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**Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting  
of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol  
Sixteenth session  
Glasgow, 31 October to 12 November 2021**

Item 5 of the provisional agenda  
**Matters relating to the clean development mechanism**

**Annual report of the Executive Board of the clean  
development mechanism to the Conference of the Parties  
serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol\***

*Summary*

This report covers the work undertaken by the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism from 15 December 2020 to 9 September 2021. The reporting period saw a similar level of project registrations compared with the previous reporting period, but an increase in the issuance of certified emission reductions. The Executive Board implemented the temporary measures pending guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol for the operations of the clean development mechanism after the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, as referred to in the report on the 108<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Board. This report contains further recommendations of the Executive Board to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in this regard.

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\* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

## Abbreviations and acronyms

AIE	accredited implementing entity
CDM	clean development mechanism
CDM-MAP	clean development mechanism business and management plan
CER	certified emission reduction
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CORSIA	Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CPA	component project activities
DNA	designated national authority
DNA Forum	Designated National Authorities Forum
DOE	designated operational entity
DTU	Technical University of Denmark
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICER	long-term certified emission reduction
NFP	Nairobi Framework Partnership
PoA	programme of activities
RCC	regional collaboration centre
tCER	temporary certified emission reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Mandate**

1. In accordance with the CDM modalities and procedures, the CDM Executive Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) reports on its activities to each session of the CMP.<sup>1</sup> In exercising its authority over the CDM, the CMP reviews such reports, provides guidance and takes decisions, as appropriate.

### **B. Scope of the report**

2. This annual report provides information on progress in implementing the CDM from 15 December 2020 to 9 September 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the reporting period) and includes recommendations for consideration at CMP 16. Data related to project activities, PoAs and CERs are reported from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 for consistency with previous reports. Similarly, data related to standardized baselines, queries from stakeholders and support provided to project activities, PoAs and standardized baselines are reported as at 31 August 2021.

3. The report describes the status of the CDM, highlights achievements related to its operation and provides information on the governance, management and financial status of the mechanism.

4. Further information is available on the CDM web pages,<sup>2</sup> the central repository for all reports and other documentation relating to the Board.

### **C. Action to be taken by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol**

5. In taking note of this report, the CMP may wish to:

(a) Note the work undertaken by the Board during the reporting period, including in response to the requests of CMP 15 (see chap. III below);

(b) Designate operational entities that have been accredited and provisionally designated by the Board (see annex I);

(c) Provide guidance on matters covered in this report, particularly in relation to the request for clarity on the functioning of the CDM beyond the end of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (see para. 86 below).

6. The CMP is to elect the following Board members for a term of two years, upon receiving nominations from Parties:

(a) One member and one alternate member from the African States;

(b) One member and one alternate member from the Asia-Pacific States;

(c) One member and one alternate member from the Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) One member and one alternate member from the Western European and other States;

(e) One member and one alternate member from Parties included in Annex I.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 3/CMP.1, annex, para. 5(c).

<sup>2</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/>.

## II. Status of the clean development mechanism

### A. Clean development mechanism in numbers

7. Table 1 presents the number of registered CDM activities, the number of activities issued with CERs, and the total CERs issued for CP1 and CP2 for each reporting period since inception of the CDM.

Table 1  
Clean development mechanism activities and issuance of certified emission reductions

<i>Reporting period</i>	<i>Number of activities registered<sup>a, b</sup></i>	<i>Number of activities issued with CERs<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>CERs issued for the first commitment period (2008–2012)</i>	<i>CERs issued for the second commitment period (2013–2020)</i>
Inception to 31 August 2012	4 576	1 717	994 936 460	0
1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013	2 856	1 801	372 001 523	10 787 697
1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014	388	596	63 441 117	41 159 734
1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015	134	497	33 506 110	102 841 311
1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016	78	421	9 279 053	90 288 018
1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017	62	473	4 365 708	141 997 832
1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018	32	334	2 058 843	100 492 438
1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019	18	218	764 618	44 562 898
1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020	38	243	223 383	66 615 946
1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021	35	295	38 664	77 675 949
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 217</b>	<b>3 401</b>	<b>1 480 615 479</b>	<b>676 421 823</b>

<sup>a</sup> The number of activities registered in a reporting period was determined using their date of registration.

<sup>b</sup> Figures include project activities and PoAs: 2,745 CPAs had been included in 354 PoAs by the end of the reporting period, while 105 CPAs were included in the reporting period and 293 CPAs were included in the previous reporting period.

<sup>c</sup> Activities that completed issuance of CERs in a reporting period. An activity may issue in more than one period. The total of 3,401 reflects all activities with issuance at the end of the reporting period.

8. The number of CERs issued in the current reporting period is broadly consistent with the previous reporting period.

### B. Implications of the postponement of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in the context of the end of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol

9. The Board adopted clarification on the application of temporary measures for the operations of the CDM after the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol pending CMP guidance at CMP 16.<sup>3</sup>

10. With regard to afforestation and reforestation activities, the Board noted that guidance from the CMP would be required with respect to:

(a) Issuance, expiry and replacement of tCERs and issuance and replacement of ICERs for the removals verified and certified on or after 1 January 2021, including for voluntary cancellation purposes;

(b) Expiry and replacement of tCERs issued for the second commitment period and replacement of ICERs issued.

11. The Board considered the concept note on the technical assessment of options with regard to the CDM registry in order to enable the issuance of CERs with respect to emission

<sup>3</sup> See CDM document CDM-EB108, paras. 7–8. Available at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/index.html>.

reductions occurring after the end of the second commitment period for voluntary cancellation purposes but could not reach consensus on the matter.

### III. Work in the reporting period

12. This chapter describes the work of the Board during the reporting period (see also annex II for a list of regulatory documents approved or revised by the Board during the reporting period).

