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Reports on other activities

Annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention that are also Parties to the Kyoto Protocol under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol

Annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention that are also Parties to the Kyoto Protocol under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides information on the status of submission and review of the annual information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including the greenhouse gas inventories, and the status of submission of the review reports to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the Compliance Committee in 2014. It also provides information on the selection of experts and lead reviewers and their participation in the review process and on the annual report to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice prepared by the lead reviewers in accordance with decision 22/CMP.1. In addition, it provides information regarding the information submitted in accordance with decision 15/CMP.1 on Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol and the information submitted in accordance with decision 14/CP.7.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. In accordance with decision 15/CMP.1, each Party included in Annex I to the Convention that is also a Party to the Kyoto Protocol (hereinafter referred to as Party included in Annex I) shall start reporting the information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol with the inventory submission due under the Convention for the first year of the commitment period after the Protocol has entered into force for that Party.

2. The annual review of this information should start in the year that the Party commences reporting information under Article 7, paragraph 1, in accordance with decision 22/CMP.1. In accordance with the same decision, the secretariat shall prepare an annual report to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on the composition of the expert review teams (ERTs), including the selection of experts for the review teams and the lead reviewers.¹ The lead reviewers collectively shall prepare an annual report to the SBSTA with suggestions on how to improve the review process and advise on the standardized data comparisons of inventory information to be conducted by the secretariat based on the electronic common reporting format (CRF) submissions to be used in the review process.²

3. In accordance with decisions 15/CMP.1 and 14/CP.7, the secretariat shall compile information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol and on relevant emission factors related to the impact of single projects.

B. Background

4. At its thirtieth session, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) requested the secretariat to facilitate the work of the lead reviewers, including by organizing their annual meetings.³ The SBI re-emphasized the urgent need to strengthen the secretariat's capacity to manage the reporting and review processes, including the training for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, planning and conducting the reviews, organizing the lead reviewers' meetings and the further development of the greenhouse gas (GHG) information system,⁴ and to prioritize these fundamental activities.⁵

5. In 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 the secretariat prepared the annual report⁶ referred to in paragraph 2 above, containing information on the status of submissions by Parties included in Annex I of the annual information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, the status of review of this information in conjunction with the review of the GHG inventories, the status of submission of the review reports to the Conference of

¹ Decision 22/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 35.

² Decision 22/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 40.

³ FCCC/SBI/2009/8, paragraph 86(a).

⁴ The term "greenhouse gas information system" describes the status of and current developments in the systems that support the reporting and review processes, requiring a number of information technology systems which differ in purpose, scope, size and degree of support.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2009/8, paragraph 85.

⁶ Documents FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.9, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.16, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.8 and FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.9, for the years listed, respectively.

the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and the Compliance Committee in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 and the annual report to the SBSTA prepared by the lead reviewers in accordance with decision 22/CMP.1, as well as information on the selection of experts and lead reviewers and their participation in the review process, the information on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol as required by decision 15/CMP.1 and the information submitted by Parties in accordance with decision 14/CP.7. SBSTA 33, 35, 37 and 39 took note of those documents.⁷

6. In the 2010–2013 period, Parties included in Annex I submitted their annual information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol in accordance with decision 15/CMP.1, and the secretariat organized reviews of that information in accordance with the “Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol” (hereinafter referred to as the Article 8 review guidelines). In 2010, 38 reports of the reviews were published and forwarded by the secretariat to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the Party concerned. The published 2010 annual review reports,⁸ with two exceptions, do not contain questions of implementation.⁹ Eight of the reports contain adjustments referred to in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol. In 2011, 38 reports of the reviews were published and forwarded by the secretariat to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the Party concerned. The published 2011 annual review reports,¹⁰ with two exceptions, do not contain questions of implementation. Four of the reports contain adjustments referred to in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol. In 2012, 38 reports of the reviews were published and forwarded by the secretariat to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the Party concerned. The published 2012 annual review reports¹¹ do not contain questions of implementation. Two of the reports contain adjustments referred to in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol. In 2013, 37 reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol were conducted. As of the preparation of this document, 35 reports have been published and forwarded to the CMP, the Compliance Committee and the Party concerned. The published 2013 annual review reports¹² do not contain questions of implementation. Three of the reports contain adjustments referred to in Article 5, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol.

