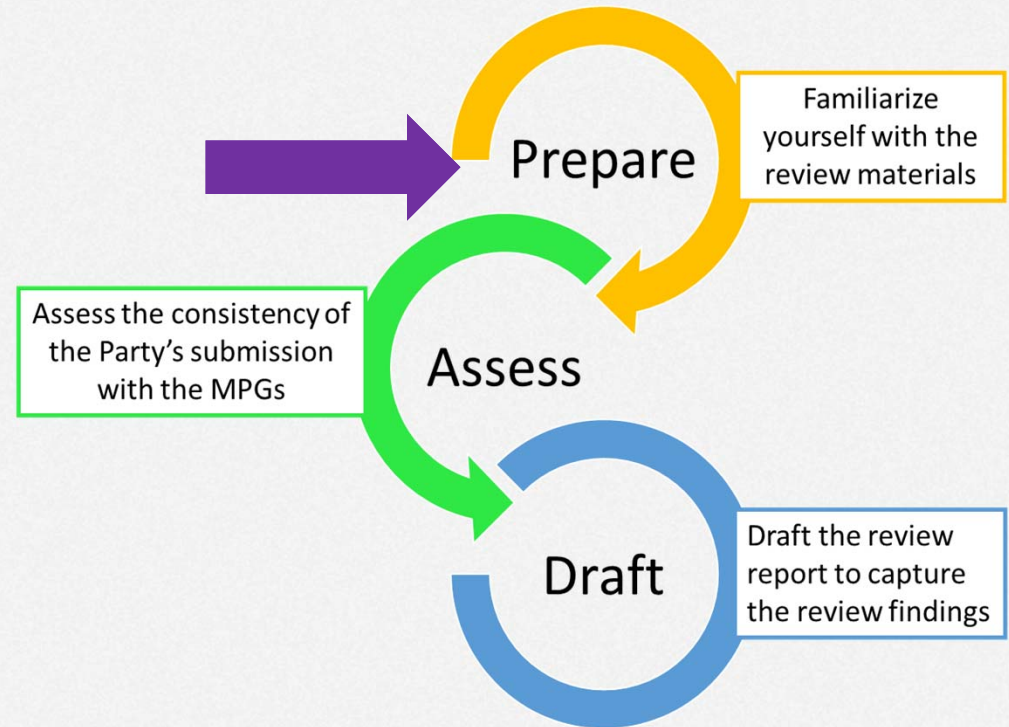
# Procedures and schedule of TER



# Steps to conducting a review

## Step 1. Prepare

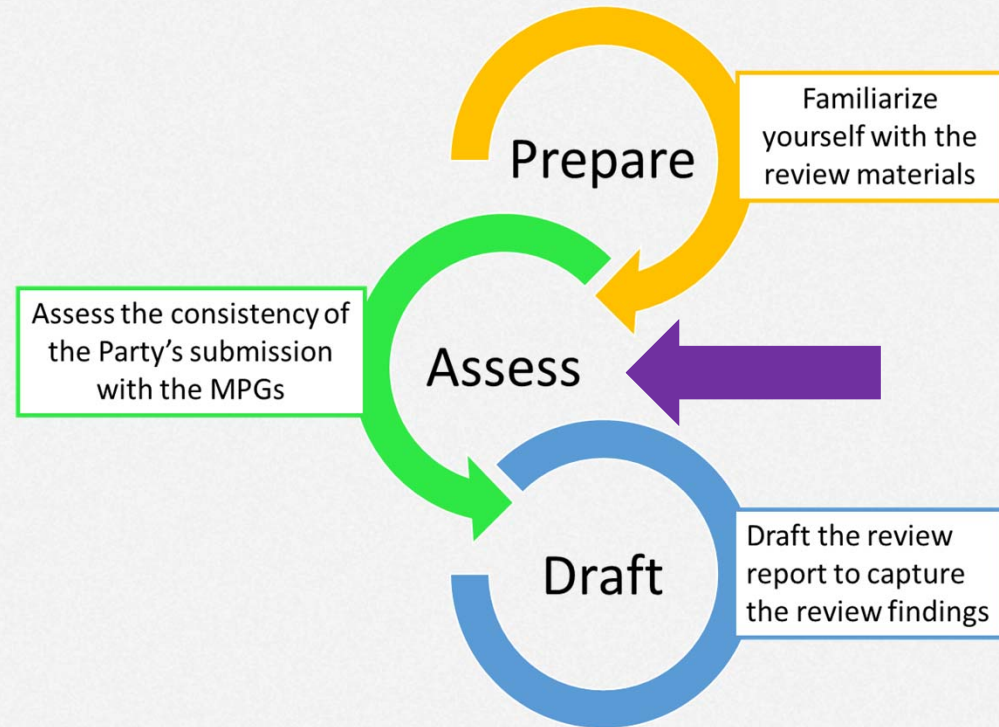
Your first task as a reviewer is to familiarize yourself with the review materials, including the MPGs, the Party's submission (BTR and CTF tables), the review tools provided by the secretariat and the previous TER reports, including previous recommendations and encouragements. This can involve a large amount of information. You should therefore prioritize your consideration of the review materials and focus first on the submissions.



