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Sixth session

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> Annual report of the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

Report by the secretariat

Summary

The fifth annual report of the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee covers activities undertaken between 13 September 2023 and 11 September 2024. The report provides a summary of the work of and matters addressed by the Committee during the reporting period.

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

- 1. Under Article 15, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement, a mechanism to facilitate implementation of and promote compliance with the provisions of the Agreement was established, consisting, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2, of a committee.
- 2. Pursuant to Article 15, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement and paragraph 36 of the modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the committee referred to in Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement¹ (the Committee), the Committee is to report annually to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA).

B. Scope

3. This fifth annual report of the Committee covers activities undertaken between 13 September 2023 and 11 September 2024. It contains information on the 11th and 12th meetings of the Committee (see chap. II below), communications and outreach (see chap. III below) and budget (see chap. IV below) as well as recommendations for consideration by the CMA (see chap. V below).

II. Work undertaken during the reporting period

A. Organizational matters

- 4. The Committee held its 11th meeting from 17 to 19 April 2024 and its 12th meeting from 9 to 11 September 2024, both in a hybrid format.
- 5. A list of the members and alternate members of the Committee as at 11 September 2024 is contained in the annex.
- 6. Details of the members and alternate members who participated in the 11th and 12th meetings of the Committee are contained in the respective meeting reports.²

B. Meetings

7. The Committee conducted its work on the basis of its workplan for 2023–2024.³

1. Eleventh meeting

- 8. The Committee engaged in three knowledge enhancement sessions with the secretariat's Mitigation, Means of Implementation and Transparency divisions aimed at deepening the Committee's understanding and facilitating discussion in relation to the (1) communication and maintenance of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by Parties in the public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement, (2) submission of biennial communications of information under Article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement via the online portal referred to in paragraph 6 of decision 12/CMA.1 and (3) submission of biennial transparency reports (BTRs) by Parties under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.
- 9. The Committee appreciated the sessions as a valuable means of enhancing its knowledge in preparation for its upcoming work. The Committee highlighted the importance of its 13th meeting, which will be convened following the submission deadlines for the

¹ Decision <u>20/CMA.1</u>, annex.

² Available at https://unfccc.int/PAICC.

³ Contained in Committee document PAICC/2023/M9/4, annex 2.

communications and reports mentioned in paragraph 22(a)(i), (ii) and (iv) of its modalities and procedures.

- 10. The Committee considered the most up-to-date information made available by the secretariat pursuant to rule 18, paragraph 1, of the Committee's rules of procedure.^{4, 5}
- 11. Regarding the status of NDCs (active versus archived) and how the Committee will identify whether the successive 2025 NDCs have been communicated to the secretariat, the Committee agreed that further discussion would be needed on this matter at its 12th meeting. In preparation, the Committee invited the secretariat to reflect on how, under the mandate in decision 20/CMA.3 to implement modalities and procedures for the operation and use of the public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement, the registry could provide easy access to Parties' current and successive NDCs and clearly indicate the periods during which the status of each NDC would be considered active.
- 12. The Committee noted the dates adopted for CMA 76 and stressed that the deadline for Parties to submit their upcoming NDCs is 10 February 2025 in accordance with paragraph 25 of decision 1/CP.21 and paragraph 166 of decision 1/CMA.5. The Committee agreed on the importance of the secretariat raising Parties' awareness of that deadline.
- 13. Concerning the submission of biennial communications of information under Article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement, the Committee noted that developed country Parties are to submit biennial communications by 31 December 2024.⁷ In this context, it decided that it would be beneficial to create space in the agenda for its 12th meeting for building its collective understanding of the submission of biennial communications.
- 14. Regarding the submission of BTRs, the Committee requested that, in preparation for its 12th meeting, the secretariat provide factual information in tabular format to enable the Committee to check if and when each Party to the Paris Agreement has submitted a BTR and, if so, when, and whether mandatory reports or communications of information have been submitted under Article 13, paragraphs 7 and 9, and Article 9, paragraph 7, of the Paris Agreement. The Committee noted that this would provide an opportunity to test the tabular format ahead of the 13th meeting, which will take place after the submission deadline for BTRs set out in paragraph 90 of decision 1/CP.21 and paragraphs 3–4 of decision 18/CMA.1.
- 15. The Committee noted that an open line of communication with lead reviewers of BTRs is desirable, noting paragraph 40 of decision <u>5/CMA.3</u>.
- 16. The Committee recalled that CMA 5 took note of the information contained in the fourth annual report of the Committee,⁸ including the recommendation that, with respect to paragraph 2 of decision 20/CMA.1, the CMA undertake the first review of the Committee's modalities and procedures at its session in 2024.⁹ The Committee observed that, to date, it has gained limited experience in implementing its modalities and procedures; however, significant relevant experience will be gained in connection with the upcoming submissions of NDCs, BTRs and biennial communications. It agreed to continue discussing the review of its modalities and procedures at its 12th meeting with a view to making recommendations thereon to CMA 6 as part of its annual report.
- 17. The Committee adopted a template for written submissions from Parties with respect to their own implementation of and/or compliance with any provision of the Paris Agreement.¹⁰
- 18. At the end of the meeting, the Committee adopted the report thereon.¹¹

⁴ Decision <u>24/CMA.4</u>, annex.

