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#### Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Thirty-seventh session Doha, 26 November to 1 December 2012

Item 11(b) of the provisional agenda
Methodological issues under the Convention
Work programme on the revision of the guidelines for the review of biennial reports and national communications, including national inventory reviews, for developed country Parties

Synthesis report on the submissions from Parties on the work programme and on the revision of the review guidelines for the review of biennial reports from developed country Parties and national communications, including national greenhouse gas inventories, from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

#### Note by the secretariat

#### Summary

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirty-sixth session, initiated its consideration of the work programme on the revision of the guidelines for the review of biennial reports and national communications, including national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, for developed country Parties. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit views on the elements of the work programme and on the timeline of proposed activities, as well as on the key elements of the revision of the review guidelines, and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report of Parties' submissions. This report provides a synthesis based on submissions from six Parties as at 12 November 2012. It will serve as an input to further discussions by the SBSTA at its thirty-seventh session on the revision of the guidelines for the review of biennial reports and national communications, including national GHG inventories.

#### FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.11

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#### I. Introduction

#### A. Background and mandate

- 1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 1/CP.16, decided that developed country Parties should enhance reporting in national communications (NCs) and submit biennial reports (BRs), which outline the progress made in achieving emission reductions and the provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, building on existing reporting and review guidelines, processes and experiences. The COP also decided on a work programme, building on existing reporting and review guidelines, processes and experiences, covering, inter alia, the revision of guidelines for the review of national communications, including the BR, annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and national inventory systems.
- 2. By decision 2/CP.17,<sup>1</sup> the COP further decided to establish a work programme under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) (hereinafter referred to as the work programme), with a view to concluding the revision of the guidelines for the review of BRs and NCs, including national inventory reviews, for developed country Parties (hereinafter referred to as the review guidelines), no later than COP 19.<sup>2</sup>
- 3. The SBSTA, at its thirty-sixth session, initiated its consideration of this work programme. It invited Parties to submit views on the elements of the work programme and on the timeline of proposed activities, as well as on the key elements of the revision of the review guidelines, and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report of Parties' submissions. This synthesis report will serve as an input to the discussions by the SBSTA at its thirty-seventh session.

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

- 4. This report synthesizes Parties' views on the revision of the review guidelines contained in submissions received from six Parties and groups of Parties (Australia; Cyprus and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States; Japan; Liechtenstein on behalf of the Environmental Integrity Group, comprising Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, Republic of Korea and Switzerland; New Zealand; and United States of America) that are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.17 and Add.1.
- 5. This report is structured as follows: chapter I provides the background, mandate, scope and structure of this report; chapter II outlines the objectives of the review process and the principles for and approach to the revision of the review guidelines based on Parties' submissions; chapter III synthesizes Parties' views on the structure of the revised review guidelines; and chapter IV discusses specific issues in relation to the content of the revised review guidelines, including the focus, frequency and format, and the timing and sequencing of various types of review. This report concludes with chapter V, which

Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 28.

According to decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 13 and 14, and decision 9/CP.16, paragraph 5, developed country Parties shall submit their first BR by 1 January 2014 and Parties included in Annex I to the Convention shall submit their sixth NC by 1 January 2014. Submission of these reports will trigger the expert review of these reports as part of the international assessment and review process.

synthesizes Parties' views on the process and timeline for the revision of the review guidelines. The annex contains examples, prepared by the secretariat, based on Parties' submissions and existing review guidelines and decisions, such as decision 2/CP.17, of the overall structure of the revised review guidelines and some key elements within this structure.

## C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

6. The SBSTA, at its thirty-seventh session, will consider this report in the context of its discussions on agenda item 11(b).

#### II. Overarching issues

#### A. Objectives of the review process

- 7. According to their submissions, Parties consider that the review processes are the cornerstone of the measurement, reporting and verification framework. Parties acknowledge that the review processes help to ensure the transparency of information on countries' mitigation efforts and on support provided to developing countries. A robust, comparable and comprehensive review process established under the Convention should continue in the context of the international assessment and review (IAR) process established by decision 1/CP.16, and consistency and comparability of reviews across all developed country Parties should be enhanced over time. This includes the comparability of emission data reported in GHG inventories.
- 8. One Party highlighted the important learning opportunity provided by the current review processes of GHG inventories and NCs to share best practices among Parties. The same Party also emphasized the fact that the review processes can facilitate improved policymaking by encouraging Parties to collaborate and adopt best practices.