#### A. Rulings

##### 1. Accreditation

13. In the reporting period, the accreditation of one DOE expired. This brings the number of DOEs accredited for the validation and verification of projects and certification of emission reductions to 29 as at 31 August 2021, compared with 30 in the previous reporting period. Two entities have applied for accreditation, and they may be accredited as DOEs if the initial accreditation process has a successful outcome. The Board also extended the scope of accreditation of two DOEs. The Board recommends the entities listed in annex I for designation as operational entities at CMP 16 for the sectoral scopes indicated.

##### 2. Registration of project activities and programmes of activities and issuance of certified emission reductions

14. From 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, 77,714,613 CERs were issued, of which 3,859,995 were tCERs. No ICERs were issued during the reporting period. The total number of CERs issued as at 31 August 2021 was thus 2,157,037,302, of which 2,136,281,572 were CERs, 19,898,977 were tCERs and 856,753 were ICERs.

15. Of the total CERs, excluding tCERs and ICERs, issued as at 31 August 2021, 1,480,615,479 were issued for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and 676,421,823 for the second commitment period. Of the total tCERs issued, 12,405,185 were issued for the first commitment period and 7,493,792 for the second commitment period. Of the total ICERs issued, 505,085 were issued for the first commitment period and 351,668 for the second commitment period.

16. Table 2 shows the numbers of registration- and issuance-related requests submitted and finalized from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution of registered project activities, PoAs and CPAs by region as at 31 August 2021.

Table 2

#### Clean development mechanism requests, 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

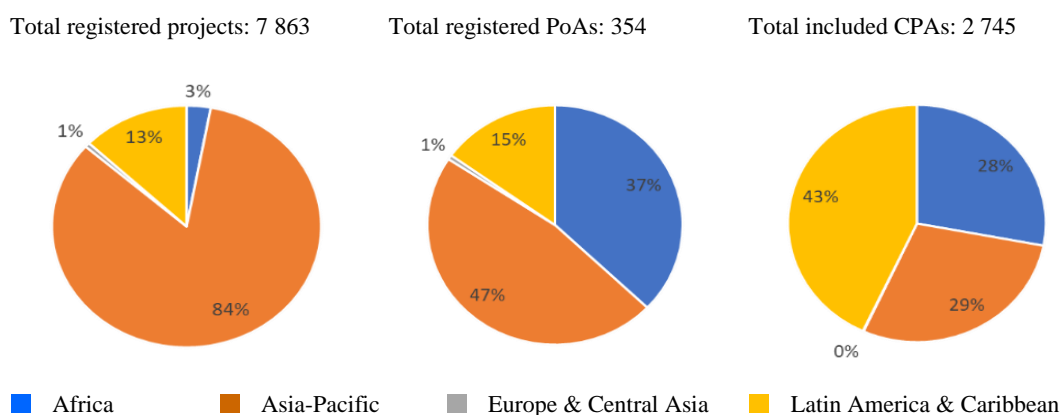
<i>Request</i>	<i>Number of requests submitted<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Number of requests finalized<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Number of requests with provisional status<sup>c</sup></i>
Project: registration	36	21	11
PoA: registration	41	21	3
Project: issuance	397	352	3
PoA: issuance	159	115	–
Project: renewal of crediting period	244	270	28
PoA: renewal of PoA period	30	25	1
PoA: renewal of CPA crediting period of CPA	18	18	9
Post-registration changes	182	74	–
Inclusion of CPAs	103	105	36

<sup>a</sup> Submissions and resubmissions after incompleteness.

<sup>b</sup> Registered, withdrawn and rejected requests submitted within the reporting period and requests submitted prior to the reporting period that entered the processing pipeline during the reporting period.

<sup>c</sup> Submissions for which the crediting period, PoA period or monitoring period starts on or after 1 January 2021. The analysis of these submissions is completed, and they are to be finalized by the Board after guidance from the CMP.

Figure 1

**Distribution of registered clean development mechanism project activities, programmes of activities and component project activities by region, as at 31 August 2021**

17. As at 31 August 2021, 3,313 projects and 89 PoAs had been issued CERs; and of the total CERs issued, 46,396,671 had been issued for PoAs.

18. The waiting time for the commencement of assessments for project registration and CER issuance was, for 34 weeks of the reporting period, less than 15 days, as mandated by the Board and the CMP. For 18 weeks of the reporting period (during September, October and November 2020, and January, February, March, April and May 2021) it was more than 15 days owing to both a sharp increase in the number of submissions and operational exigencies.

19. Details on CER transactions, including forwarding and voluntary and administrative cancellation, are provided in table 3.

Table 3

**Completed transactions in the clean development mechanism registry**

Transaction type	As at 31 August 2021		1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021	
	Total transactions	Total units	Total transactions	Total units
Issuance	11 488	2 157 037 302	442	77 714 613
Share of proceeds to the Adaptation Fund account	11 141	41 963 625	366	1 283 100
Internal and external forwarding	19 166	1 822 591 833	674	78 652 996
Transactions from the Adaptation Fund account to the registry of Party included in Annex I	390	31 170 134	24	2 189 306
Voluntary cancellation	17 562	86 500 498	3 992	28 692 731
Administrative cancellation	6	1 035 475	–	–
Mandatory cancellation	2	489 229	2	489 229

20. During the reporting period, the Board did not receive any new request for the voluntary deregistration of CDM project activities.

21. Additional data on projects and PoAs can be found on the CDM web pages.<sup>4</sup>

22. On processing requests for issuance for a straddling monitoring period between the first and second commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol, whereby negative emission reductions may be recorded in relation to the first commitment period, the Board agreed that the negative emission reductions recorded for the first commitment period are to be

<sup>4</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Statistics/Public/index.html>.

compensated by the reported positive emission reductions in relation to the second commitment period.

23. At EB 111, the Board considered the report of the International Transaction Log on non-replacement of tCERs and took note of the following record of non-replacement of tCERs that has been transferred to the retirement account and were not replaced by the deadline of 31 December 2020:

- (a) Italy: non-replacement of 131,267 tCERs. However, replacement completed on 11 March 2021;
- (b) Luxembourg: non-replacement of 262,563 tCERs;
- (c) Japan: non-replacement of 343,203 tCERs.