Committee members and alternate members expressed different views on the term "developed country Parties" under Article 9, para. 5, of the Paris Agreement.

⁶ As per decision <u>17/CP.28</u>, para. 4.

⁷ As per decision 13/CMA.5, para. 5.

⁸ FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/4.

⁹ <u>FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/16</u>, para. 104.

¹⁰ See Committee document PAICC/2024/M11/4, annex 2.

¹¹ Committee document PAICC/2024/M11/4.

2. Twelfth meeting

- 19. The Committee considered the most up-to-date information made available by the secretariat pursuant to rule 18, paragraph 1, of its rules of procedure.
- 20. The Committee continued discussions with the secretariat's Mitigation and Transparency divisions on the communication or maintenance of NDCs and the submission of BTRs, national inventory reports and biennial communications in order to consolidate its knowledge in relation to these mandatory reports and communications in the context of its upcoming work.
- 21. The Committee discussed the term "developed country Parties" as referred to in Article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement, following the decision at its previous meeting referred to in paragraph 13 above. Some Committee members and alternate members observed that the term developed country Parties, like developing country Parties, is not defined in the Paris Agreement. Committee members and alternate members discussed whether, in principle, the determination of whether a Party is a developed country Party is an objective one. The Committee noted that the group of Parties that have submitted biennial communications is not limited to Parties that are obliged to provide financial resources in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention.
- 22. In considering the most up-to-date information on the communication or maintenance of NDCs by Parties in the public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement, the Committee recalled that, as per paragraph 22(a)(i) of its modalities and procedures, it will initiate the consideration of issues in cases where a Party has not communicated or maintained an NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement.
- 23. The Committee deliberated on how to assess whether a Party has communicated or maintained an NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. Committee members and alternate members reiterated that NDCs shall be communicated every five years as per Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement, and that the deadline for Parties to submit their upcoming NDCs is 10 February 2025.
- 24. There was a common understanding among Committee members and alternate members that the Committee's current mandate does not include assessing the level of ambition of a Party's NDC.
- 25. The Committee considered the approach to take at its 13th meeting regarding the potential late communication of NDCs and agreed to return to this issue at that meeting.
- 26. The Committee also agreed that further reflection is needed regarding NDCs communicated prior to the adoption of the outcomes of the first global stocktake.
- 27. The Committee further agreed that further deliberation is needed in relation to establishing a common understanding among its members and alternate members of the term "successive" NDCs as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement. Some Committee members and alternate members expressed the view that the term "successive" requires, in principle, that each new NDC has an end date that goes beyond the end date of the then current NDC and, in this context, noted that paragraph 2 of decision 6/CMA.3 contains an encouragement, but not an obligation, that in 2025 Parties communicate an NDC with an end date of 2035.
- 28. The Committee reiterated its concern that the NDC registry, as published by the secretariat, could for a period of time result in a Party's NDC that is currently being implemented being archived and in a Party's NDC that is not yet being implemented being labelled as active. This could prevent the Committee, and the public, from determining, on the basis of the NDC registry, which NDC is active and being maintained by a Party at any point in time.
- 29. The Committee invited the secretariat to reflect again on how, within the mandate in decision 20/CMA.3 to implement modalities and procedures for the operation and use of the public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement, the registry could provide the Committee and the public with easy access to Parties' current and successive NDCs and clearly indicate the periods during which the status of each NDC would be considered active.

- 30. The Committee noted that an open line of communication with lead reviewers of BTRs and Article 6 lead reviewers is desirable, noting paragraph 40 of decision <u>5/CMA.3</u> and paragraph 14 of decision <u>6/CMA.4</u> respectively.
- 31. The Committee discussed the review of its modalities and procedures and agreed on the recommendations for the CMA contained in chapter V below.
- 32. The Committee agreed to hold three meetings in 2025, with its 13th meeting to be held in the first two weeks of April 2025 in hybrid format subject to the availability of financial resources. The Committee requested the secretariat to arrange a virtual one-day onboarding meeting for February 2025.
- 33. The Committee expressed its deep gratitude to its Co-Chairs for their excellent leadership and dedication in advancing the work of the Committee as per its mandate and also thanked the secretariat for its unwavering support.
- 34. At the end of the meeting, the Committee adopted the report thereon.¹²

C. Gender and Action for Climate Empowerment

- 35. The Committee took note of the presentation on gender and Action for Climate Empowerment made at its 12th meeting by the Communications and Engagement division of the secretariat. Furthermore, the Committee considered how it could contribute to reaching the Action for Climate Empowerment goal of empowering all members of society to engage in climate action through the six Action for Climate Empowerment elements of education, public awareness, training, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation.
- 36. The Committee agreed to continue discussions on identifying possible ways to mainstream consideration of gender in its work. The Committee also agreed to aim for gender balance in electing its Co-Chairs.
- 37. CMA 6 will be invited to elect members and alternate members of the Committee taking into account the goal of gender balance in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Committee's modalities and procedures.