#### B. Principles for and approach to the revision of the review guidelines

- 9. All Parties are of the view that the existing review processes are highly resource-intensive. Designing a cost-effective, efficient and practical review process that does not impose an excessive burden on Parties, the secretariat and review experts was highlighted by these Parties as the "guiding principle" for the work programme. The overall review processes need to be more coherent to allow for better management and allocation of the time and resources of both the secretariat and the review experts, and to improve the timeliness of the reviews.
- 10. Parties agreed that the revision of the review guidelines should build on the experience with the existing reporting and review processes and guidelines under the Convention.<sup>3</sup> The existing processes and guidelines need to be further enhanced in terms of rigour and consolidated in terms of processes and steps. Specifically, some Parties maintained that the existing review guidelines for GHG inventories and NCs should be consolidated and aligned, and that the review of BRs should be integrated into this existing process. In doing so, coordination between different review processes needs to be well coordinated to ensure effective and efficient review processes.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> One Party specifically mentioned that guidance from existing processes and guidelines includes those in decisions 2/CP.1, 9/CP.2, 6/CP.3, 33/CP.7 and 2/CP.17.

- 11. Parties also agreed that there is an urgent need to streamline the review processes and to reflect this in the revised guidelines, in the light of the three review processes that will be conducted in 2014 for developed country Parties (i.e. the annual review of GHG inventories, the technical review of BRs every two years and the review of NCs every four years). A coherent and well-coordinated approach should be applied to avoid duplication of the various review processes, and synergies should be built among individual review processes wherever possible. Some Parties further suggested that any reported information should be subject to only one form of review. For example, the inventory information contained in GHG inventories, BRs and NCs, as well as mitigation actions and financial information contained in BRs and NCs, should be reviewed only once, provided that this information is consistent across the three types of report.
- 12. A number of Parties suggested that the revision of the review guidelines needs to take into consideration the new reporting requirements encompassed in the revised reporting guidelines adopted by the COP at its seventeenth session, which contain a requirement to apply methodologies from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. For example, the reporting of the national inventory arrangements is a new element in the revised reporting guidelines; therefore, the revised review guidelines should take this into account and incorporate the review of this new information.
- 13. Some Parties noted that the sharing of experiences among Parties of the current review processes is essential. In this regard, the technical paper<sup>5</sup> prepared by the secretariat on the experiences with the current review processes provides a useful starting point. These Parties suggested that workshops could be held to discuss the revision of the review guidelines and to advance the implementation of the work programme.
- 14. With regard to the approach to the revision of the review guidelines, some Parties suggested that the secretariat prepare a "zero-order" draft of a single guidelines document that covers all review types, with text drawn from existing review guidelines where relevant, and with inputs from Parties' submissions. This document could be the focus for discussion during a technical workshop in the first part of 2013, in order for the outcomes to be considered by the SBSTA at its thirty-eighth session. Other Parties suggested that the revised review guidelines should be developed as separate guidelines, covering different types of review (see para. 17 below).
- 15. One Party further suggested that the secretariat make an assessment of the financial and human resource implications of the review process as an additional input to help Parties design a practical and cost-effective review process.

#### III. Structure of the revised review guidelines

16. Parties' views diverged with regard to the structure of the review guidelines. Some Parties suggested that the revised review guidelines should be prepared as one single document, while other Parties suggested the elaboration of three sets of individual review guidelines (see the annex). A number of Parties suggested that the structure of the "Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol" (hereinafter referred to as the Article 8 review guidelines)<sup>6</sup> should be used as an example for preparing one single document, where common elements can be addressed together in an overarching section, followed by separate chapters on the GHG inventory review, the BR review and the NC review (see option 1 in the annex). Alternatively, an overarching section could be followed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Decision 15/CP.17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> FCCC/TP/2012/8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Annex to decision 22/CMP.1.

by separate chapters on the GHG inventory review and the BR/NC review as a combined chapter (see option 2 in the annex). These Parties noted that having the revised review guidelines in a single document would help to avoid unnecessary duplication of information and ensure consistency in common elements across the three review processes.