### **3. Policy changes**

#### **(a) Share of proceeds**

24. The share of proceeds for administrative expenses is due to the Trust Fund for the Clean Development Mechanism at registration of CDM activities and issuance of CERs. Since 1 June 2018, it has been collected prior to the commencement of completeness checks for issuance requests. As a result, the total amount of share of proceeds due but not paid from CDM activities has declined since its peak in August 2018. To incentivize payment of the outstanding share of proceeds for requests for issuance submitted before 1 June 2018, the Board introduced, also in 2018, a partial payment option limited to three instalments. At EB 106, the Board removed the limit of three instalments. In the reporting period, the partial payment option was used by 30 projects for a total of USD 2.48 million, which brings the total amount recovered through partial payments since the implementation of this option to USD 5.57 million from 75 CDM activities.

#### **(b) Renewal of crediting periods**

25. At EB 100, the Board introduced a deadline of one year after the end of the crediting period for requesting the renewal of a crediting period of a project or a CPA. The new rule was introduced with a grace period for crediting periods that had been expired for over one year. After one extension of this grace period, it ended on 30 September 2020 when 2,384 projects and 1,070 CPAs lost the possibility to be renewed. With the enforcement of the new rule, projects and CPAs that do not meet the new deadline will lose the right to renewal. As at 31 August 2021, a total 3,279 projects and 1,176 CPAs had lost the possibility to be renewed.

## **B. Regulatory matters**

### **1. Online platform for voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions**

26. In September 2015, the Board launched the online platform for voluntary cancellation of CERs<sup>5</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the platform). The platform allows project participants to offer CERs for voluntary cancellation to the public and issues cancellation certificates to the purchasers. It is available in English, French and Spanish and supports both online and offline payments.

27. On 31 August 2021, 33 projects were offering over 0.6 million CERs on the platform at prices between USD 0.28 and USD 100.00 per CER. So far, 121 projects and PoAs have completed sales through the platform. The platform has been visited by people in most of the countries in the world, with purchasers in 108 countries completing cancellations so far.

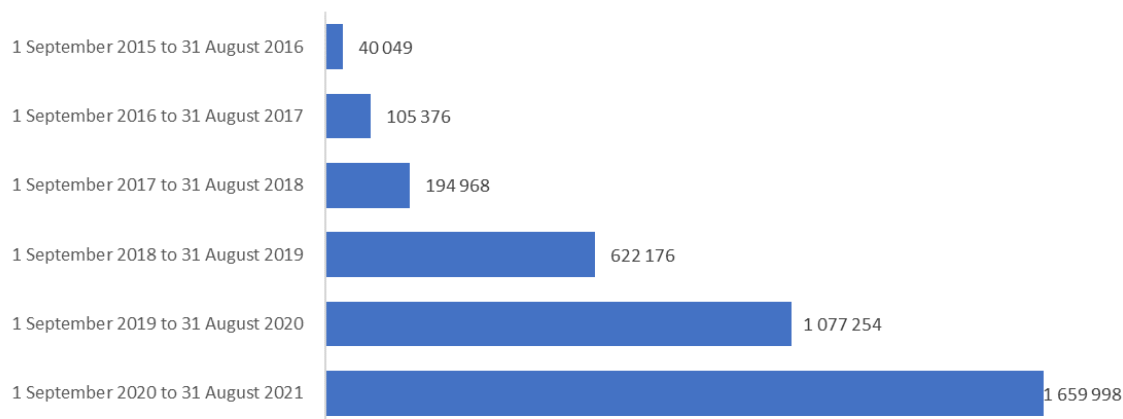
28. After an upgrade to the platform in 2018, featuring industry-best standards for user experience and usability, enhanced capabilities and a carbon footprint calculator, the number of CERs cancelled through the platform increased significantly, reaching a total of 3,699,821 CERs. This trend continued in the reporting period, with 1,659,998 CERs

<sup>5</sup> <https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/>.

cancelled through 3,101 individual orders (see figure 2). The number of CERs cancelled through the platform increased by 52 per cent in comparison with the previous reporting period. Almost half of the orders came from the European Union and about one third came from the United States of America, and Australia, Switzerland and Canada had the next highest shares of orders. Those countries accounted for over 75 per cent of all CERs cancelled through individual orders. It is notable that Sri Lanka was the ninth highest contributor to CER cancellation.

Figure 2

### Certified emission reductions cancelled voluntarily on the platform, by period



## 2. Promoting voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions

29. In line with goal 2 of the CDM-MAP for 2020–2021, as well as with decision 1/CMP.15, which welcomes decision 1/CP.25, paragraph 26, acknowledging the important role of non-Party stakeholders in contributing to progress towards the objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement, in particular by supporting Parties in reducing emissions and adapting to the adverse effects of climate change, the secretariat supported companies, organizations, event organizers and individuals to voluntarily calculate their emissions, and encouraged them to reduce these emissions as much as possible and compensate for the remainder by investing in climate action through purchasing CERs from CDM projects.

30. The secretariat is contributing to several initiatives that are developing approaches to promote engagement in climate action at the organizational level, thus creating further opportunities to share experience and convey the potential benefits and contributions of the CDM.<sup>6</sup>

31. Direct outreach to companies, organizations and event organizers (sports organizations, event professionals, events and meetings sector organizations) is ongoing through the Climate Neutral Now initiative, which invites participants to address their greenhouse gas emissions through estimation, reduction and compensation. Over 3 million CERs had been cancelled by Climate Neutral Now signatories, which totalled almost 557 as at 31 August 2021.

32. The secretariat has also supported the United Nations system in becoming carbon neutral through the reduction of emissions and through compensation with CERs and has collaborated with UNEP to encourage other international organizations to take similar climate action. Approximately 97 per cent of all the United Nations system's emissions in 2019 were compensated with CERs in 2020. To date, a total of 6,279,700 CERs have been purchased and cancelled by United Nations entities.