## Steps to conducting a review

### Step 2. Assess

According to your expertise, you will review specific thematic areas of the Party's submission (namely, the NIR, information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving the NDC, and information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided to developing countries). Your primary task as a reviewer is to review the consistency of information reported in the BTR on the above-mentioned thematic areas with the MPGs.



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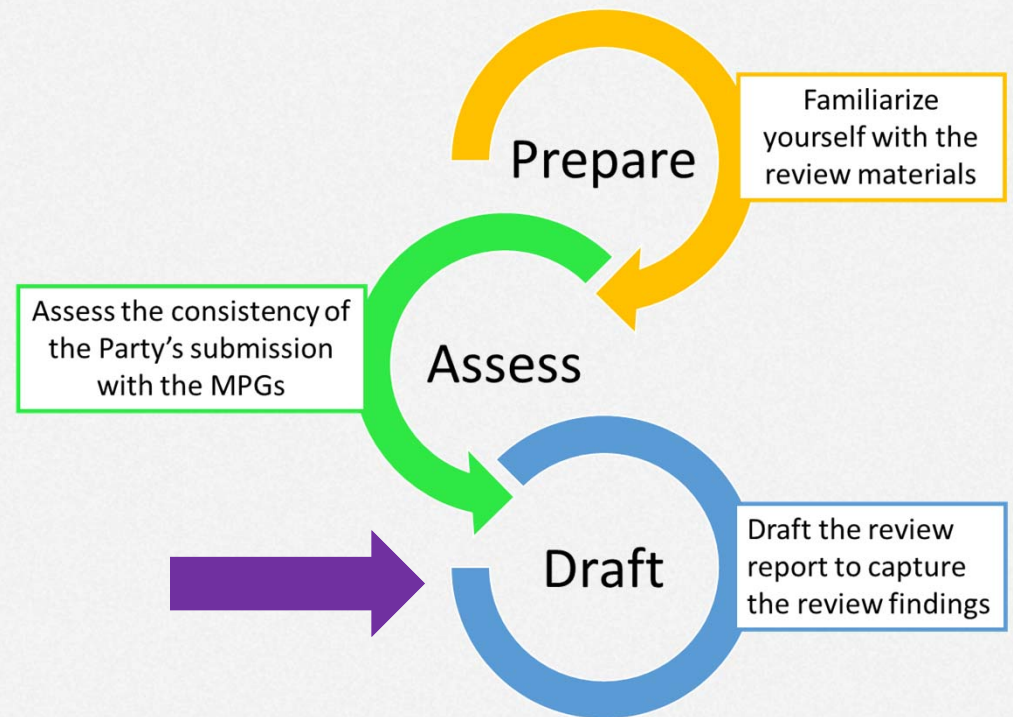


# Steps to conducting a review

## Step 3 - Draft

As a reviewer, you should contribute to a TER report containing the TER results for the Party under review. Your work on the review report should begin before the review week, when you start reading the review materials. You should have an initial draft of the review report ready on the first day of the review week. The complete draft TER report should be ready by the end of the review week.

After comments from the Party are received and addressed, the review report should be published no later than four months after the review week (or no later than six months for those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities).



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# Review tools and templates

The tools will help you to:

Organize your review findings.

Document your findings  
in the review report.



Communicate with the Party.

Identify possible issues with the Party's submission, in particular related to time-series consistency, accuracy, comparability and completeness.