- 17. In contrast, taking into account the different timelines for ongoing and future work regarding the elaboration of reporting guidelines, other Parties suggested that the guidelines for the review of NCs, GHG inventories and BRs should be developed as separate guidelines, and, further, that the guidelines for the BR review should draw on the review processes for NCs and GHG inventories, where appropriate.
- 18. Parties' views on the scope and nature of different types of review also have implications for the structure of the revised review guidelines. Some Parties are of the view that the NC and BR reviews differ from the GHG inventory review in scope and in nature. While the GHG inventory review focuses on a technical assessment of the quantitative information on a Party's emissions and removals, the NC and BR reviews focus more on the policy aspect of a Party's mitigation actions and progress in achieving its emission reduction targets as well as the provision of support to developing countries. Hence, the revision of the review guidelines for BRs and NCs should be carried out together, while the revision of the review guidelines for GHG inventories should be carried out separately.
- 19. Parties also shared their views on how the structure of the revised review guidelines should be shaped. Some Parties suggested that the Article 8 review guidelines on the review of NCs together with the general procedures under the Convention for the review of NCs<sup>8</sup> could be used as a reference for the revised review guidelines for NCs under the Convention, with more detailed aspects regarding the procedures, timing and composition of expert review teams being elaborated in the revised review guidelines.
- 20. These Parties further suggested that the development of the BR review guidelines should be consistent with and complement the modalities and procedures for IAR<sup>9</sup>. The current guidance contained in various COP decisions could be consolidated into one document that provides a comprehensive set of guidelines for the review of NCs and BRs. This existing guidance could then be revised to include the additional reporting content required by decisions 1/CP.16 and 2/CP.17 in order to integrate the review of BRs into the existing NC review process. Furthermore, the revision of the GHG inventory review guidelines should be based on the existing guidelines, <sup>10</sup> while taking into consideration the new reporting requirements embodied in the revised reporting guidelines (see para. 12 above).

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Decision 2/CP.17 includes two requests to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) regarding the revision of the reporting guidelines for information included in national communications by COP 20: the revision of the "Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part II: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on national communications", based on the experiences gained in preparing the first biennial reports and other information, to begin at SBI 40; and the development of methodologies for reporting financial information. Furthermore, the revised reporting guidelines for GHG inventories will be adopted at COP 19 after the trial period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Decision 2/CP.1.

Decision 2/CP.17, annex II

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Decision 19/CP.8.

# IV. Issues in relation to the content of the revised review guidelines

#### A. Focus of reviews

21. In their submissions, Parties shared their views on the focus of the GHG inventory reviews only, without specifying the focus of the NC and BR reviews. A number of Parties emphasized the importance of rationalizing the focus and intent of the GHG inventory reviews in order to improve the efficiency of the review process, so that the reviews concentrate on key issues instead of pursuing minimal emission sources. Over the years, as the quality of reported information has improved, there has been a tendency for reviews to focus on increasingly smaller issues. Hence, these Parties suggested that future GHG inventory reviews should cover only key issues. Some Parties suggested that only substantial errors should be specified in the list of potential problems and further questions raised by the expert review team during the course of the review, and that issues considered "insignificant" as per the revised inventory reporting guidelines<sup>11</sup> should not trigger a resubmission of the common reporting format tables but should instead be included in the next annual submission. This may, to some extent, prevent the delay in the finalization of the review reports.

#### **B.** Frequency and format of reviews

- 22. In their submissions, most Parties noted that the frequency of reviews needs to be reconsidered and alternative ways of conducting the reviews need to be explored, taking into account the increasing number of reports to be reviewed from 2014 onwards, the limited resources of skilled and qualified reviewers, and the heavy workload on the secretariat and expert review teams.
- 23. A number of Parties considered that the annual inventory review is no longer necessary in order to maintain the standards of quality required under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the IPCC *Good Practice* Guidance *and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, given that the GHG inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) have undergone considerable improvement as a result of the review process. Therefore, these Parties suggested that while maintaining the frequency of reporting of GHG inventories, the current annual review could be modified with a review every two years, with half of the Annex I Parties being reviewed each year. On an exceptional basis, if problems were to be identified, an inventory review could be scheduled for the next year as a follow-up.
- 24. Alternatively, the individual reviews could be conducted biennially for all Annex I Parties, with annual reviews comprising the initial checks and a follow-up on how the recommendations from the previous review are being implemented. Conducting the GHG inventory review on a biennial basis would also provide Annex I Parties with a practical time frame to implement the recommendations from previous reviews.
- 25. Parties' views differ on the format of the reviews. Some Parties suggested that the NC reviews should be organized as centralized reviews for all Parties for which no significant recommendations were made in the previous review with regard to the improvement of reporting, or for Parties with small-scale economies (and hence low emission levels). One Party suggests that the reviews of BRs and NCs could be coordinated with the in-country reviews of GHG inventories, and centralized reviews would then occur

<sup>11</sup> Decision 15/CP.17, paragraph 37(b).

in all other years, as appropriate. Furthermore, as the format of each review has implications on the depth of the review, the revised review guidelines should clearly identify the depth of review that is to be undertaken for each format of review.