C. Scope of the note

7. This document provides information on: the status of submission of the annual information required from Parties included in Annex I under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol; the review of that information, including the GHG inventories of those Parties; and the status of submission of the review reports to the CMP and the Compliance Committee in 2014 (see chapter II below). It also provides information on the selection of experts and lead reviewers for the review process and their participation in this process (see chapter III below) and on the annual report to the SBSTA prepared by the lead reviewers in

⁷ Documents FCCC/SBSTA/2010/13, paragraph 98, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/5, paragraph 87, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/5, paragraph 98, and FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 117, for the sessions listed, respectively.

⁸ See <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/inventory_review_reports/items/5687.php>.

⁹ See <http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/compliance/questions_of_implementation/items/5451.php>.

¹⁰ See <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/inventory_review_reports/items/6048.php>.

¹¹ See <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/inventory_review_reports/items/6616.php>.

¹² See <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/inventory_review_reports/items/6947.php>.

accordance with decision 22/CMP.1, including their conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the review process (see chapter IV below). The document further provides information regarding the information on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, as required by decision 15/CMP.1 and the information submitted by Parties in accordance with decision 14/CP.7 (see chapter V below).

8. In accordance with the Article 8 review guidelines, the review under the Kyoto Protocol encompasses the existing review under the Convention. The lessons learned and problems encountered in the review process under the Convention and that under the Kyoto Protocol in 2014 have many common elements. This document focuses on the elements of the review process that are specific to the Kyoto Protocol and should be read in conjunction with the “Annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention”.¹³ prepared in accordance with decision 12/CP.9.

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

9. The SBSTA will be invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

II. Submission and review of annual reports from Parties included in Annex I

10. The annual inventory submission under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol comprises the national inventory report (NIR) and the CRF tables. The due date of the submission is 15 April. In 2013 the majority of Parties submitted their inventories before or on 15 April, while in one case the submission was made within six weeks of the due date. Submissions made by Parties after the due date can delay the review process, making the preparation of the review tools to support the review process more difficult, and the GHG inventory data of such Parties may not be included in the reports prepared by the secretariat.

11. In 2014 the secretariat received 42 annual submissions from all the Parties included in Annex I (see table 1). Thirty-seven of those submissions, containing the information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including information on GHG inventories, were made by Parties in accordance with decision 15/CMP.1 for the fifth and last year of the commitment period. Status reports for all 42 submissions were prepared and published on the UNFCCC website¹⁴ and 37 of them forwarded to the Compliance Committee by June 2014 (with the exception of those for Belarus, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Malta and Turkey – see footnotes a–e to table 1). The secretariat coordinated individual reviews of the 39 submissions; 37 of those reviews followed the requirements established under the Article 8 review guidelines. Two of the individual reviews, those of the submissions from Canada and Turkey, were conducted as in-country reviews between 8 September and 11 October 2014, while the rest were conducted as centralized reviews. Altogether, 10 centralized reviews were conducted between 1 September and 4 October 2014 in Bonn, Germany. The reports of the reviews are in preparation.

¹³ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.17.

¹⁴ <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/inventory_review_reports/items/8109.php>.

Table 1
**Submission of the annual information required under the Kyoto Protocol in 2014,
 review dates and status of review reports**

<i>Party included in Annex I</i>	<i>NIR and CRF submission dates</i>	<i>Language of NIR</i>	<i>Status report symbol</i>	<i>Review dates</i>	<i>Status of review report</i>
Australia	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/AUS	1–6 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Austria	NIR – 14 Apr. 2014 CRF – 14 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/AUT	8–13 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Belarus ^a	NIR – 21 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	Russian	FCCC/ASR/2014/BLR	Not subject to individual inventory review	NA
Belgium	NIR – 10 Apr. 2014 CRF – 10 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/BEL	8–13 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Bulgaria	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/BGR	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Croatia	NIR – 11 Apr. 2014 CRF – 11 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/HRV	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Cyprus ^b	NIR – 14 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/CYP	Not subject to individual inventory review	NA
Czech Republic	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/CZE	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Denmark	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/DNK	16–21 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Estonia	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/EST	23–28 Sept. 2014	In preparation
European Union	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/EU	29 Sept. to 4 Oct. 2014	In preparation
Finland	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/FIN	1–6 Sept. 2014	In preparation
France	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	French	FCCC/ASR/2014/FRA	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Germany	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 11 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/DEU	8–13 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Greece	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/GRC	15–20 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Hungary	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/HUN	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Iceland	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/ISL	8–13 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Ireland	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/IRL	8–13 Sept. 2014	In preparation