III. Communications and outreach

- 38. The Committee welcomed the updates to its web pages¹³ that were launched at its 12th meeting, and expressed gratitude to the secretariat for its work thereon. The web pages feature information on the Committee, its composition and its latest events, and links to e-learning resources and the Committee's annual and meeting reports.
- 39. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in the United Arab Emirates in 2023, the Co-Chairs of the Committee held a side event entitled "The Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee: enhancing Parties' accountability", ¹⁴ with the participation of members and alternate members of the Committee. The aim of the event was to raise participants' awareness of the link between the work of the Committee and the enhanced transparency framework.
- 40. The Co-Chairs also participated in several meetings and training workshops during the reporting period, including the 11th meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts, and the Group's regional training workshops for the Asia-Pacific, African, and Latin American and Caribbean regions, and a regional hands-on training workshop on preparing BTRs.
- 41. The Committee's work was showcased at side events of the Consultative Group of Experts held at CMA 5 and during the sixtieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, and at the

¹² Committee document PAICC/2024/M12/3.

^{13 &}lt;u>https://unfccc.int/PAICC</u>.

¹⁴ A recording of the side event is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEe2dHA0csk.

United Nations Environment Assembly at a side event on cooperation under multilateral environmental agreements.

- 42. The Committee encouraged the further organization and participation of its Co-Chairs in similar awareness-raising events related to the Committee's work.
- 43. Further to the agreement of the Committee at its 11th meeting on the importance of the secretariat raising Parties' awareness of the deadline for the communication of the upcoming NDCs, a news article was published on the UNFCCC website reminding Parties of the 10 February 2025 deadline.¹⁵

IV. Budget

- 44. The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat at its 12th meeting on its funding for the biennium 2024–2025.
- 45. The Committee stressed the need for further resources to ensure the fulfilment of its mandate, given the upcoming submissions of NDCs, BTRs and biennial communications. The Committee highlighted that, owing to its anticipated workload, more than two meetings will be needed in 2025.

V. Recommendations for the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

- 46. The Committee recommends that the CMA:
 - (a) Take note of the activities of the Committee during the reporting period;
- (b) Decide to postpone the first review of the Committee's modalities and procedures (decision 20/CMA.1, paragraph 2) to its session in 2027 owing to the limited experience of the Committee gained to date in implementing its modalities and procedures, and noting that the Committee will gain significant relevant experience in connection with the upcoming communications of NDCs, and submissions of BTRs and biennial communications;
- (c) Request the Committee to prepare a draft decision on the first review of its modalities and procedures for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its session in 2027.

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¹⁵ Available at https://unfccc.int/news/paris-agreement-implementation-compliance-committee-gears-up-to-help-countries-meet-key-deadlines.

Annex

Members and alternate members of the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee as at 11 September 2024

Regional group/constituency	Member	Alternate member
African States	Selam Kidane-Abebe (Ethiopia)	Mominata Campaore (Burkina Faso)
	Happy Khambule (South Africa)	Chokri Mezghani (Tunisia)
Asia-Pacific States	Chenxia Yi (China)	Yuji Mizuno (Japan)
	Haseeb Gohar, Co-Chair (Pakistan)	Seung Jick Yoo (Republic of Korea)
Eastern European States	Eva Šalplachtová (Czechia)	Grzegorz Grobicki (Poland)
	Grigory Yulkin (Russian Federation)	Ivan Narkevitch (Belarus)
Latin American and Caribbean States	José Félix Pinto-Bazurco Barandiarán (Peru)	Michai Robertson (Antigua and Barbuda)
	Jimena Nieto (Colombia)	Edgar Fernández (Costa Rica)
Western European and other States	Jacob Werksman (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Johan Pettersson (Sweden)
	Christina Voigt, Co-Chair (Norway)	Jonathan Davis (United States of America)
Least developed countries	Ziaul Haque (Bangladesh)	Eunice Asinguza (Uganda)
Small island developing States	Diane Tan (Singapore)	Rueanna Haynes (Trinidad and Tobago)

Note: A list of the members and alternate members of the Committee that includes the length of their respective terms of office is available at https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/election-and-membership.

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