26. Some Parties suggested that the GHG inventory review should, as a rule, be a centralized review and should be conducted in-country only occasionally. With regard to NC reviews, while it is helpful to conduct in-country reviews in order to fully understand national circumstances, the number of experts in a team could potentially be reduced. These Parties further proposed that reviews could be conducted in a simplified format for small-scale economies (i.e. for Parties with total GHG emissions of less than 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent); for example, centralized reviews could be conducted for the sixth NCs (NC6s) and subsequent NC and BR submissions, taking note of decision 10/CMP.6.

#### C. Timing and sequencing of reviews

- 27. A number of Parties noted the importance of the timing and sequencing of reviews if the review processes are to be streamlined. In particular, Parties referred to annex II to decision 2/CP.17, which specifies that each developed country Party's BR will be reviewed, where relevant, in conjunction with the annual GHG inventory and NC review processes. As the review of GHG inventory information is a cross-cutting issue for both the GHG inventory review, and the BR and NC reviews, and in view of the fact that some Parties consider that the GHG inventory summary in the BR and the NC should be identical to the latest inventory submission, the review of GHG inventories should sequence well with the technical review of BRs and NCs.
- 28. In addition, the BR and NC reviews should also sequence well given that it is still unclear whether the BR and NC reviews will be combined. In accordance with decision 2/CP.17, the review of BRs should commence two months after the submission of the first round of BRs, whereas the NC reviews should be subject to an in-depth review as soon as possible, but within one year of receipt by the secretariat in accordance with decision 2/CP.1. This implies that the timeline for the NC and BR reviews therefore needs to be synchronized if the NC and BR reviews are to be combined.
- 29. One Party further noted that, based on established procedures, the review reports of BRs and NCs should be available in time to be considered fully for the next annual submission (i.e. approximately six months prior to the next submission date). Furthermore, the reviews should be scheduled and the dates communicated to Parties well in advance (six months) of the in-country reviews. For these reasons, the timing and sequencing issue needs to be carefully considered during the revision of the review guidelines.

#### D. Other issues

- 30. A number of other issues were highlighted by Parties in their submissions in relation to the content of the revised review guidelines. These include the following: the incorporation of the quality assurance/quality control procedures in the review guidelines in order to achieve consistency and the comparable treatment of Parties; the establishment under the Convention of a procedure for technical corrections of inventory estimates analogous to adjustments under the Kyoto Protocol; and the use of communication technology when conducting reviews.
- 31. In addition, some Parties noted that common rules, procedures and standards for input by reviewers would help to simplify and increase the efficiency, effectiveness and comparability of the review processes. The development of templates for reviewers, such as

- a "tick box" form to assess whether all elements of the reporting guidelines have been addressed, could enable easier interpretation and comparison of outcomes. In addition, the review reports should be made more concise and the contents should be more standardized, to the extent possible.
- 32. Some Parties emphasized the importance of having competent review teams in order to increase the timeliness, efficiency, functionality and consistency of reviews. To improve the competency of review teams, these Parties suggested the use of professional experts, the clarification of the role of the secretariat and the establishment of a more comprehensive training programme for the reviewers, including a rigorous examination system.

