

Decision -/CP.30

Term, composition and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 4, paragraphs 1, 3 and 7, and Article 12, paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 7, of the Convention,

Also recalling Article 13, paragraphs 1, 14 and 15, of the Paris Agreement,

Further recalling decisions 8/CP.5, 3/CP.8, 17/CP.8, 5/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 14/CP.17, 17/CP.18, 18/CP.18, 19/CP.19, 20/CP.19, 1/CP.21, 20/CP.22, 11/CP.24 and 14/CP.26,

Recalling decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 15,

Recognizing that the Consultative Group of Experts plays an important role in facilitating the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties and in facilitating improved reporting over time, as applicable, in relation to the preparation and submission of national communications, biennial update reports, national greenhouse gas inventories and biennial transparency reports, as relevant,

Also recognizing the special circumstances of the least developed countries and small island developing States in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement,

1. *Emphasizes* that the Consultative Group of Experts plays a dual role in that it serves both the Convention and the Paris Agreement and that it shall continue to provide technical advice and support to developing country Parties for fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

2. *Decides* that the term of the Consultative Group of Experts will continue;

3. *Also decides* that the Consultative Group of Experts shall be composed of 27 members as follows, noting that members shall be nominated by their respective regional groups:

(a) Two from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention;

(b) Six from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, noting that these seats shall be equally distributed among the three regional groups of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention referred to in paragraph 3(d–e) and (g) below;

(c) One from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention from Eastern European States;

(d) Three from African States;

(e) Three from Asia-Pacific States;

(f) One from Eastern European States;

(g) Three from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(h) Three from Western European and other States;

(i) One from the least developed countries;

(j) One from small island developing States;

(k) One from each of three international organizations with relevant experience in providing technical assistance to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and developing country Parties in the preparation of national communications, biennial update reports and biennial transparency reports;

4. *Further decides* that the Consultative Group of Experts shall be composed of experts drawn from the UNFCCC roster of experts with expertise in at least one of the sections of national communications, biennial update reports and biennial transparency reports in accordance with the relevant guidelines;¹
5. *Encourages* regional groups, the least developed countries and small island developing States, in nominating their experts to the Consultative Group of Experts, to make every effort to ensure balanced representation in the areas of expertise referred to in paragraph 4 above, and to take into account gender balance in accordance with decisions 36/CP.7 and 23/CP.18;
6. *Decides* that the members of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain in office until their successors are elected and that, in such cases, the Consultative Group of Experts shall notify, via the secretariat, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation thereof;
7. *Also decides* that the terms of service of the Chair and the Rapporteur of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain unchanged from the guidance set out in paragraph 6 of the annex to decision 3/CP.8;
8. *Adopts* the revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts contained in the annex;
9. *Decides* that the provisions in this decision and the revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts shall become effective on 1 January 2026;
10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to initiate consideration of the composition of the Consultative Group of Experts and its terms of reference at its seventy-eighth session (2033), taking into account the needs of developing countries for capacity-building in relation to reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, with a view to recommending draft decisions on these matters for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its thirty- eighth session (2033);
11. *Also requests* the secretariat to facilitate the work of the Consultative Group of Experts pursuant to this decision;
12. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraph 11 above;
13. *Requests* that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

¹ See the annex to decision 17/CP.8, annex III to decision 2/CP.17, the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, annexes I–VI to decision 5/CMA.3, and decision 9/CMA.4.

Annex

Revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts

1. The objective of the Consultative Group of Experts shall be to provide technical advice and support to developing country Parties for enhancing their institutional and technical capacity to fulfil their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, with a particular emphasis on the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement, with a view to facilitating improvements in their reporting over time. Taking into account paragraph 98 of decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 38 and 43(a–b) of decision 1/CP.24, paragraphs 3–4 of decision 18/CMA.1 and paragraph 1 of decision 5/CMA.3, the Consultative Group of Experts shall ensure that it prioritizes its work in a manner that addresses the challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties, recognizing the special circumstances of the least developed countries and small island developing States, as recognized in Article 13, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement.