## Review tools and templates

### Templates & checklists

The secretariat will develop templates and checklists in order to facilitate and organize your assessment and drafting of your findings in the output documents established in the MPGs. Templates are intended to promote:

- Consistency in the reviews among different Parties;
- Consistency in the contents among the outputs of the review (i.e. draft areas of improvement, capacity-building needs identified in consultation with the Party concerned (if appropriate), and the draft review report).

It is important to adhere to any templates provided by the secretariat. These templates will provide you with the space to include your findings that are specific to the review.



# Review tools and templates

## Virtual Team Room

A virtual team room will be made available as a documentation hub for the review. For reviews under the Convention, this virtual team room included all the materials used in the review and was used to store and exchange review documents between expert review team members, the secretariat and the Parties whose inventories were being reviewed

The virtual team room for reviews under the Convention included the following functionalities:



Reference library



Workspace



Question and answer module



Report preparation



## How to draft questions to a Party?

When the reporting does not meet the requirement since it might be not complete or not transparent, the TERT should communicate any preliminary questions on the provision not met or not clearly reported to the Party for their clarification. The TERT may also request additional information to the Party during the Review Week.

### A well-drafted question:

- Starts by noting what information was – or was not- reported or not clear to the TERT, by the Party in relation to the reporting requirements (including references to the particular section/page of the report and/or CTF table);
- Continues with an assessment of what information is incorrect/ missing/ unclear/etc. based on the MPGs reporting requirement (using a language as close as possible to the language of the MPGs);
- Finishes with a clear and specific question to the Party on the expected information (and/or explanation as to why the information could not be provided) to be provided to the TERT.



# Questions?



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# Course D: Financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided


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## MPGs 101: Information reported (para. 118) and reviewed (para. 150 (c))

- ❑ Developed country Parties shall provide information on **FTC support provided** to developing country Parties in accordance with section V of the MPGs → This submitted information shall undergo TER
- ❑ Other Parties that provide support should provide such information and, in doing so, are encouraged to follow section V of the MPGs → This submitted information may undergo TER, at the Party's discretion





## Reporting provisions on support provided and mobilized (Chapter V of MPGs)

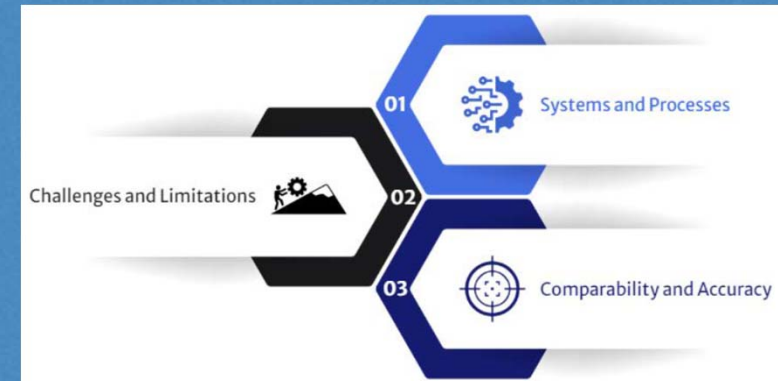
- A. National circumstances and institutional arrangements** (para. 119-120, MPGs) : **Textual format**
- B. Underlying assumptions, definitions and methodologies** (para. 121-122, MPGs) : **Textual format**
- C. Information on financial support provided and mobilized under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement** (paras. 123–125, MPGs) : **Textual and Tabular Format**
- D. Information on support for technology development and transfer provided under Article 10 of the Paris Agreement** (para. 126-127, MPGs): **Textual and Tabular Format**
- E. Information on capacity-building support provided under Article 11 of Paris Agreement** (paras. 128–129, MPGs) : **Textual and Tabular Format**



# National circumstances and institutional arrangements

## Assess – groupings of questions

- Systems and processes
  - Challenges and limitations
  - Comparability and accuracy
- **No agreed definitions or methods** to track FTC support to developing country Parties.
  - These are nationally determined by the Parties.
  - Parties have reported in their BRs on their use of the Rio markers.
  - The TERT can accept Parties' varied definitions of indicators and methods to track FTC support, if they are explained in a transparent manner.



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## Which methods or systems must be used by Parties when tracking FTC support to developing country Parties?