<i>Party included in Annex I</i>	<i>NIR and CRF submission dates</i>	<i>Language of NIR</i>	<i>Status report symbol</i>	<i>Review dates</i>	<i>Status of review report</i>
Italy	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 4 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/ITA	15–20 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Japan	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/JPN	29 Sept. to 4 Oct. 2014	In preparation
Kazakhstan ^c	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 13 Apr. 2014	Russian	FCCC/ASR/2014/KAZ	Not subject to individual inventory review	NA
Latvia	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/LVA	1–6 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Liechtenstein	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/LIE	15–20 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Lithuania	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/LTU	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Luxembourg	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/LUX	15–20 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Malta ^d	NIR – 9 Apr. 2014 CRF – 9 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/MLT	Not subject to individual inventory review	NA
Monaco	NIR – 30 June 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	French	FCCC/ASR/2014/MCO	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Netherlands	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/NLD	15–20 Sept. 2014	In preparation
New Zealand	NIR – 14 Apr. 2014 CRF – 11 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/NZL	8–13 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Norway	NIR – 10 Apr. 2014 CRF – 10 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/NOR	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Poland	NIR – 11 Apr. 2014 CRF – 11 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/POL	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Portugal	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/PRT	15–20 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Romania	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/ROU	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Russian Federation	NIR – 27 May 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	Russian	FCCC/ASR/2014/RUS	8–13 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Slovakia	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/SVK	22–27 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Slovenia	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/SVN	29 Sept. to 4 Oct. 2014	In preparation
Spain	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	Spanish	FCCC/ASR/2014/ESP	15–20 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Sweden	NIR – 11 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/SWE	15–20 Sept. 2014	In preparation

<i>Party included in Annex I</i>	<i>NIR and CRF submission dates</i>	<i>Language of NIR</i>	<i>Status report symbol</i>	<i>Review dates</i>	<i>Status of review report</i>
	CRF – 11 Apr. 2014				
Switzerland	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/CHE	1–6 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Turkey ^e	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 12 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/TUR	8–13 Sept. 2014	In preparation
Ukraine	NIR – 12 Apr. 2014 CRF – 12 Apr. 2014	Russian	FCCC/ASR/2014/UKR	8–13 Sept. 2014	In preparation
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	NIR – 15 Apr. 2014 CRF – 15 Apr. 2014	English	FCCC/ASR/2014/GBR	1–6 Sept. 2014	In preparation

Abbreviations: CRF = common reporting format, NA = not applicable, NIR = national inventory report, Party included in Annex I = Party included in Annex I to the Convention that is also a Party to the Kyoto Protocol.

^a Belarus is a Party to the Kyoto Protocol. Its quantified emission reduction commitment inscribed in Annex B (92 per cent) was established through an amendment to Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol (decision 10/CMP.2). As at the time of the publication of this report, that amendment had not yet been ratified by enough Parties to enter into force. Belarus has indicated that its 2014 annual submission is made under the Convention.

^b Cyprus has indicated that its 2014 annual submission is made under the Convention.

^c Kazakhstan is a Party included in Annex I for the purposes of the Kyoto Protocol. However, since Kazakhstan does not have a quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol, its submission is being treated as a submission under the Convention.

^d Malta has indicated that its 2014 annual submission is made under the Convention.

^e Turkey has indicated that its 2014 annual submission is made under the Convention.

III. Expert review teams and lead reviewers

12. The information provided in the annual submissions under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including the GHG inventories, is examined by international teams of experts, who are selected by the secretariat from those nominated by Parties to the UNFCCC roster of experts. Invitations to experts to participate in the review are copied to the national focal point. Only experts who have taken the training courses under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and have passed the corresponding examinations can participate in the reviews of annual submissions.¹⁵

13. In 2014 the secretariat invited 189 experts in total to participate in the reviews.¹⁶ Of these, 19 experts declined the invitation, on account of being unavailable owing to previous commitments, a heavy workload or a lack of financial resources, or for other reasons. In addition, 9 experts informed the secretariat of their availability on dates other than the scheduled review dates on which they were invited to participate or of their availability

¹⁵ For more information on the training of review experts, see chapter V of document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.8.

¹⁶ The figures provided in this paragraph and paragraphs 14 and 15 below refer to the participation of experts in the 2014 review cycle.

only on particular dates, making it necessary for the secretariat to organize their participation in other reviews and to find at the same time experts scheduled to participate in those reviews willing and available to change the dates of their participation.

14. In selecting members of ERTs, the secretariat seeks to ensure an overall balance in the number of experts from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) and Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) and a geographical balance within these two groups. In 2014 a total of 161 individuals from 67 Parties served as inventory experts on review teams. Of these experts, 77 were from non-Annex I Parties, 25 were from Annex I Parties with economies in transition and 59 were from other Annex I Parties. Owing to the shortage of experts or their unavailability to participate in a review, one expert had to participate in two reviews.

