

Outlines of the biennial transparency report, national inventory document and technical expert review report pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support

Informal note by the co-facilitators

25 June 2019

Note: The draft elements contained in the annex to this paper have been prepared by the co-facilitators of the negotiations on this agenda sub-item under their own responsibility. The elements have been drawn from views submitted by Parties prior to the session¹ and further discussion among Parties at the session. The elements are preliminary, are not exhaustive, have no formal status and should not be considered as final in any way. They are intended to assist us in advancing the discussions on this matter and do not prejudice further work or prevent Parties from expressing their views at any time.

Overview of the informal consultations on this agenda sub-item

The informal consultations on agenda sub-item 10(d), “Outlines of the biennial transparency report, national inventory document and technical expert review report pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support”, at the session were co-facilitated by Xiang Gao (China) and Helen Plume (New Zealand).

The co-facilitators recognize that Parties were of the view that the outlines being developed of the biennial transparency report, national inventory document and technical expert review report shall follow the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) contained in decision 18/CMA.1, without adding additional reporting and review requirements. Elements on reporting and review related to national communications submitted in conjunction with biennial transparency reports have been included, as appropriate.

The co-facilitators also recognize that the outlines should take into account established practice and experience in relation to the existing measurement, reporting and verification system under the UNFCCC.

The co-facilitators further recognize the importance of the flexibility provisions in the MPGs, and that there are various options for how they could be taken into account in the work under this agenda sub-item.

Noting that the discussions under agenda sub-items 10(a–c) inform the discussion under sub-item 10(d), the co-facilitators recognize that the final outlines should be aligned with the final outcomes agreed by Parties under the relevant agenda sub-items, as appropriate.

Draft elements of the outlines of the biennial transparency report, national inventory document and technical expert review report are provided in the annex. The mandatory (“shall”) and voluntary (“should”, “may”, “are encouraged to”) nature of the requirements are indicated in the outlines by including references to the relevant headings and subheadings in the MPGs. The outlines should thus be read in conjunction with the MPGs.

As proposed by Parties, the outlines of the biennial transparency report and technical expert review report include two levels of headings, while the outline of the national inventory document is presented at a more disaggregated level to reflect the technical nature of the matter, existing practice and reporting experience.

¹ The submissions from Parties and groups of Parties are available at <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionportal/Pages/Home.aspx>.

Annex

Draft elements for the outline of the biennial transparency report, pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines

- I. Information on flexibility and improved reporting over time** (*Outline consistent with annex to MPGs, paragraphs 4 to 8*)
 - A. Self-determined application of flexibility provided for in the provisions of the MPGs, for those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities
 - B. Capacity constraints in relation to the application of flexibility and the self-determined estimated time frames for improvements
 - C. Areas of improvement identified by the Party and technical expert review team, in relation to its reporting pursuant to chapters II, III, IV, V and VI of the MPGs
 - D. Domestic plans and priorities with regard to improved reporting related to paragraph 7 of the MPGs, that may inform discussions on areas of improvement and identification of capacity-building needs

- II. National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases** (*Including common reporting tables (CRT) and an outline consistent with annex to MPGs, paragraphs 18 to 58, and the NID*)

- III. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement** (*Including common tabular format (CTF) and an outline consistent with annex to MPGs, paragraphs 59 to 103*)
 - A. National circumstances and institutional arrangements
 - B. Description of a Party's nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, including updates
 - C. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement
 - D. Mitigation policies and measures, actions and plans, including those with mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions and economic diversification plans, related to implementing and achieving a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement
 - E. Summary of greenhouse gas emissions and removals
 - F. Projections of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, as applicable
 - G. Other information

- IV. Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement** (*Outline consistent with annex to MPGs, paragraphs 104 to 117*)
 - A. National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks
 - B. Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities
 - C. Adaptation priorities and barriers

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- D. Adaptation strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions to integrate adaptation into national policies and strategies
 - E. Progress on implementation of adaptation
 - F. Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions and processes
 - G. Information related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts
 - H. Cooperation, good practices, experience and lessons learned
 - I. Any other information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement

V. Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilized under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement *(Including CTF tables and an outline consistent with annex to MPGs, paragraphs 118 to 129)*

- A. National circumstances and institutional arrangements
- B. Underlying assumptions, definitions and methodologies
- C. Information on financial support provided and mobilized under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement:
 - 1. Information on financial support provided through bilateral, regional and other channels
 - 2. Information on financial support provided through multilateral channels
 - 3. Information on finance mobilized through public interventions
- D. Information on support for technology development and transfer provided under Article 10 of the Paris Agreement
- E. Information on capacity-building support provided under Article 11 of the Paris Agreement

VI. Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement *(Including CTF tables and an outline consistent with annex to MPGs, paragraphs 130 to 145)*