A

Compulsorily the Rio markers



B

Solely the OECD DAC methodology



C

Multilateral Development Bank approaches and methodologies



D

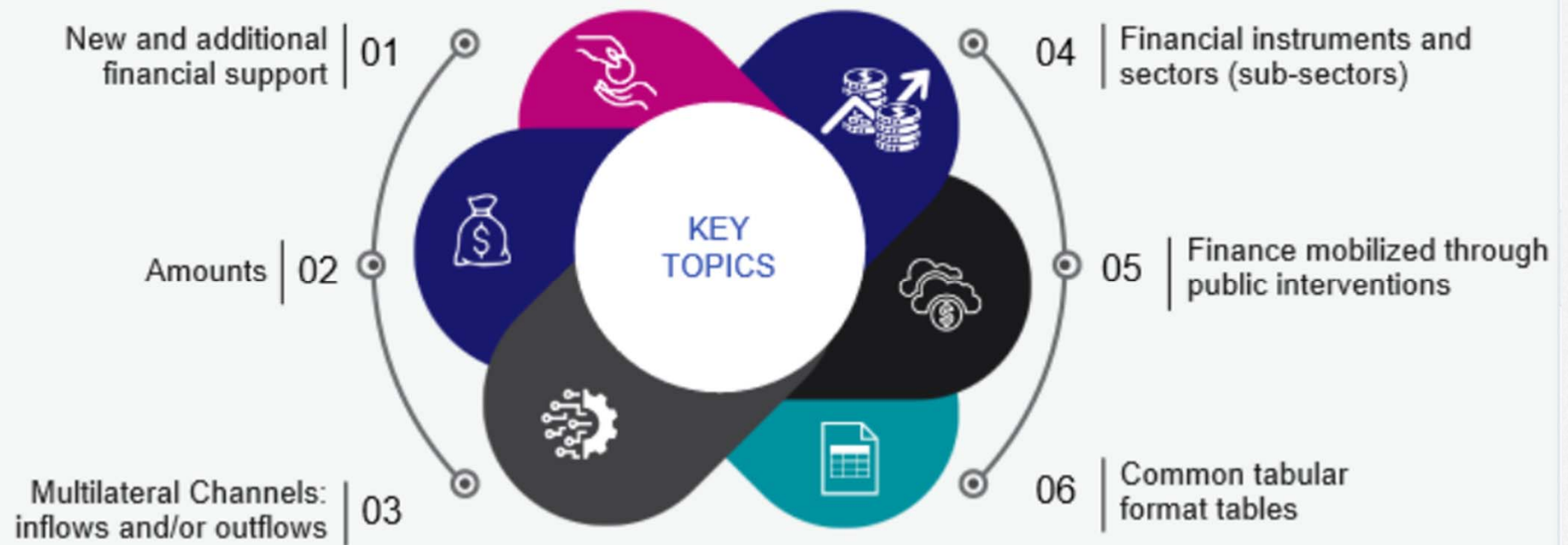
It is up to the Parties to decide which method/approach to adopt

How many think each of the answer is correct?



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# Key topics



## “New and additional” (finance)

No agreed definition and understanding diverges among Parties





“There is currently no international agreement on how [the term ‘new and additional’] should be defined. The Party is one of few OECD DAC members to have met, and even far exceeded, the UN international development aid goal of 0.7 % of gross national income (GNI). There is broad Parliamentary support, to continue delivering 1 % of the Party’s GNI to Official Development Assistance (ODA). Against this background, all climate finance provided by the Party during 2017-2020 should be viewed as new and additional.”

In order to assess the information reported by the Party to show how the support is “new and additional”, the ERT should assess whether the Party’s definitions include the necessary parameters to determine this. For example, if the definition is “Funds in excess of current” spending, a clarification would be required as to what is understood by “current” levels of support. Furthermore, the question of additionality requires that the Party define a baseline or base year against which additionality can be assessed.



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## According to the MPGs, the definition of “new and additional” financial resources is:

-  **A** Funds in excess of current official development assistance (ODA).
-  **B** Funds for projects that have been initiated since a particular baseline year or a new reporting year
-  **C** Funds mobilized through new channels, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
-  **D** Undefined. The MPGs do not provide a definition of “new and additional”. There is no agreed definition on what constitutes “new and additional”. The understanding of the nature of “new and additional” resources is dependent upon the individual approach taken by each Party.

How many think each of the answer is correct?