15. Table 2 provides a breakdown of the participation of experts by nominating Party in 2014. It shows that experts from Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Portugal and Spain were not involved in the review process in 2014. In general, there are several reasons for experts not participating in the reviews: (a) some Parties, for example Liechtenstein and Monaco, had not nominated any experts; (b) some Parties had nominated experts only recently and those experts had not yet taken the training courses and passed the relevant examinations; (c) some Parties had not fully updated their nominations to the UNFCCC roster of experts and some nominated experts included on the roster were not available for the reviews; (d) some experts had a heavy workload and other job obligations during the review period; and (e) some Parties were experiencing a shortage of financial resources for supporting experts' participation in the reviews; for example, in the course of the preparation of the 2014 review cycle the secretariat received 10 requests from experts nominated by Parties included in Annex I for exceptional funding. The table also shows that many Parties continue to strongly support the review process by providing two experts, and that the following Parties provided three or more experts: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Such strong support is a key factor in making the reviews successful.

Table 2

Number of inventory review experts participating in the 2014 review cycle, by nominating Party

<i>Parties included in Annex I</i>		<i>Parties included in Annex I with economies in transition</i>			<i>Non-Annex I Parties</i>
Australia – 3	New Zealand – 7	Belarus – 3	Algeria – 1	Pakistan – 1	
Austria – 1	Poland – 1	Bulgaria – 4	Argentina – 3	Mexico – 1	
Belgium – 3	Sweden – 3	Estonia – 1	Azerbaijan – 1	Mongolia – 2	
Canada – 2	Switzerland – 3	Hungary – 2	Benin – 2	Peru – 1	
Denmark – 2	Turkey – 1	Kazakhstan ^a – 3	Bhutan – 1	Republic of Korea – 3	
European Union – 2	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – 5	Lithuania – 1	Brazil – 8	Republic of Moldova – 1	
Finland – 3		Romania – 3	Burundi – 1	San Marino – 1	
France – 1	United States of America – 2	Russian Federation – 3	Chile – 1		
Germany – 4			China – 5		

<i>Parties included in Annex I</i>	<i>Parties included in Annex I with economies in transition</i>		<i>Non-Annex I Parties</i>	
Greece – 1	Slovakia – 1	Colombia – 3	Saudi Arabia – 1	
Ireland – 5	Ukraine – 4	Cuba – 1	South Africa – 3	
Italy – 4		Egypt – 1	Sudan – 2	
Japan – 7		Ethiopia – 2	Swaziland – 1	
Netherlands – 2		Georgia – 1	Thailand – 5	
		Ghana – 7	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – 3	
		India – 1	United Republic of Tanzania – 1	
		Israel – 1	Uruguay – 2	
		Lebanon – 2	Viet Nam – 2	
		Malawi – 1		
		Mauritius – 1		

^a Kazakhstan is a Party included in Annex I for the purposes of the Kyoto Protocol.

16. When inviting experts to participate as lead reviewers, the secretariat seeks to ensure an overall balance in the number of experts from Annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties and a geographical balance within these two groups. In accordance with decision 24/CMP.1, it also takes into consideration the experts’ experience in the preparation and management of GHG inventories, previous participation in reviews, technical expertise in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sectors, proficiency in the use of the Article 8 review guidelines and the “Guidelines for the preparation of the information required under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol” and successful completion of the training courses. In 2014, a total of 24 individuals from 19 Parties served as inventory lead reviewers. Of these experts, 12 were from non-Annex I Parties, 2 were from Annex I Parties with economies in transition and 10 were from other Annex I Parties.

17. Since 2000, when the individual reviews were first conducted during the trial period, up to 2014, 431¹⁷ individual experts from 100 Parties (41 Annex I Parties and 59 non-Annex I Parties) have participated in GHG review activities.

IV. Annual report of inventory lead reviewers

18. The Article 8 review guidelines stipulate that ERTs should be led by two experts who have substantial experience in inventory reviewing and/or the management of national institutional arrangements for inventory preparation, and who are nominated as lead reviewers for an individual review process. In each ERT, one lead reviewer should be from a non-Annex I Party and the other from an Annex I Party. Lead reviewers have a special role in guiding the review teams in order to ensure the consistency, quality and objectivity of the reviews. Recognizing this role, the CMP, by decision 23/CMP.1, decided that lead reviewers should regularly attend scheduled meetings in order to be better able to perform

¹⁷ Twelve observers who participated in the reviews between 2000 and 2008 are not included in these totals.

the duties described in the Article 8 review guidelines. To that end, and in accordance with decisions 12/CP.9, 22/CMP.1 and 24/CMP.1, the secretariat organizes meetings of lead reviewers. The purpose of these meetings is to promote a common approach to methodological and procedural issues encountered in the inventory reviews and to make recommendations to the secretariat on ways to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the review process.