2. In fulfilling its mandate² to support implementation of the existing measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), the Consultative Group of Experts shall, as appropriate:

(a) Provide, taking into account paragraphs 38 and 43(a–b) of decision 1/CP.24, technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the process of and the preparation of their national communications³ and biennial update reports, as applicable, in accordance with the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, contained in the annex to decision 17/CP.8, and the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, contained in annex III to decision 2/CP.17;

(b) Provide recommendations, as appropriate, on elements to be considered in a future revision of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, taking into account the experience of non-Annex I Parties in preparing their national communications;

(c) Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, on the provision of the information to be reported on steps taken to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention;

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

(e) Continue updating and organizing, as needed, with the assistance of the secretariat, the training programmes for nominated technical experts for the technical analysis of biennial update reports, on the basis of the most up-to-date training materials of the Consultative Group of Experts, with a view to improving the technical analysis, taking into account the experience of non-Annex I Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in preparing their biennial update reports, and increasing

² Decision 11/CP.24.

³ In accordance with decision 1/CP.24, para. 43(a), Parties may submit their national communication and biennial transparency report as a single report in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, as contained in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, for information also covered by the national communication reporting guidelines contained in, as applicable, decisions 4/CP.5 and 17/CP.8.

the representation of the least developed countries and small island developing States in teams of technical experts.

3. In fulfilling its mandate⁴ to support implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, the Consultative Group of Experts shall:

(a) Facilitate the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties, including for the preparation and submission of their biennial transparency reports, and facilitate improved reporting over time in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement,⁵ as applicable;

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

(c) With the assistance of the secretariat, support developing country Parties, including through national focal points, in providing additional support to experts to complete the training programmes and increase participation in the technical expert review, to assist the secretariat in meeting its obligations under paragraph 178 in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1.

4. The Consultative Group of Experts, in providing technical advice and support, should, to the extent possible:

(a) Give special consideration to the least developed countries and small island developing States, including in the context of the need to improve the ability of experts to participate in technical expert reviews;

(b) Identify and take into account, as appropriate, lessons learned and best practices, and the challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties pertaining to preparing, as appropriate, the reports referred to in paragraphs 2(a) and 3(a) above, including in relation to financial and other support available, as well as the areas for improvement and capacity-building needs identified in biennial transparency reports, technical analyses of biennial update reports and technical expert reviews of biennial transparency reports;

(c) Seek to promote sectoral, gender and geographical balance among experts from developing country Parties eligible to participate in technical expert reviews;

(d) Facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of the processes for preparing, as appropriate and relevant, the reports referred to in paragraphs 2(a) and 3(a) above, including by providing technical advice and support on elaborating appropriate institutional arrangements, facilitating long-term planning with regard to implementing the enhanced transparency framework and establishing and maintaining national technical teams;

(e) Provide information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation, as appropriate, of the reports referred to in paragraphs 2(a) and 3(a) above;

(f) Seek to increase, including through the national focal points, the pool of qualified technical experts through targeted outreach and training initiatives, focusing on building and maintaining a sustainable pool of reviewers;

(g) Provide technical advice and support to developing country Parties in their efforts to establish, develop and enhance robust and sustainable reporting systems, as applicable, with a view to preserving institutional memory and ensuring continuity in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

5. The Consultative Group of Experts should collaborate, to the extent possible, with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement,

⁴ Decisions 11/CP.24, para. 4, and 18/CMA.1, para. 15.

⁵ Decision 18/CMA.1, annex.

as well as with representatives of relevant multilateral programmes and organizations, while avoiding duplication of work.

6. The Consultative Group of Experts shall develop a work programme every four years, starting at its first meeting in 2026, and include information on its progress in implementing the work programme in its annual report prepared for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

7. The Consultative Group of Experts shall also develop an annual workplan, in line with its work programme, at its first meeting each year.

8. The Consultative Group of Experts shall include information in its annual report to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on any resource constraints identified in implementing the work programme referred to in paragraph 6 above.

9. The Consultative Group of Experts shall forward recommendations on the matters referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 above for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, as appropriate.