<sup>6</sup> These initiatives include the working group on International Organization for Standardization standard 14068 on carbon neutrality, the Net Zero Initiative led by Carbone4, the Net Zero Climate Aggregator of resources for net zero emissions led by the University of Oxford and the Carbon Neutrality Database led by The Climate Registry.



33. In the reporting period, in addition to the cancellations through the platform, a total of 27,032,733 CERs were voluntarily cancelled directly in the CDM registry. Of those, over 7.6 million CERs were cancelled by projects hosted in Colombia, the Republic of Korea and South Africa for the purpose of national schemes. In addition, more than 1.8 million CERs from projects hosted in countries other than the Republic of Korea were cancelled for use in the Korean offset programme. Over 6.5 million CERs were voluntarily cancelled by different standards certification programmes and the remaining voluntarily cancelled CERs were claimed mainly by the private sector, as part of voluntary efforts towards carbon neutrality. Information about CERs cancelled in the national registries of Parties included in Annex I is not available because the registries do not share such information. Details on voluntary cancellation transactions in the CDM registry are provided in table 4.

Table 4

**Completed transactions in the clean development mechanism registry**

<i>Source<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>As at 31 August 2021 (in millions of CERs)</i>	<i>Share (%)</i>	<i>1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (in millions of CERs)</i>	<i>Share (%)</i>
Colombian National Carbon Tax	6.4	7	1.4	5
Gold Standard verified emission reductions	1.5	2	1.1	4
Korea Emissions Trading Scheme	29.3	34	4.3	15
National voluntary programmes	11.8	14	6.0	21
South African Carbon Tax	5.2	6	3.4	12
United Nations agencies	1.7	2	0.2	1
Verified Carbon Standard	5.2	6	2.0	7
Other sources	21.7	25	8.6	30
CDM registry track subtotal	82.8	96	27.0	94
Platform track subtotal	3.7	4	1.7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>a</sup> Information about the source is derived from a free-style textual description associated with the respective voluntary cancellation transaction provided by the project participants.

**3. Accreditation system**

34. At EB 107, recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the launching of assessments, the Board decided to allow the provisions related to deviation from the standard assessment modalities for regular surveillance assessments, as described in the procedure “CDM accreditation procedure” (version 15.0, para. 125), to be applied in initial accreditation and re-accreditation assessments.

35. At EB 110, after considering the first iteration of the DOE performance monitoring report for the 14<sup>th</sup> monitoring period, the Board requested the secretariat to publish subsequent DOE performance monitoring reports as per the timeline specified in the procedure “Performance monitoring of designated operational entities” (version 04.0).

**4. Project cycle**

36. The Board, at EB 109, adopted the following amendments to the framework regulatory documents for the CDM in order to clarify the requirements for changing and/or adding technologies and measures to a registered project activity or PoA:

(a) Amendments to the “CDM project standards for project activities” (version 02.0) on addition and/or change of technologies;

(b) Amendments to the “CDM project standards for programmes of activities” (version 02.0) on addition and/or change of technologies.

37. At EB 110, the Board adopted the revised standard “Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities” (version 09.0) to enhance the reliability of sample size calculation for the proportion parameter.

38. At EB 111, the Board adopted version 03.0 of the following framework regulatory documents for the CDM, effective from 7 October 2021, incorporating all previously issued amendments and correcting errors and inconsistencies, and to address further regulatory issues that have been encountered by the Board and the secretariat since the adoption of the last amendments to these documents:

- (a) “CDM project standard for project activities”;
- (b) “CDM validation and verification standard for project activities”;
- (c) “CDM project cycle procedure for project activities”;
- (d) “CDM project standard for programmes of activities”;
- (e) “CDM validation and verification standard for programmes of activities”;
- (f) “CDM project cycle procedure for programmes of activities”.

## 5. Methodological standards

39. At EB 111, the Board adopted a new methodology “Recovery of methane-rich vapours from hydrocarbon storage tanks” (AM0122) applicable to project activities that recover and utilize methane-rich vapours from hydrocarbon storage tanks within existing (installed prior to 31 December 2020) oil production facilities, oil and gas pre-treatment facilities, gas-processing plants, oil treatment facilities, liquid hydrocarbon storage and loading stations by using vapour recovery units.

40. During the reporting period, the Board revised the methodologies “Mass rapid transit projects” (ACM0016) and “Bus rapid transit projects” (AM0031) to broaden their applicability to possible expansion, through additional vehicles, of the transport system and to simplify the survey requirements so as to be consistent with the standard “Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities” and the guidelines of the same name. Further, the Board revised the methodologies “Substitution of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil or mineral origin by CO<sub>2</sub> from biogenic residual sources in the production of inorganic compounds” (AM0027) to clarify the source of baseline CO<sub>2</sub>, expand the eligibility of sources of CO<sub>2</sub> in the baseline and address provisions that could potentially lead to claiming emission reductions from CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, and “Alternative waste treatment processes” (ACM0022) to address inconsistencies and ambiguities identified in the methodology.

41. The Board, as part of the periodic review, initiated work on updating the tool “Positive lists of technologies” (TOOL32) to reflect new information on costs and penetration of technologies. The Board also extended the validity of the positive lists contained in the tool for one year in order to not inconvenience users while the update is under way.

42. The Board revised three methodologies related to enabling the use of biogas flow meters: “Biogas/biomass thermal applications for households/small users” (AMS-I.I), “Switch from non-renewable biomass for thermal applications by the user” (AMS-I.E) and “Methane recovery in agricultural activities at household/small farm level” (AMS-III.R). The revisions allow the operability of the biogas system to be demonstrated and the uncertainty in the estimation of its emission reductions to be reduced.

43. The Board revised the methodologies “Recovery and recycling of materials from E-waste” (AMS-III.BA) and “Recovery and recycling of materials from solid wastes” (AMS-III.AJ) to include consistent methods for determining the emission factors associated with the consumption of fossil fuels and of electricity in the production of virgin plastics.