19. The lead reviewers have established themselves as an important group in the UNFCCC process, with a critical role in the review process, ensuring the consistency, quality and objectivity of the reviews. The annual meetings of the lead reviewers help them to fulfil this role. Their most recent meeting (11th) took place in Bonn from 3 to 5 March 2014. A total of 95 experts, 44 from non-Annex I Parties and 51 from Annex I Parties, were invited to the meeting, which was attended by only 61 experts, 32 from non-Annex I Parties and 29 from Annex I Parties. In addition, one member of the facilitative branch of the Compliance Committee and one representative of the European Union attended the meeting as observers. The meeting addressed procedural and technical issues relating to the reviews of GHG inventories of Annex I Parties under the Convention and similar reviews under the Kyoto Protocol. The conclusions and recommendations arising from the meeting form the basis for the annual report to the SBSTA that is prepared by the lead reviewers in accordance with decision 22/CMP.1. The annual report for 2014 is presented in the remainder of this chapter.

1. Statistics and follow-up to the 10th lead reviewers' meeting

20. The lead reviewers noted improvements in the timeliness of the publication of the review reports in the 2013 cycle compared with the 2012 cycle, but reconfirmed the need to further improve the efficiency and timeliness of the review process and achieve the 100 per cent completion rate of the reports by 14 April of the following year. The lead reviewers noted with concern that as at 5 March 2014 there were only 14 published review reports (32 per cent of all reports) and requested the secretariat to implement further improvements, as presented in the paragraphs 43–55 below.

21. Noting that recent review cycles did not meet the deadlines mandated in decision 22/CMP.1, the lead reviewers discussed the sustainability of the current review framework. The lead reviewers reiterated the conclusions of their 10th meeting on options for improving the cost-effectiveness, efficiency and practicality of the review process.

22. The lead reviewers welcomed the increase in the number of experts participating in the 2014 review cycle. Compared with the 2012 review cycle, in which 157 experts participated in the review activities, the number of participating experts increased to 172. However, the lead reviewers also noted that the teams conducting some of the reviews were still incomplete and that some reviewers participated in more than one review.

23. The lead reviewers further noted that the 34 new experts that participated in the reviews in 2014 constituted one fifth of all participating experts. The lead reviewers recognized that they should provide more support to the new reviewers, but also noted that their dual role as lead reviewers and experts, especially if they are not generalists, leaves them limited time to coach the new experts.

2. Training and availability of review experts

24. The lead reviewers welcomed the information on the training activities undertaken by the secretariat in 2013, the ongoing and planned training activities in 2014, including the organization of online courses and an annual training seminar in the second half of 2014, and the possible launch of the revision of the training courses for GHG inventory review experts.

25. The lead reviewers noted the need to update and revise the training programme for the review of GHG inventories from Annex I Parties due to the adoption of the revised “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories” (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines) (decision 24/CP.19), the use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (hereinafter referred to as the 2006 IPCC Guidelines), and the future revised UNFCCC guidelines for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, which are to be considered by the SBSTA with a view to their adoption at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The lead reviewers also noted that the update and revision of this training programme should address the training needs of both new and experienced experts.

26. The lead reviewers reiterated the need to increase the number of review experts who can actively participate in the review process in order to ensure the completeness and balance of expertise of the ERTs, in particular by increasing the participation of review experts from non-Annex I Parties. The lead reviewers noted the need for Parties to regularly update the UNFCCC roster of experts and to nominate, where appropriate, national experts who have knowledge of GHG inventories, are inventory compilers or have a sectoral technical background. The lead reviewers encouraged Parties to ensure that the nominated experts are fully available for the complete review process and the required training.

27. The lead reviewers requested the secretariat to expand the participation in the refresher seminars to sectoral experts in order to increase the knowledge and enhance the common understanding among the review experts of the methodological and procedural issues that are required for the GHG inventory review process. The lead reviewers noted that the refresher seminar in 2015 should focus on the issues arising from the transition to the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines and the future revised UNFCCC guidelines for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, including the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, the *IPCC 2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol* and the *2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands*, and on issues related to reporting and review under the Kyoto Protocol, in order to ensure that the experienced reviewers share the common knowledge and information required for reviews in 2015 and onwards.