#### V. Process and timeline for the revision of the review guidelines

- 33. Parties' views diverged on the timeline for the completion of the revision of the review guidelines. Most Parties agreed that the revision should be completed in 2013 and adopted by COP 19, in accordance with decision 2/CP.17. This would ensure the use of the guidelines for the review of the NC6s and the first round of BRs, which are due at the beginning of 2014. Adopting the revised review guidelines by COP 19 would also provide the basis for the IAR process following the submission of the NC6s and the first round of BRs.
- 34. Some Parties proposed different timelines for the revision of the three sets of review guidelines in order to avoid the same guidelines being revised and updated several times in the coming years. These Parties recommended that the revision of the BR review guidelines should be postponed to coincide with the revision of the modalities and procedures for IAR, but no later than 2016.<sup>12</sup> They further suggested that a longer-term timeline should be adopted for the revision of the NC review guidelines, given that the revised reporting guidelines for NCs will be adopted by COP 20.<sup>13</sup> According to these Parties, the revised guidelines for the review of NCs and BRs should be adopted at COP 21 or at COP 22. In addition, these Parties suggested that the revised review guidelines for GHG inventories should be adopted at COP 19 or COP 20, in parallel to or following the adoption of the revised reporting guidelines for GHG inventories at COP 19 after the trial period.
- 35. One Party highlighted the importance of setting the priority of the work and of Parties agreeing on a detailed work programme on the revision of the review guidelines at SBSTA 37. This work programme should include timelines, the overall structure and the key elements of the revised review guidelines.
- 36. Parties agreed that the technical paper<sup>14</sup> prepared by the secretariat provides a good basis for more focused discussions during the technical workshop to be scheduled for the first half of 2013. However, Parties' views on the focus of discussions during the technical workshop and expected outcome differ.
- 37. Some Parties suggested that the focus of discussions during the technical workshop should be on the technical aspects of the review guidelines, and on opportunities and methods to streamline existing processes, including the identification of overlaps and gaps. A summary report of the workshop could be prepared by the secretariat as an input to discussions at SBSTA 38. Some Parties recommended that the secretariat prepare a "zero-order" draft of a single guidelines document to provide the basis for a focused discussion at the technical workshop to be held before SBSTA 38. One Party further suggested that the

According to decision 2/CP.17, the modalities and procedures for IAR will be revised no later than 2016 (COP 22), based on experience from the first round of IAR.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Decision 2/CP.17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> FCCC/TP/2012/8.

SBSTA actively seek inputs from the expert reviewers, either through an invitation sent by the secretariat or by placing this topic on the agenda of the annual lead reviewers' meeting in 2013.

- 38. Some Parties suggested further submissions of Parties' views, before or after SBSTA 38, on the framework for reviews, including common rules, procedures and standards for reporting review results, followed by a synthesis report being prepared by the secretariat. These Parties suggested holding a second technical workshop in the intersessional period in the second half of 2013. One Party suggested that the second workshop should focus on technical issues that should be resolved in order to elaborate the draft revised review guidelines in time for their use in the IAR process, which is scheduled to be launched on 1 January 2014.
- 39. Finally, some Parties noted that there is relevant methodological work under the Kyoto Protocol<sup>15</sup> in another work programme under the SBSTA that focuses on reporting and review under the Kyoto Protocol. That work programme is being implemented in parallel with the work programme on the revision of the review guidelines under the Convention. Therefore, the work programme under the Convention should be harmonized with the work programme under the Kyoto Protocol, as appropriate. The streamlining of the review processes should be developed in parallel, both in the review guidelines under the Convention and in those under the Kyoto Protocol.

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The work programme under the Kyoto Protocol deals with the implications of decisions 2/CMP.7, 3/CMP.7, 4/CMP.7 and 5/CMP.7 on previous methodological issues related to the Kyoto Protocol, including those related to Articles 5, 7 and 8 of the Kyoto Protocol.

#### Annex

## Examples of the overall structure of the revised review guidelines and some key elements within this structure<sup>1</sup>

Option 1: this option envisages one single set of guidelines with an overarching section, followed by sections on specific guidelines for each of the three types of report.

#### Part 1: General approach to reviews

- A. Applicability
- B. Objectives To establish a process for a thorough, objective and comprehensive technical assessment of commitments by Parties under the Convention
  - -To promote consistency and transparency in the review of information submitted under the Convention
  - -To enhance the comparability of information reported under the Convention
  - To assist Parties in improving their reporting of information
  - -To provide the Conference of the Parties (COP) with a technical assessment of the implementation of the Convention
- C. General approach
- D. Timing and procedures
- E. Expert review teams (ERTs) and institutional arrangements
- F. Reporting and publications

### Part II: Review guidelines (GLs) for annual inventories

- A. Purpose of the technical review:
- To provide thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of annual inventories
- To examine consistency with reporting GLs - To assist Parties to improve inventories
- To inform the COP
- B. Procedures: frequency, time frame, format
- C. Initial checks of submission data
- D. Synthesis and assessment
- F. Individual inventory reviews:
- Scope of the review
- 2. ERT: composition, mandate
- 3. Individual review reports
- 4. Liming

## Part III: Review GLs for national communications

- A. Purpose of the technical review:
- To provide thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of implementation of the Convention
- To examine consistency with national communications (NC) reporting GLs
- To assist Parties to improve reporting of information in NC
- To inform the COP
- B. Procedures: frequency, time frame, format
- C. Individual reviews:
- 1. Scope of the review
- 2. ERT: composition, mandate
- 3. Individual review reports
- 4. Timing