44. The Board continued its exploration of objective, reliable and simplified options for additionality demonstration using market penetration of technologies and measures. The Methodologies Panel conducted work on a glossary of related terms, on consistent requirements for thresholds and on data vintages in methodologies and tools. The Methodologies Panel improved the draft documents after feedback from the Board.

45. Noting that there is scope for further improving the editorial quality, clarity and consistency of methodological products recommended for its consideration, at EB 111 the Board agreed to undertake measures to address the issue. In this regard, the Board also agreed

to develop a new methodological tool that includes a repository of data and parameters for monitoring in order to enable consistent guidance on monitoring in methodologies.

46. Following the report on the road test of the digitalized version of the methodology “Grid-connected electricity generation from renewable sources” (ACM0002), the Board requested the secretariat to add the methodology “Flaring or use of landfill gas” (ACM0001) to the web-based tool for automatically generating a project design document.

47. The Board also requested the secretariat to invite project participants to use, on a voluntary basis, the web-based tool for preparing a project design document, applying methodology ACM0002 alongside the current methodology of manually preparing a PDF-based project design document.

## **6. Standardized baselines**

48. The Board approved nine standardized baselines between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021;<sup>7</sup> as a result, the cumulative number of approved standardized baselines stands at 60, of which 19 are valid as at 31 August 2021, the remainder having expired.<sup>8</sup>

## **7. Sustainable development tool**

49. In 2014, the secretariat launched the sustainable development tool, an online web interface where project participants can, on a voluntary basis, systematically report the sustainable development co-benefits of their CDM projects and PoAs. An improved version of the sustainable development tool was released in 2018.<sup>9</sup>

50. As at 31 August 2021, 76 sustainable development description reports had been published, 2 of which were published in the reporting period.

## **8. Direct communication with stakeholders**

51. The 2020 annual report on stakeholder communication with the Board and the secretariat was published on the CDM web pages.<sup>10</sup> Many of the stakeholder concerns raised in these communications were addressed through regulatory adjustments and relaxed CDM requirements applicable for a limited period of time because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **C. Financing and use of the clean development mechanism by international finance institutions and options for using the clean development mechanism as a tool for other uses**

52. The Board continued its cooperation with financial institutions in the reporting period on facilitating the mobilization of climate finance to support developing countries in implementing priority mitigation and adaptation actions in accordance with the goals outlined in their nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and other relevant policies or strategies. It considered a report on financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutions and noted the progress of the ongoing support provided by the secretariat in collaboration with the RCCs. Progress included 10 workshops held virtually to elucidate, validate and adopt the assessment of institutional and policy frameworks, sources of climate finance and climate finance strategies that include implementation plans for CDM project pipelines.

53. The Board and the secretariat continued to engage with the ICAO process with respect to developing and implementing CORSIA. The ICAO Council deemed the CDM as an eligible offset programme for the pilot phase of CORSIA.

<sup>7</sup> ASB00005-2021, ASB0008-2020, ASB0011-2021, ASB0034-2021, ASB0038-2021, ASB0049-2020, ASB0050-2020, ASB0051-2021 and ASB0052-2021.

<sup>8</sup> See [https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard\\_base/index.html](https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard_base/index.html).

<sup>9</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/sdcmicrosite/Pages/SD-Tool.aspx>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>.

## D. Improving regional distribution of project activities under the clean development mechanism

### 1. Supporting designated national authorities

54. Through the secretariat, the Board continued to provide support to DNAs in the reporting period, including as follows:

- (a) By continuing to deliver, together with RCCs and their partners, online training events, including CDM-related virtual meetings for DNAs in the six RCC regions through the regional virtual platform<sup>11</sup> launched in early 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) Through RCCs providing direct technical assistance to DNAs for developing and renewing standardized baselines;
- (c) By providing DNAs with procedural guidance on submission of the instrument of acceptance of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which entered into force on 31 December 2020;
- (d) By engaging with DNAs at the Asia-Pacific and Middle East and North Africa regional DNA Forum and the Latin America and the Caribbean regional DNA Forum;
- (e) By engaging with the co-chairs of the DNA Forum at EB 110;
- (f) By updating the DNA contact details on the CDM web pages<sup>12</sup> as requested by the DNAs.

### 2. Nairobi Framework Partnership

55. In the context of the NFP,<sup>13</sup> the secretariat coordinates the activities of the core and regional partners and supporting organizations.<sup>14</sup> Most of the activities organized by the NFP are within the scope of the regional climate weeks.

56. The 2021 editions of the regional climate weeks, each of which was divided into three segments (round table, thematic sessions and high-level sessions), launched on 3 March 2021 with virtual regional round tables<sup>15</sup> convened by the core partners<sup>16</sup> together with the host countries and the high-level climate champions. The three round tables, one for Latin America and the Caribbean (hosted by the Dominican Republic), one for Asia-Pacific (hosted by Japan) and one for Africa (hosted by Uganda), focused on collecting views and inputs from a diverse range of stakeholders on priorities and opportunities for the three regions. The discussion also served to regionalize the three thematic areas defined for 2021, which are national action and economy-wide approaches, integrated approaches for climate-resilient development, and seizing transformational opportunities. The report of the regional climate weeks virtual round tables is available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>11</sup> <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/current-calls-for-partnerships/regional-collaboration-centres/regional-virtual-platform>.

<sup>12</sup> See <https://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/bak/index.html>.

<sup>13</sup> See <https://nfppartnership.org/>.

<sup>14</sup> Core partners: United Nations Development Programme, UNEP, UNFCCC and World Bank Group. Regional partners: African Development Bank, African Union, Asian Development Bank, Development Bank of Latin America, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Inter-American Development Bank, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Supporting organizations: International Emissions Trading Association, International Renewable Energy Agency, Latin American Energy Organization, Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and UNEP DTU Partnership, among others.

<sup>15</sup> The round tables were interpreted in three languages (English, French and Spanish). Recordings of the broadcasts are available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/regional-climate-weeks-virtual-roundtables-march-2021/watch-broadcast-virtual-regional-roundtables>.

<sup>16</sup> UNEP, the UNFCCC, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.