3. Review tools

28. The lead reviewers welcomed the work undertaken by the secretariat to develop guidance for ERTs on the review tools for the review cycle in 2014. They noted that there is no need to develop new tools for the 2014 review cycle, but that it is important to improve and maintain the existing ones. The lead reviewers agreed that they should facilitate, with the support of the secretariat, effective use of the review tools throughout the review process.

29. The lead reviewers noted the information provided by the secretariat on the technical issues that may be encountered in using the UNFCCC Locator tool in the future because of the large and growing size of the database and the ageing of the software. This is likely to require an upgrade of the Locator in the near future. In preparing and implementing the upgrade, the secretariat should:

- (a) Ensure availability of the whole time series;
- (b) Improve the software with respect to its flexibility and user-friendliness;
- (c) Ensure availability of an offline version even if an upgrade is implemented as a web-based application;

- (d) Consider the development of two versions of the Locator: a full version and a 'lighter' version that could be downloaded and used offline more easily;
- (e) Provide access to the raw data used in the Locator.

4. Virtual team room

30. The lead reviewers welcomed the ongoing work being undertaken by the secretariat on the development of the inventory virtual team room (I-VTR) to support the review of the information on annual GHG inventories. The lead reviewers also noted the results of testing these components during the 2014 review cycle, showing that the tool could be a valuable resource in supporting the review, management and recording of the information generated in the process, and increasing the traceability and availability of the review materials. The lead reviewers encouraged the secretariat to promote, for subsequent review cycles, the I-VTR as the major repository of information for all reviews.

31. The lead reviewers encouraged the secretariat to continue to undertake work on the development of the remaining components of the I-VTR, in particular the review issues tracking system, and to test these in a limited number of reviews in the 2014 review cycle.

32. The lead reviewers also encouraged the secretariat to explore the use of the I-VTR in other supporting actions during the review such as the work of the sectoral groups (e.g. the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) advisory group), the sharing of experiences from previous reviews in responding to particular review issues and monitoring the progress of review activities, for example through the implementation of a 'traffic lights' system or a 'dashboard' to allow for an easy, transparent monitoring of the overall progress by all experts.

5. Development of the new CRF Reporter

33. The lead reviewers welcomed the update on the development of the upgraded CRF Reporter software and the opportunity offered by the secretariat to Annex I Parties to review and test the software. The lead reviewers urged the secretariat to focus on making the upgraded software available by the end of June 2014 to enable Annex I Parties to submit their inventories by 15 April 2015.¹⁸

6. Consistency of reviews

34. The lead reviewers welcomed the information provided by the secretariat on the issues that may have been treated inconsistently during the 2014 review cycle. They recommended that in order to facilitate future discussions during lead reviewer meetings, the secretariat should distribute such issues to lead reviewers not later than one week prior to the meeting.

35. The lead reviewers agreed that discussion of certain issues related to Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol (KP-LULUCF activities) in previous lead reviewers' meetings, such as directly human-induced activities, has contributed to enhanced consistency in reviews by ERTs. The lead reviewers reconfirmed their commitment to provide, working with the ERTs, objective, consistent and transparent assessments and recommendations in their reports.

¹⁸ The upgraded version of the CRF Reporter was released on 30 June 2014.

7. Planning for the 2014 review cycle

36. The lead reviewers emphasized that the 2014 review cycle will be particularly challenging:

(a) For the Parties to the Convention, it will be the last year of the application of the current UNFCCC “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories” (before the change to the revised UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines adopted by decision 24/CP.19);

(b) For the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, it will be the last inventory review for the first commitment period;

(c) Also for the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the review of accounting information reported under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol will be implemented for all Parties, with annual accounting and commitment period accounting, as this is the final year of the first commitment period.

37. The lead reviewers agreed that it is important to implement the 2014 review cycle in accordance with the relevant mandates despite these challenges, and that, therefore, the 2014 review cycle will need to be efficient and effective.

38. The lead reviewers agreed to continue their practice from the last three review cycles with regard to the preparation of draft status reports and the preparation of the annual reports by the lead reviewers and their submission to the SBSTA. The lead reviewers will provide comments on the draft status reports prepared by the secretariat within one week of receipt of the draft.

39. The lead reviewers requested the secretariat, when planning for the 2014 reviews, to consider conducting more than two centralized reviews during the same week in order to facilitate communication among the review experts and increase consistency among the reviews. The lead reviewers also requested the secretariat to consider starting the review weeks not later than the last week of August, beginning with Parties with commitment period accounting or for which previous review reports show a relatively large number of outstanding issues related to KP-LULUCF activities.