- A. National circumstances, institutional arrangements and country-driven strategies
- B. Underlying assumptions, definitions and methodologies
- C. Information on financial support needed by developing country Parties under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement
- D. Information on financial support received by developing country Parties under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement
- E. Information on technology development and transfer support needed by developing country Parties under Article 10 of the Paris Agreement
- F. Information on technology development and transfer support received by developing country Parties under Article 10 of the Paris Agreement
- G. Information on capacity-building support needed by developing country Parties under Article 11 of the Paris Agreement
- H. Information on capacity-building support received by developing country Parties under

Article 11 of the Paris Agreement

- I. Information on support needed and received by developing country Parties for the implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and transparency-related activities, including for transparency-related capacity-building

VII. Information to be reported when the NC and BTR are submitted jointly every four years²

- A. Vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts and adaptation measures³
- B. Research and systematic observation
- C. Education, training and public awareness

Annexes [placeholder for tabular format as outlined in the MPGs]

- A. Technical annexes for REDD+
- B. CRT for the electronic reporting of national GHG inventories
- C. CTF for the electronic reporting of:
 1. **Information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement⁴**
 2. **Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilized under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement**
 3. **Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement**

² These chapters will be included in the BTR of Parties in the years when the submissions of their NCs and BTRs coincide, as per decision 1/CP.24, para. 43(b).

³ When the relevant information is reported in chapter IV of the BTR, this chapter is not relevant.

⁴ To be consistent with the guidance developed under Article 6.

Draft elements for the outline of the national inventory document, pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines⁵

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ES.1. Background information on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and climate change (e.g. as it pertains to the national context)

ES.2. Summary of national emission and removal-related trends

ES.3. Overview of source and sink category emission estimates and trends

ES.4. Other information (e.g. indirect GHGs)

ES.5. Key category analysis (para. 25, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

ES.6. Improvements introduced (paras. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

Chapter 1: Inventory arrangements, national circumstances and cross-cutting information

1.1. Background information on GHG inventories and climate change (e.g. as it pertains to the national context, to provide information to the general public)

1.2. A description of the national inventory arrangements

1.2.1. National entity or national focal point

1.2.2. Inventory preparation process

1.2.3. Archiving of information

1.2.4. Processes for official consideration and approval of inventory

1.3. Inventory preparation, and data collection, processing and storage

1.4. Brief general description of methodologies (including tiers used) and data sources used

1.5. Brief description of key categories (para. 25, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

1.6. General uncertainty evaluation, including data on the overall uncertainty for the inventory totals (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

1.7. General assessment of completeness (para. 30–33, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

1.7.1. Information on completeness (including information on non-reported categories or any methodological or data gaps in the inventory)

1.7.2. Description of insignificant categories, if applicable, in accordance with paragraph 32 of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1

1.7.3. Total aggregate emissions considered insignificant, if applicable

1.8. Metrics (para. 37, decision 18/CMA.1)

1.9. Summary of application of flexibility (in the case of developing country parties that need it in the light of their capacities) (para. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

⁵ The references to paragraphs in the MPGs for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (decision 18/CMA.1) are provided only in the case of non-mandatory provisions, ones where flexibility considerations may apply, or elements which are not included in the outline for the national inventory report provided in the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories for Annex I Parties (annex I to decision 24/CP.19).

Chapter 2: Trends in greenhouse gas emissions

2.1. Description and interpretation of emission trends for aggregated GHG emissions

2.2. Description and interpretation of emission trends by sector and by gas

Chapter 3: Energy (CRT sector XX)

3.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category) and background information

3.2. Fuel combustion, including detailed information on:

3.2.1. Comparison of the sectoral approach with the reference approach (para. 36, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

3.2.2. International bunker fuels (para. 53, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

3.2.3. Feedstocks and non-energy use of fuels (para. 54, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

3.2.4. Category (CRT category number)

3.2.4.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

3.2.4.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, information on carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

3.2.4.3. Description of application of flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, if applicable (para. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

3.2.4.4. Uncertainties and time-series consistency (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

3.2.4.5. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable (para. 34–35, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

3.2.4.6. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

3.2.4.7. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors), including tracking of those identified in the review process

3.3. Fugitive emissions from solid fuels and oil and natural gas and other emissions from energy production (CRT XX)

3.3.1. Category (CRT category number)

3.3.1.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

3.3.1.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission

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- estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))
 - 3.3.1.3. Description of application of flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, if applicable (para. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)
 - 3.3.1.4. Uncertainties and time-series consistency (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)
 - 3.3.1.5. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable (para. 34–35, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)
 - 3.3.1.6. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend
 - 3.3.1.7. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors), including tracking of those identified in the review process

3.4. CO₂ transport and storage (CRT XX)

3.4.1. Category (CRT category number)

- 3.4.1.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)
- 3.4.1.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))
- 3.4.1.3. Description of application of flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, if applicable (para. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)
- 3.4.1.4. Uncertainties and time-series consistency (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)
- 3.4.1.5. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable (para. 34–35, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)
- 3.4.1.6. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend
- 3.4.1.7. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors), including tracking of those identified in the review process