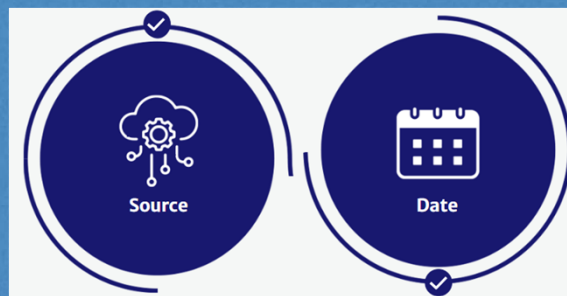
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## Amount – exchange rates

No agreed methods for determining which exchange rate to use and the choice relates to two aspects of exchange rates:

### Source:

wide range of sources provide exchange rates, including national financial institutions (e.g. central banks), international institutions (e.g. International Monetary Fund, OECD) and private sector platforms (e.g. OANDA). Differences in exchange rates from various sources are usually small, but given the large sums involved, can have a substantial influence on the sums reported.




**Date:** as currency exchange rates can fluctuate quite substantially, the date selected for the exchange rate can significantly change the sums reported. The main options for selecting the date used in an exchange rate are:



*Pay careful attention to the exchange rates used by the Party and check for consistency in the source and use of those rates per year throughout the report.*



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**If a developed country Party for which the domestic currency is euros, does not provide financial information in the CTF tables in USD, the TERT should, during the review:**



A

Provide no comment on this matter.



B

Clarify why the Party did not provide that information in the CTF tables. Explain to the Party the importance of comparable financial information across Parties and request that the Party provide updated information in USD. In the review report, recommend that the Party provide the requested information in USD in addition to the domestic currency.



C

Clarify why the Party did not provide that information in the CTF tables. Explain to the Party the importance of comparable financial information across Parties and request that the Party provide updated information in USD. In the review report, encourage the Party to provide the requested information in USD in addition to the domestic currency.



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## Effectively addressing the needs and priorities of developing country Parties (FTC)

No agreed definition of “effectiveness”


“It should be stressed that it is the partner country that promotes the Programs, Projects and Actions (PPA) and presents it to Party’s International Cooperation Agency for financing and has to demonstrate that and how the PPA contribute to meet its specific policies, priorities and strategies. The partner country is responsible for the selection process of the entity that will execute the PPA.”

Broad understanding of notion of “effectiveness” to be exercised by the TERT.




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# Technology development and transfer



Technology transfer is about the sharing among stakeholders of knowledge, experience and equipment for mitigating and adapting to climate change.



It is a process of learning to understand, utilize and replicate technology, including the capacity to choose it, adapt it to local conditions and integrate it with **indigenous technologies**.

Developed country Parties shall report on

- strategies employed to support technology development and transfer, including case studies (MPGs, para. 126(a)).
- Support provided at different stages of the technology cycle (MPGs, para. 126(b)).
- support provided for the development and **enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies of developing country Parties** (MPGs, para. 126(c)).
- Efforts to encourage private sector activities related to technology development and transfer and how such efforts support developing country Parties
- Efforts to accelerate, encourage and enable innovation, including research, development and deployment efforts, and collaborative approaches to research and development
- Knowledge generated



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## Enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies (TT)

Originating from within a country Party


“The Party’s Energy Agency has been active in India since 2009. The overall objective is to build long-term relationships based on trade, research cooperation and knowledge development. Since 2013, the Energy Agency has participated in the program Innovations Accelerator. The program supports business-oriented innovation development and dissemination by promoting networking and knowledge sharing between the Party’s and Indian actors active in innovative technologies for sustainable energy systems.”

- Adapting a transferred technology to local needs and conditions.

Fine line between implicit and explicit description of such projects.



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**If the Party did not report information explicitly addressing its support for the development of endogenous capacities and technologies of developing country Parties, the TERT should: raise a question to enhance the Party's understanding of the reporting requirement. This could involve asking:**



A

Whether the Party has supported technologies developed within the recipient country or by a team of in-country and external experts.



B

Whether the Party has supported technologies developed elsewhere but then adapted to local needs and conditions.



C

Whether the Party has supported the enhancement of the recipient country's capacity to assess climate-related technology needs, identified appropriate technologies to assist in meeting identified needs or adapted technologies to local needs and conditions.



D

All of the above.



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# Questions?



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# 2025 examination periods



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