40. The lead reviewers requested the secretariat to consult with Parties with a view to agreeing to the dates of the 2014 review by the end of April 2014.¹⁹

41. The lead reviewers requested that the secretariat, in forming the ERTs, aim to ensure that LULUCF experts do not act as lead reviewers, and that at least one lead reviewer does not have sectoral responsibilities. In addition, the lead reviewers encouraged the secretariat to strive to ensure that each LULUCF expert has no more than two Parties to review, in particular if those Parties have selected commitment period accounting or have a large number of outstanding issues from previous review reports. More broadly, the lead reviewers encouraged the secretariat to compile teams with a view to ensuring that a sufficient number of experienced experts are available, particularly for the energy and LULUCF sectors.²⁰

42. The lead reviewers recalled the conclusion from the 10th meeting of lead reviewers²¹ on the need to improve communication with the Parties undergoing centralized reviews by

¹⁹ By the time this document was prepared, this request had been fulfilled by the secretariat.

²⁰ By the time this document was prepared, these requests had been fulfilled by the secretariat.

²¹ See paragraph 11 of the text available at

<http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/review_process/application/pdf/10th_meeting_conclusions_recommendations.pdf>.

informing them of the provisional main findings and recommendations at the end of the review week. They concluded that the table with the provisional main findings produced during the 2014 review cycle was beneficial to both the ERT and the Party being reviewed. Although this table may be of more limited use in 2014 owing to the methodological changes that will be introduced in the 2015 review cycle following the start of use of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, the lead reviewers agreed that this table should continue to be produced for future centralized reviews as an informal communication tool for the Parties concerned.

8. Recommendations for improvements in the 2014 review cycle

Annual review report template

43. The lead reviewers welcomed the efforts by a small group of lead reviewers and the secretariat to improve the annual review report (ARR) template for the 2014 review cycle, including through the use of checklists and more tables, and agreed that these changes contributed to efficiency improvements during the 2014 review cycle.

44. The lead reviewers recommended that the secretariat refine the ARR template as necessary based on the experience from the 2014 review cycle, but not make major changes to the structure of the template. In particular, the lead reviewers recommended that the secretariat provide additional guidance for the ARR tables, including in the use of the terminology for presenting the assessment by the ERT of issues such as time-series consistency, quality assurance/quality control, transparency and the final conclusions and recommendations by the ERT. The lead reviewers requested the secretariat to reconvene the small group of lead reviewers to consider terminology and guidance in the ARR template tables, including on how to address recalculations, taking into consideration the recommendation of the lead reviewers to remove the recalculations table from the template.²²

45. To further improve the efficiency of the review process, the lead reviewers recommended that the secretariat complete the factual information in the ARR for review by the ERTs (e.g. data in tables 1 and 2 and the compilation and accounting tables, information on the tiers used for the key categories and uncertainty analyses, information regarding the difference between the reference approach and the sectoral approach, and information in the sectoral overview regarding emissions and removals).²³ The lead reviewers also recommended that in cases where there are no changes to, or problems in, the national system, the ERTs need not include information on the inventory planning process or inventory management in the ARR.

46. The lead reviewers encouraged the secretariat, in preparation for the 12th meeting of the lead reviewers, to explore whether there is a need to make further revisions to the ARR template for the reviews starting in 2015 based on any decisions adopted at COP 20/CMP 10 on the revision of the review guidelines used under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. They requested the secretariat to present suggestions on this, if any, at the next annual lead reviewer meeting and to communicate these suggestions to the lead reviewers not later than one week before the meeting.

The review process

47. The lead reviewers concluded that the consideration of issues related to KP-LULUCF activities is one of the challenges of the 2014 review cycle because most Parties will be subject to accounting for these activities for the first time.

²² By the time this document was prepared, these requests had been fulfilled by the secretariat.

²³ By the time this document was prepared, these requests had been fulfilled by the secretariat.

48. The lead reviewers stressed that reviews should be initiated as early as possible. For that purpose, they requested the secretariat to initiate and conclude the formation of the ERT as early as possible, preferably by the end of May.²⁴ The lead reviewers also agreed to start the review process as early as possible, including the consideration of materials, the discussion of issues within the ERT (including conference calls) and the communication of questions and answers with Parties. The lead reviewers requested the secretariat to inform Parties in advance of the review week about when to expect communications from the ERT.