Chapter 4: Industrial processes and product use (CRT sector XX)

4.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category) and background information

4.2. Category (CRT category number)

- 4.2.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

4.2.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, information on CO₂ capture, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

4.2.3. Description of application of flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, if applicable (para. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

4.2.4. Uncertainties and time-series consistency (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

4.2.5. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable (para. 34–35, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

4.2.6. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

4.2.7. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors), including tracking of those identified in the review process

Chapter 5: Agriculture (CRT sector XX)

5.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category) and background information

5.2. Category (CRT category number)

5.2.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

5.2.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission and removal estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

5.2.3. Description of application of flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, if applicable (para. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

5.2.4. Uncertainties and time-series consistency (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

5.2.5. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable (para. 34–35, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

5.2.6. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

5.2.7. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors), including tracking of those identified in the review process

Chapter 6: Land use, land-use change and forestry (CRT sector XX)

6.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category, and coverage of pools) and background information

6.2. Land-use definitions and the classification systems used and their correspondence to the land use, land-use change and forestry categories (e.g. land use and land-use change matrix)

6.3 Country-specific approaches

6.3.1 Information on approaches used for representing land areas and on land-use databases used for the inventory preparation

6.3.2 Information on approaches used for natural disturbances, if applicable (para. 55, decision 18/CMA.1)

6.3.3 Information on approaches used for reporting HWP (para. 56, decision 18/CMA.1)

6.4. Category (CRT category number)

6.4.1. Description (e.g. characteristics of category)

6.4.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission and removal estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

6.4.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

6.4.4. Description of application of flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, if applicable (para. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

6.4.5. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable (paras. 34–35, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

6.4.6. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

6.4.7. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors), including those in response to the review process

Chapter 7: Waste (CRT sector XX)

7.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category) and background information

7.2. Category (CRT category number)

7.2.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

7.2.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

7.2.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

7.2.4. Description of application of flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, if applicable (paras. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

7.2.5. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable (paras. 34–35, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

7.2.6. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process

7.2.7. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors), including those in response to the review process

Chapter 8: Other (CRT sector XX) (if applicable)

Chapter 9: Indirect CO₂ and nitrous oxide emissions (para. 52 of annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

9.1. Description of sources of indirect emissions in GHG inventory

9.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

9.3. Description of application of flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, if applicable (paras. 4–6, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

9.4. Uncertainties and time-series consistency (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

9.5. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable (paras. 34–35, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

9.6. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

9.7. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors), including tracking of those identified in the review process

Chapter 10: Recalculations and improvements

10.1. Explanations and justifications for recalculations, including in response to the review process

10.2. Implications for emission levels

10.3. Implications for emission trends, including time-series consistency

10.4. Areas of improvements, including in response to the review process and, where applicable, related to the flexibility provisions applied with self-determined estimated time frames for improvements

Annexes to the national inventory document

Annex 1: Key categories (para. 25, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

- Description of methodology used for identifying key categories, if different from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tier 1 approach
- Information on the level of disaggregation
- Tables 4.2 and 4.3 of volume 1 of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, including and excluding land use, land-use change and forestry

Annex 2: Assessment of uncertainty (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

- Description of methodology used for identifying uncertainties
- Table 3.3 of volume 1 of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines (para. 29, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

Annex 3: Detailed description of reference approach (including inputs to reference approach such as national energy balance) and comparison of reference and sectoral approaches (para. 36, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

Annex 4: QA/QC plan (paras. 34–35, annex to decision 18/CMA.1)

Annex 5: Any additional information, as applicable, including detailed methodological descriptions for source or sink categories and the national emission balance

Annex 6: Common reporting tables

References

Draft elements for the outline of the technical expert review report, pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines

I. Abbreviations and acronyms

II. Introduction and summary

- A. Introduction
- B. Scope
- C. Summary

III. Technical review of the information reported

- D. A review of the consistency of the information submitted by the Party under Article 13, paragraphs 7 and 9, of the Paris Agreement with these MPGs, taking into account the flexibility accorded to the Party under Article 13, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement
 - 1. National inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases
 - 2. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement
 - 3. Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilized under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement
- E. Consideration of the Party's implementation and achievement of its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement
- F. Consideration of the Party's support provided, as relevant
- G. Information to be reported every four years when national communications are due⁶
 - 1. Vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts and adaptation measures
 - 2. Research and systematic observation
 - 3. Education, training and public awareness
- H. Identification of areas of improvement for the Party related to implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement
- I. For those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, assistance in identifying capacity-building needs

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

Annex I

Documents and information used during the review

⁶ According to decision 1/CP.24 paragraph 43 (b) for those Parties whose National Communications are subject to review under decision 13/CP.20, the review shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant guidelines contained in chapter VII of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, and shall also include a review of the information submitted on research and systematic observation; on education, training and public awareness; and on adaptation in accordance with relevant guidance in decision 13/CP. 20, as applicable.