#### Part IV: Review GLs for biennial reports

- A. Purpose of the technical review:
  - To review progress in emission reductions and removals related to quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets
- To examine consistency with biennial report (BR) reporting GLs
- To assist Parties to improve reporting of information in BRs
- To facilitate multilateral assessment under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation
- B. Procedures: frequency, time frame, format
- C. Technical reviews:
- 1. Scope of the review
- 2. FRT: composition, mandate
- 3. Individual review reports
- 4. Timing

These examples are based on the information from existing guidelines under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, as well as on Parties' submissions. They aim to facilitate better understanding of the options proposed by Parties regarding the structure of the revised review guidelines.

Option 2: this option envisages one single set of guidelines with an overarching section, followed by sections on specific guidelines for greenhouse gas inventories and combined biennial report/national communication reviews.

#### Part 1: General approach to reviews

#### A. Applicability

- B. Objectives -To establish a process for a thorough, objective and comprehensive technical assessment of commitments by Parties under the Convention
  - -To promote consistency and transparency in the review of information submitted under the Convention
  - -To enhance the comparability of information reported under the Convention
  - -To assist Parties in improving their reporting of information
  - -To provide the Conference of the Parties (COP) with a technical assessment of the implementation of the Convention
- C. General approach
- D. Timing and procedures
- E. Expert review teams (ERTs) and institutional arrangements
- F. Reporting and publications

#### Part II: Review guidelines (GLs) for annual inventories

- A. Purpose of the technical review:
- To provide thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of annual inventories
- To examine consistency with reporting GLs
- To assist Parties to improve inventories
- To inform the COP
- B. Procedures: frequency, time frame, format
- C. Initial checks of submission data
- D. Synthesis and assessment
- E. Individual inventory reviews:
- 1. Scope of the review
- 2. ERT: composition, mandate
- 3. Individual review reports
- 4. Timing

## Part III: Review GLs for national communications and biennial reports

- A. Purpose of the review :
- To provide thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of progress in emission reductions and removals related to quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets and implementation of the Convention
- To examine consistency with national communications/ biennial reports reporting GLs
- To assist Parties to improve reporting of information in national communications and biennial reports
- To facilitate multilateral assessment under Subsidiary Body for Implementation
- To inform the COP
- B. Procedures: frequency, time frame, format
- C. Individual reviews:
- 1. Scope of the review
- 2. ERT: composition, mandate
- 3. Individual review reports
- 4. Timin

#### Option 3: this option envisages three sets of guidelines, one for each of the three types of report.

### Review guidelines (GLs) for annual inventories

- A. Objectives
- To promote consistency in the review of annual greenhouse gas inventories
- To enhance the comparability of emission data
- B. Purpose of the technical review:
- To provide thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of annual inventories
- To examine consistency with reporting GLs
- To assist Parties to improve inventories
- To inform the Conference of the Parties (COP)
- C. General approach and procedures: frequency, time frame, format
- C. Initial checks of submission data
- D. Synthesis and assessment
- F. Individual inventory reviews:
- 1. Scope of the review
- Expert review team (ERT): composition,
  mandate
- 3. Individual review reports
- 4. Timing

## Review GLs for national communications

- A. Objectives
- To establish a process for a thorough, objective and comprehensive technical assessment of commitments by Parties under the Convention
- To promote consistency and transparency in the review of information submitted under the Convention
- B. Purpose of the review:
- To provide thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of implementation of the Convention
- To examine consistency with national communication (NC) reporting GLs
- To assist Parties to improve reporting of information in NCs
- To inform the COP
- C. General approach and procedures: frequency, time frame, format
- D. Individual reviews:
- 1. Scope of the review
- 2. FRT: composition, mandate
- 3. Individual review reports
- 4. Timing

#### Review GLs for biennial reports

- A. Objectives
- To establish a process for a thorough, objective and comprehensive technical assessment of commitments by Parties under the Convention
- To promote consistency and transparency in the review of information submitted under the Convention
- B. Purpose of the technical review:
- To review progress in emission reductions and removals related to quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets
- To examine consistency with biennial report (BR) reporting GLs
- To assist Parties to improve reporting of information in BRs
- To facilitate multilateral assessment under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation
- B. Procedures: frequency, time frame, format
- C. Technical reviews:
- 1. Scope of the review
- 2. ERT: composition, mandate
- 3. Individual review reports
- 4. Timing