<sup>17</sup> <https://unfccc.int/documents/271210>.

57. The virtual thematic sessions of the regional climate weeks focused on priorities for the three thematic areas identified earlier in the year at the virtual regional round tables. The outcomes of these sessions will be carried forward to high-level sessions to be held late in 2021. The high-level sessions provide an opportunity for regional stakeholders to have their voice heard and contribute to negotiations at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties.

58. The Board wishes to express its gratitude to the Governments of the Dominican Republic, Japan and Uganda for hosting the regional climate weeks in 2021, to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for agreeing to host a regional climate week in 2022, and to NFP partners and cooperating organizations for their continued work on carbon markets and mechanisms, including the CDM.

59. A report on the 2020 activities of the NFP, documenting the activities of its partner agencies and cooperating organizations, is available on the CDM web pages.<sup>18</sup>

### 3. Regional collaboration centres

60. The RCCs<sup>19</sup> work in collaboration with local and regional agencies and multilateral development banks (RCC host partners)<sup>20</sup> to improve the regional distribution of CDM projects.

61. The RCCs provide support<sup>21</sup> to developing countries in relation to CDM methodologies and standardized baselines, incentivizing projects by promoting the use of CERs for voluntary climate neutrality under the Climate Neutral Now initiative; promoting the use of the CDM as part of development and climate strategies; promoting the benefits and potential broader use of the CDM, for example to underpin climate finance; and using the CDM sustainable development tool. They continue to prioritize work in the least developed countries and underrepresented countries (those with 10 or fewer registered CDM projects as at 31 December 2010).<sup>22</sup>

62. The work of the RCCs is organized in four areas:

- (a) Provision of direct assistance for existing projects and PoAs and identification of new projects and PoAs;
- (b) Provision of support for:
  - (i) Identification and development of new bottom-up and top-down standardized baselines;
  - (ii) Updating of standardized baselines;
- (c) Promotion of the use of the CDM and its CERs;
- (d) Financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutions.

63. From the beginning of their operations until 31 August 2021, the RCCs had directly supported more than 1,627 CDM project activities and PoAs, of which 255 projects and PoAs had moved forward one or more steps through the CDM project cycle and 126 additional projects had entered the CDM pipeline; and supported the development of 343 standardized baselines, of which 56 had been approved by the Board. In this reporting period, as in previous periods, the RCCs provided capacity-building and training on standardized

<sup>18</sup> <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>.

<sup>19</sup> The first RCC was established in Lomé, Togo, in 2013 and was followed by RCCs in Kampala, Uganda; St. George's, Grenada; Bogota, Colombia; and Bangkok, Thailand. RCC Bogota, which has been in operation since August 2013, was moved to Panama City, Panama, in March 2017. See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres>.

<sup>20</sup> West African Development Bank, Lomé; East African Development Bank, Kampala; Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, St. George's; UNEP, Panama; and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Bangkok.

<sup>21</sup> In response to decision 3/CMP.13, para. 3.

<sup>22</sup> See [https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard\\_base/cdmprojects.pdf](https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard_base/cdmprojects.pdf).

baselines through direct technical support at the national level and through events at the regional and subregional level.

64. The 2020 annual report of the RCCs is available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>23</sup> The report highlights achievements of RCC operations, including the impact of RCC activities in all areas of climate action and sustainable development. Two other reports of the RCCs, documenting their CDM activities for the periods July to December 2020 and January to June 2021, are available on the CDM web pages.<sup>24</sup>

## **E. Communication and outreach**

65. Communication and outreach in the reporting period focused on two areas:

(a) Conveying the usefulness and benefits of the CDM in the broader context of the use of markets and mechanisms;

(b) Increasing the use of CERs for voluntary offsetting (see chap. III.B.2 above).

66. Activities undertaken in the reporting period to nurture demand for the CDM and voluntary cancellation of CERs include producing seven articles and news items and promoting them via UNFCCC communication channels, including the UNFCCC Newsroom, CDM News and social media.

67. The CDM was promoted through multiple webinars,<sup>25</sup> which is the preferred channel in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, with audiences that included private companies, environmental consultancies, United Nations organizations and sectoral organizations. The CDM was also promoted via virtual events of the Climate Neutral Now initiative.<sup>26</sup>

68. Communication and outreach efforts are supported by the RCCs and built into various secretariat initiatives, including the annual United Nations Global Climate Action Awards,<sup>27</sup> and the secretariat's outreach to sectors such as fashion and sports.<sup>28</sup>

69. Messages about the CDM and use of markets were also delivered throughout the reporting period by the secretariat and its RCCs at virtual events, such as those listed on the newly launched regional virtual platform, and in the RCC newsletters.<sup>29</sup>

## **IV. Governance and management matters**

70. The Board and its panels met regularly during the reporting period. In addition, the secretariat organized meetings of the DNA Forum and the DOE/AIE Coordination Forum, as well as workshops with stakeholders (see annex III).

71. During the reporting period, the CDM Accreditation Panel and the CDM Methodologies Panel each met two times.<sup>30</sup> The Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group and the Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage Working Group did not meet, but the terms of office of their members were extended by two years – to the end of 2021.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://unfccc.int/RCCs-annual-report-2020>.

<sup>24</sup> <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>.

<sup>25</sup> <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/current-calls-for-partnerships/regional-collaboration-centres/regional-virtual-platform>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/climate-neutral-now/climate-neutral-now-events-2021#eq-2>.

<sup>27</sup> <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change>.

<sup>28</sup> <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement-for-climate-action>.

<sup>29</sup> See the individual web pages of the different RCCs, which can be accessed via <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres>.

<sup>30</sup> Available at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/index.html>.

## A. Membership of the Executive Board

72. At CMP 15, new members and alternate members of the Board were elected to fill vacancies arising from the expiration of terms of tenure. In 2021, the Board comprised the members and alternate members listed in table 5.