49. For the purpose of ensuring that experts have sufficient information in a timely manner, the lead reviewers requested the secretariat to deliver to ERTs the ARR template and the schedule for the review as early as possible, preferably by the end of June, and the review tools, preferably by the end of July. The lead reviewers requested the secretariat to ask Parties for permission to make available to the ERT, on request of the ERT, information from previous reviews, including questions and answers and Saturday papers,²⁵ and the draft ARR, if still unpublished.²⁶

50. The lead reviewers agreed that it is important that the schedule for the review should ensure that timeliness is achieved and stressed the importance of agreeing on an appropriate schedule within the ERT, continuously monitoring progress and keeping the ERT informed of remaining actions.

51. The lead reviewers concluded that it is important to enhance the communication within the ERT and the collective consideration of findings and recommendations during the review week. For that purpose the lead reviewers agreed that ERTs should prepare a list of key issues before the review week for consideration and discussion by the ERT during the review week and should have a complete 'zero-order' draft ready by the end of the review week. With the same objective, the lead reviewers requested the secretariat to ensure that quality control actions are carried out at the end of the review week or immediately thereafter.

52. The lead reviewers concluded that it is important to provide clear and consistent guidance on the review process at its beginning, and requested the secretariat to prepare and use its common introductory e-mail for all ERTs; they also requested the secretariat to assist the lead reviewers in the preparation of their (the lead reviewers') common introductory e-mail to the ERTs.²⁷

53. Noting the roles of lead reviewers defined in the review guidelines, the lead reviewers stressed that they should focus on the coordination of ERTs and the planning of their work, monitoring the progress of the review, communication with the Party and ensuring consistency.

54. The lead reviewers noted the value of the LULUCF advisory group in assisting ERTs in the reviews. The lead reviewers requested the secretariat to establish advisory groups for other sectors. The lead reviewers requested the LULUCF advisory group to prepare supportive materials to facilitate the review and ensure consistency prior to the 2014 review cycle, and to make these available for the review week. The lead reviewers requested the secretariat to coordinate these actions, including distributing any supportive materials to ERTs.

²⁴ By the time this document was prepared, this request had been fulfilled by the secretariat.

²⁵ A 'Saturday paper' contains the list of potential problems identified by the ERT by the end of the review week.

²⁶ By the time this document was prepared, these requests had been fulfilled by the secretariat.

²⁷ By the time this document was prepared, these requests had been fulfilled by the secretariat.

55. The lead reviewers requested the secretariat to inform the national focal points frequently on the progress of the review.

9. Financial implications

56. The lead reviewers noted that supplementary funding is needed for some of the secretariat's activities to support the review process, and emphasized the importance of Parties supporting such work with financial resources. This relates to:

- (a) Training of review experts, including the organization of the refresher seminars;
- (b) I-VTR development;
- (c) CRF Reporter development;
- (d) Work on the preparation of systems and tools for supporting the review processes in 2015.

V. Other matters relating to the annual reviews

A. Compilation of information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol

57. The CMP, by decision 15/CMP.1, requested²⁸ the secretariat to compile the supplementary information submitted annually by Parties relating to how they are striving, under Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, to implement their commitments mentioned in Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol in such a way as to minimize adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing country Parties, particularly those identified in Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention, and information on any changes that have occurred compared with the information reported in their previous annual submissions.

58. The compilation shall also include information on how Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so give priority, in implementing their commitments under Article 3, paragraph 14, to the actions referred to in paragraph 24 of the annex to decision 15/CMP.1, based on relevant methodologies referred to in paragraph 11 of decision 31/CMP.1. This compilation report was published on 19 September 2014.²⁹

B. Information regarding the information submitted by Parties in accordance with decision 14/CP.7

59. In accordance with decision 14/CP.7, Parties with single projects, as defined in paragraph 1 of that decision, that meet the requirements specified in paragraph 2 of the same decision are required to report in their annual inventory submissions emission factors, total process emissions from those projects and an estimate of the emission savings resulting from the use of renewable energy in those projects.

²⁸ Decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 26.

²⁹ FCCC/WEB/ART314/2014.

60. The only Party that notified the COP prior to COP 8 of its intention to avail itself of the provisions of that decision was Iceland. In the NIR of its 2014 annual submission,³⁰ Iceland reported the information required by decision 14/CP.7.

61. In accordance with decision 14/CP.7, the secretariat provided information on relevant emission factors reported by other Parties in its synthesis and assessment report on the GHG inventories submitted in 2014³¹ to allow comparisons with the information submitted by Iceland in its 2014 annual submission.

³⁰ Pages 79–85, 252–253 and 286–293 of the NIR, available at <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/items/6598.php>.

³¹ See <<http://unfccc.int/resource/webdocs/sai/2014.pdf>>.