Possible elements of revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts

Note by the co-facilitators: The possible elements outlined below have been prepared under the full responsibility of the co-facilitators as input to Parties’ discussions on the matter. They should not be considered an indication of the outcome of the negotiations.

PART A: Decision elements

PART A.1: Chapeau

1. Recall relevant Articles of the Convention, for example Article 4, paragraphs 1, 3 and 7, and Article 12, paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 7,

2. Recall the Paris Agreement, for example, Article 13, paragraphs 1, 14 and 15,

3. Recall 11/CP.24, paragraph 1, which extends the term of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention for eight years, from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2026, and renames it the Consultative Group of Experts,

4. Recall decision 11/CP.24, paragraph 5, in which the Subsidiary Body for Implementation was requested to review and revise the terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts,

5. Recall decision 1/CP.24, paragraph 38, in which it was decided that the final biennial update reports shall be those that are submitted to the secretariat no later than 31 December 2024; and paragraph 43(a), in which it was decided that Parties may submit their national communication and biennial transparency report as a single report,

6. Recall decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 15, in which it was decided that the Consultative Group of Experts shall also serve the Paris Agreement, starting from 1 January 2019, to support the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement by, inter alia:
   a. Facilitating the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties, as applicable, including for the preparation and submission of their biennial transparency reports and facilitating improved reporting over time;
   b. Providing technical advice to the secretariat on the implementation of the training of the technical expert review teams referred to in paragraph 12(c) of decision 18/CMA.1,

7. Recall relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, for example, 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, 20/CP.22 and 11/CP.24,

8. Recall decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 98, whereby the Conference of the Parties decided that the modalities, procedures and guidelines of the transparency framework shall build upon and eventually supersede the measurement, reporting and verification system established by decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 40–47 and 60–64, and decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 12–62, immediately following the submission of the final biennial reports and biennial update reports,

9. Recognize that the Consultative Group of Experts plays an important role in facilitating the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties, as applicable, for the
preparation and submission of national communications, biennial update reports and biennial transparency reports, as relevant,

10. Recall decision 11/CP.24, paragraph 2, in which it was established that the Consultative Group of Experts, in fulfilling its mandate, shall function in accordance with decision 19/CP.19 and its annex,

11. Note the ongoing implementation and delivery of the 2019 work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts, in which the submission of first biennial update reports has been identified as one of the priorities.

**PART A.2: Operative part**

12. Language that adopts the revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts contained in the annex;

13. The Consultative Group of Experts to develop at its first meeting in 2020 a work programme for the period 2020–2026 [and a two-year rolling workplan starting from 2020][, with a revision in 2024], taking full account of the elements listed in paragraphs 2–8 in the annex;

14. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation to consider reviewing the terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts at its [fifty-fourth session (May–June 2021)][x session (2028)] and to recommend a draft decision thereon for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its [twenty-seventh session (November 2021)][session in 2028];

15. Request the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to consider the annual progress report of the Consultative Group of Experts referred to in paragraph 7 of the annex and, as appropriate, provide guidance;

16. Request the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its fifty-second session (June 2020), to consider revisions to the composition of the Consultative Group of Experts to reflect its updated functions and its role serving the Paris Agreement, with a view to forwarding a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session (November 2020) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its third session (November 2020);

17. The actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

**PART B: Annex elements**

1. The objective of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) shall be to enhance, by providing technical advice and support, the institutional and technical capacity of developing country Parties to prepare and submit their national communications (NCs), biennial update reports (BURs), national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and biennial transparency reports (BTRs) with a view to ensuring the improvement of their reporting over time. It shall also provide technical advice and support to developing country Parties to meet other reporting requirements that might emerge through future decisions by the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

2. [The CGE, in fulfilling its mandate, shall support the implementation of the existing measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention by, inter alia][The CGE’s primary objective prior to 2024 shall be to support the implementation of the existing measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention by, inter alia]:
   a. Identify and provide technical assistance regarding problems and constraints that have affected the process of and the preparation of NCs and BURs by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties);
   b. Provide technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the process of and the preparation of their NCs and BURs 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;

c. Provide technical advice to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of processes of the preparation of NCs and BURs, including the elaboration of appropriate institutional arrangements and the establishment and maintenance of national technical teams, for the preparation of NCs and BURs, including GHG inventories, on a continuous basis;

d. Provide recommendations, as appropriate, on elements to be considered in a future revision of the guidelines for the preparation of NCs and BURs from non-Annex I Parties, taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of these reports. Special support should be given to the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) for the preparation of BURs and BTRs;

e. Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, and information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation of NCs and BURs by non-Annex I Parties;

f. Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, on the provision of information on steps 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;

g. Provide information and technical advice based on, where possible, lessons learned and best practices in the process of and preparation of NCs and BURs by non-Annex I Parties, including in relation to finance and other support available;

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

i. Develop and organize, with the assistance of the secretariat, appropriate training programmes for nominated technical experts to begin no later than 2014, based on the most up-to-date training materials of the CGE, with a view to improving the technical analysis, taking into account the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their BURs and in particular the LDCs and SIDS with a view to increasing their representation in technical expert review teams.

3. The CGE shall also support the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement by, inter alia:

a. Facilitating the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties, as applicable, including for the preparation and submission of their BTRs, and facilitating 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;

b. Providing technical advice to the secretariat on the implementation of the training of the technical expert review teams referred to in decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 12(c);

c. Having a key role in the design of the training materials of the technical expert review teams and the implementation of the training programmes;

d. Providing technical advice and support to developing country Parties on how to address areas of improvement and capacity-building needs identified in the technical expert review process;

e. Identifying problems, constraints and needs that are affecting the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement by developing country Parties with a view to addressing those needs;

f. Providing technical advice and support to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of the report preparation processes referred to in paragraph 2(a) and (b) above, including the development of institutional arrangements and structures at the national level
necessary to meet the transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement, as appropriate, on a sustained and continuous basis with national capacities.

4. Prepare, with the assistance of the secretariat, the synthesis reports referred to in decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 24.

5. Collaborate, to the extent possible, with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as other relevant multilateral programmes and organizations, while avoiding duplication of work.

6. Revise its rules of procedure, if needed.

7. Submit an annual report on the progress of its work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its session held in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties.

8. Forward recommendations on the matters referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, as appropriate.