73. The Board welcomed Moises Alvarez, the new member elected by CMP 15, nominated by Parties not included in Annex I. In accordance with the communication dated 3 July 2020, the Chair of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries informed that the member from Brazil, José Miguez, would serve in office until 30 June 2021, when he would be succeeded by the member from the Dominican Republic, Mr. Alvarez, who will serve for the remainder of the term.

Table 5

### Members and alternate members of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism in 2021

<i>Members</i>	<i>Alternate members</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Omar Alcock <sup>a</sup>	Amjad Abdulla <sup>a</sup>	Small island developing States
El Hadji Mbaye Diagne <sup>b</sup>	Rachid Tahiri <sup>b</sup>	African States
Piotr Dombrowicki <sup>a</sup>	Anna Romanovskaya <sup>a</sup>	Parties included in Annex I
Diana Harutyunyan <sup>a</sup>	Natalie Kushko <sup>a</sup>	Eastern European States
Olivier Kassi <sup>b</sup>	Frank Wolke <sup>b</sup>	Western European and other States
Moises Alvarez <sup>a, c</sup>	Asmau Jibril <sup>a</sup>	Parties not included in Annex I
Lambert Schneider <sup>b</sup>	Kazunari Kainou <sup>b</sup>	Parties included in Annex I
Muhammad Tariq <sup>a</sup>	Kamal Djemouai <sup>a</sup>	Asia-Pacific States
Spencer Thomas <sup>b</sup>	Eduardo Calvo <sup>b</sup>	Latin American and Caribbean States
Sirous Vatankhah <sup>b</sup>	Nurul Quadir <sup>b</sup>	Asia-Pacific States

*Note:* In view of the postponement of CMP 16 to 2021, the Bureau decided, on 25 August 2020, to extend the current membership of the bodies under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, as needed, until successors can be appointed or elected (<https://unfccc.int/news/bureau-confirms-criteria-to-advance-the-unfccc-process>). In accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Board (decision 4/CMP.1, annex I), the members and alternate members shall remain in office until their successors are elected.

<sup>a</sup> Two-year term, starting as of the first meeting in 2020.

<sup>b</sup> Two-year term, starting as of the first meeting in 2019.

<sup>c</sup> Mr. Miguez served in office until 30 June 2021 and was succeeded by Mr. Alvarez for the remainder of the term on the basis of the decision of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

### Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board

74. At EB 109, Olivier Kassi, from a Party included in Annex I, was elected as Chair, and Omar Alcock, from a Party not included in Annex I, as Vice-Chair of the Board. Their tenures will end just before the first meeting of the Board in 2022.<sup>31</sup>

75. The Board expressed its appreciation to the outgoing Chair and Vice-Chair for their excellent leadership of the Board in 2021.

<sup>31</sup> In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Board.

## B. Meetings of the Executive Board

76. In the reporting period, the Board held three meetings (see table 6). The annotated agendas for the Board meetings, documentation supporting agenda items and reports containing all agreements adopted by the Board are available on the CDM web pages.<sup>32</sup>

Table 6

### Meetings of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism between 15 December 2020 and 9 September 2021

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
EB 109	1–3 and 9–11 March 2021	Virtual meeting
EB 110	17–19 and 25–27 May 2021	Virtual meeting
EB 111	30 August to 1 September and 7–9 September 2021	Virtual meeting

## C. Interaction with forums and stakeholders

77. The Board and its support structure continued their work with CDM stakeholders during the reporting period, including with DNAs through the DNA Forum and interaction with the DNA Forum co-chairs at EB 110; with DOEs through interaction with the Chair of the DOE/AIE Coordination Forum at EB 109, 110 and 111; and with the CDM Accreditation Panel at its 88<sup>th</sup> meeting.

78. Stakeholders were given the opportunity to express their views on the development and implementation of the CDM rules and to seek clarification on those rules through communication with the secretariat and the Board.

79. Stakeholders had the opportunity to comment on the draft annotated agenda for each Board meeting and to respond to calls for input on policy issues that have an impact on stakeholders before decision-making by the Board. The Board made itself available to registered observers at its meetings.

80. The secretariat organized, after each of the three Board meetings in the reporting period, regular teleconferences with members of the DOE/AIE Coordination Forum to discuss the outcomes of the meetings and to provide clarification on decisions taken by the Board. Members of the CDM Accreditation Panel participated in the teleconferences as observers. Preparation commenced for a DOE calibration workshop to be held late in 2021 to strengthen the capacity of DOEs and provide them with opportunities for sharing their experience of validation and verification under the new CDM regulations approved by the Board.

81. During the reporting period, preparation for a side event to be held at CMP 16 commenced. The theme for the side event was agreed by the Board at EB 109.<sup>33</sup>

## D. Financial status of the clean development mechanism

82. The Board continues to ensure its ability to maintain and develop the CDM up to the end of the true-up period of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol by prudently managing income received and the accumulated reserve.<sup>34</sup>

83. At EB 104, the Board approved the CDM-MAP for 2020–2021<sup>35</sup> and the related budget for 2021, amounting to USD 16.2 million, which represents a decrease of USD 1.8 million (or 9.9 per cent) compared with the 2020 budget. At EB 111, the Board considered

<sup>32</sup> <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/index.html>.

<sup>33</sup> See CDM document CDM-EB109, para. 46.

<sup>34</sup> In accordance with decisions 4/CMP.10, 6/CMP.11, 3/CMP.12 and 4/CMP.14.

<sup>35</sup> See CDM document CDM-EB104-A01-INFO.



the draft two-year CDM-MAP 2022–2023 and agreed to continue its consideration at EB 112.

84. A projected income of USD 9 million for 2021 was included in the CDM-MAP for 2020–2021. Table 7 provides a comparison between 2020 and 2021 of the CDM status of income in the eight-month period January–August: in 2021 the fees received amounted to USD 12.5 million; in 2020 they amounted to USD 8.7 million. The projected income for 2021 of USD 9.0 million has been exceeded.

Table 7

**Comparison of the clean development mechanism status of income for the eight-month period January–August for 2020 and 2021**

(United States dollars)

	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>
Carry-over from previous year (A)	76 157 278	75 227 870
Fee income		
Registration fees <sup>b</sup>	280 128	10 723
Share of proceeds <sup>c</sup>	10 227 049	12 401 606
Accreditation fees	22 500	99 038
Accreditation process related fees	39 010	21 138
<b>Subtotal: income for 1 January to 31 August (B)</b>	<b>10 568 687</b>	<b>12 532 504</b>
<b>Total: previous year's carry-over and current year's income (A + B)</b>	<b>86 725 965</b>	<b>87 760 374</b>

<sup>a</sup> Excludes the USD 45 million held in reserve and the interest accruing on the Trust Fund for the Clean Development Mechanism.

<sup>b</sup> Based on the average annual issuance of CERs over the first crediting period, calculated as a share of proceeds to cover administrative expenses, as defined in decision 7/CMP.1, para. 37. Projects with annual average emission reductions of less than 15,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent are exempt from the registration fee and the maximum fee applicable is USD 350,000. This fee is considered to be a prepayment of the share of proceeds to cover administrative expenses.

<sup>c</sup> Payable at issuance of CERs: USD 0.10/CER issued for the first 15,000 CERs for which issuance is requested in a given calendar year, and USD 0.20/CER issued for amounts in excess of 15,000 CERs.

85. Table 8 presents a comparison for 2019, 2020 and 2021 of the CDM budget and status of expenditure: expenditure in the eight-month period January–August in 2021 amounted to USD 11.0 million; in 2020 it also amounted to USD 11.0 million. The rate of expenditure in 2021 is slightly higher than the expected linear rate (66.7 per cent) for the period but is projected to more closely align with the linear rate as the year progresses. The data for 2019 have been included in the table for reference purposes.

Table 8

**Comparison of the clean development mechanism budget and status of expenditure for 2019, 2020 and 2021**

	2019	2020	2021
Budget (12 months) (USD)	19 480 903	17 992 672	16 213 476
Expenditure (first eight months) (USD)	12 708 848	11 048 839	11 007 971
Expenditure as a percentage of budget (%)	65.2	61.4	67.9

## E. Recommendations for the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

86. To provide clarity to project participants and countries and constituencies interested in using the CDM in their response to climate change, the Board recommends that the CMP provide guidance on the functioning of the CDM beyond the end of the second commitment period, noting the issues highlighted and temporary measures adopted by the Board (see chap. II.B above).

**Annex I****Entities accredited and provisionally designated by the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism**

[English only]

<i>Name of entity</i>	<i>Sectoral scopes (validation and verification)</i>
China Building Material Test and Certification Group Co. Ltd. (CTC) <sup>a</sup>	5, 11, 16
Korean Standards Association (KSA) <sup>a</sup>	14, 15

<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Extension of scope. For the entities for which the scope of accreditation was extended, only the new sectoral scopes are indicated.

## Annex II

### Regulatory documents approved by the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism

[English only]

Table II.1  
**Standards**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>Meeting report reference<sup>a</sup></i>
CDM project standard for project activities	03.0	EB 111	Annex 1
CDM validation and verification standard for project activities	03.0	EB 111	Annex 2
CDM project standard for programmes of activities	03.0	EB 111	Annex 3
CDM validation and verification standard for programmes of activities	03.0	EB 111	Annex 4
Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities	09.0	EB 110	Annex 1

*Notes:* Approved methodological standards are available at <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/index.html>; approved standardized baselines are available at [https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard\\_base/index.html](https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard_base/index.html).

<sup>a</sup> See <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/index.html>.

Table II.2  
**Procedures**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>Meeting report reference<sup>a</sup></i>
CDM project cycle procedure for project activities	03.0	EB 111	Annex 10
CDM project cycle procedure for programmes of activities	03.0	EB 111	Annex 11

<sup>a</sup> See <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/index.html>.

Table II.3  
**Information notes**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>Meeting report reference<sup>a</sup></i>
Calendar of meetings for 2021	03.0	EB 110	Annex 8
CDM Executive Board workplan 2021	01.0	EB 109	Annex 2
CDM Accreditation Panel workplan 2021	01.0	EB 109	Annex 3
Methodologies Panel workplan 2021	01.0	EB 109	Annex 4
Calendar of meetings for 2021	02.0	EB 109	Annex 7

<sup>a</sup> See <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/index.html>.

Table II.4  
**Amendments**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>Meeting report reference<sup>a</sup></i>
Amendments to version 02.0 of the CDM project standards for project activities on addition/change of technologies	01.0	EB 109	Annex 5
Amendments to version 02.0 of the CDM project standards for programmes of activities on addition/change of technologies	01.0	EB 109	Annex 6

<sup>a</sup> See <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/index.html>.

Table II.5  
**Clarifications**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>Meeting report reference<sup>a</sup></i>
Regulatory requirements under temporary measures for post-2020 cases	01.0	EB 109	Annex 1

<sup>a</sup> See <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/index.html>.

## Annex III

### Meetings of the support bodies and forums of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism

[English only]

Table III.1  
Clean development mechanism Accreditation Panel meetings

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
AP 88-EC01	11–24 February 2021	Electronic consultation
AP 88	17–19 March 2021	Virtual
AP 89-EC01	4–18 May 2021	Electronic consultation
AP 89	29 June to 1 July 2021	Virtual
AP 90-EC01	21 July to 10 August 2021	Electronic consultation

Table III.2  
Clean development mechanism Methodologies Panel meetings

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
MP 84	22–26 March 2021	Virtual
MP 85	21–25 June 2021	Virtual

Table III.3  
Workshops and forums organized for clean development mechanism stakeholders

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
53 <sup>rd</sup> DOE conference call	9 February 2021	Virtual
54 <sup>th</sup> DOE conference call	1 April 2021	Virtual
55 <sup>th</sup> DOE conference call	22 June 2021	Virtual
Asia-Pacific and Middle East and North Africa regional DNA Forum	7 July 2021	Virtual
Latin America and Caribbean regional DNA Forum	14 May 2021	Virtual