



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Fortieth session

Bonn, 4–15 June 2014

Agenda item 11(a)

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

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

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) continued its discussion under the 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 (hereinafter referred to as the work programme), agreed at SBSTA 37.¹
2. The SBSTA recalled that the UNFCCC guidelines for the technical review of biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) were agreed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its nineteenth session.² The SBSTA therefore focused its discussion on the UNFCCC guidelines for the technical review of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories from Annex I Parties (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines).
3. The SBSTA advanced its work on the revised UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines,³ and agreed to continue it at SBSTA 41 (December 2014) with a view to forwarding a draft decision for consideration and adoption at COP 20 (December 2014).
4. The SBSTA invited Parties, in accordance with the work programme, to submit to the secretariat, by 15 July 2014, further views and suggestions for textual modifications on

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/5, annex I.

² Decision 23/CP.19.

³ The resulting text of the UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines is available at <<http://unfccc.int/7414>>.

specific paragraphs of the revised UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines. It requested the secretariat to make the submissions available on the UNFCCC website.

5. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare, by 15 September 2014, an updated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines, with tracked changes, based on the discussion that took place at this session⁴ and the submissions from Parties referred to in paragraph 4 above. This draft will serve as the input to the discussion at the workshop referred to in paragraph 6 below.

6. The SBSTA reiterated the need for a technical workshop under the work programme in the second half of 2014⁵ to allow further discussion on the outstanding issues and to advance the text of the revised UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines. This workshop, open to all Parties, will be organized by the secretariat under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, with a view to encouraging participation from as many experts as possible.⁶ It requested the secretariat to prepare a report on that workshop as input to SBSTA 41. It also requested the secretariat to prepare a further updated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines, with tracked changes, based on the updated draft guidelines referred to in paragraph 5 above and the discussion that took place during the above-mentioned workshop. The output of the discussions on the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines at SBSTA 40, with the additions, with tracked changes, from the workshop, and submissions from Parties, will serve as initial input, inter alia, to the discussions at SBSTA 41, to allow for input from those Parties that were not present at the workshop.

7. The SBSTA took note of the information contained in the note by the secretariat on the draft training programme for review experts for the technical review of biennial reports and national communications from Annex I Parties.⁷

8. The SBSTA recognized the importance of implementing this training programme. It requested the secretariat to make available in the second half of 2014, on a trial basis, online courses for the training programme for the review experts participating in reviews. The courses would be available on a trial basis until the training programme is adopted at COP 20.

9. The SBSTA agreed to continue its consideration of the training programme referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 above, at SBSTA 41, on the basis of the draft decision text, as contained in the annex, with the view to forwarding a draft decision on the training programme for consideration and adoption at COP 20.

10. The SBSTA also recognized the need to update, revise and complete the materials for a training programme for the review of GHG inventories from Annex I Parties due to the adoption by the COP⁸ 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”, which incorporated the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, and to take into account the UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines under consideration by the SBSTA, referred to in paragraph 3 above. It requested the secretariat to develop a formal training programme for the review of GHG inventories from Annex I Parties for consideration at SBSTA 41.

⁴ As footnote 3 above.

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 70.

⁶ In accordance with the UNFCCC policy for provision of financial support for participation in the UNFCCC process.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.12.

⁸ Decision 24/CP.19.

11. The SBSTA took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraphs 6, 8 and 10 above. It requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

Annex

[English only]

[Draft decision -/CP.20

Training programme for review experts for the technical review of biennial reports and national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 4, 7 and 12 of the Convention, and decisions 2/CP.1, 9/CP.2, 6/CP.3, [4/CP.5,] 33/CP.7, 18/CP.10, 1/CP.13 and 2/CP.17 [and 19/CP.18] on national communications and biennial reports,

Also recalling decision 23/CP.19 on the guidelines for the review of biennial reports and national communications, including national inventory reviews,

Having considered the relevant recommendations of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice,

Recognizing the importance of a training programme for review experts for the technical review of biennial reports and national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to develop and implement the training programme for review experts for the technical review of biennial reports and national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties), including the examination of experts, as outlined in the appendix;
2. *Encourages* [Annex I] Parties in a position to do so to provide financial support for the implementation of the training programme;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to include, in its annual report on the composition of expert review teams to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, information on the training programme, in particular on examination procedures and the selection of trainees, so that Parties may assess the effectiveness of the programme.

Appendix

Training programme for review experts for the technical review of biennial reports and national communications of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

A. Details of the training programme

1. The courses are intended to train review experts for the technical review of biennial reports and national communications of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. All training courses will be available online. For trainees without easy access to the Internet, courses will be distributed through electronic means. At the request of a Party, the courses will also be made available to others interested in the review process, provided that this does not require additional resources. All courses will be available to trainees all year round.
2. All training courses will include an examination. Examination procedures will be standardized, objective and transparent.
3. The examination will take place online. In exceptional circumstances, other arrangements for examinations will be made, provided that the examinations take place under the supervision of the secretariat and that this does not require additional resources.
4. New review experts who successfully complete the relevant requirements of the training programme and pass the examinations will be invited to participate in a centralized or in-country review, working alongside experienced review experts.
5. Experts who do not pass an examination for a course at the first attempt may retake the examination once only, provided that the expert has fulfilled all of the tasks assigned during the training course in a timely manner and that the retake does not require the secretariat to incur additional costs.

B. Courses of the training programme

1. General and cross-cutting aspects of the review of national communications and biennial reports

Description: This course covers the reporting requirements and the procedures for the general aspects of the review process of national communications and biennial reports under the Convention and aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the reporting and review requirements and guidance to expert review teams on the process and steps for conducting reviews under the international assessment and review process. The course promotes consistency and fairness in the review process by providing technical guidance on the general review approaches and use of tools.

Preparation: 2014

Implementation: 2014–2016

Target audience: New review experts and lead reviewers.

Type of course: E-learning, without instructor.

Examination requirements and format: New review experts and lead reviewers must pass the examination before participating in expert review teams. Online examination.

2. Technical review of targets and of policies and measures, their effects and their contribution to achieving those targets

Description: This course provides general guidance and approaches for the technical review of information on national policy context and greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation targets, policies and measures (PaMs), effects of each individual policy or measure and its contribution to the reduction of GHG emissions.

Preparation: 2014

Implementation: 2014–2016

Target audience: New review experts reviewing targets and PaMs, and lead reviewers.

Type of course: E-learning, without instructor.

Examination requirements and format: New review experts must pass the examination before participating in expert review teams. Online examination.

3. Technical review of greenhouse gas emissions, emission trends, projections, and the total effect of policies and measures

Description: This course provides general guidance and approaches for the technical review of information on GHG emissions, emission trends, projections, and the total effect of PaMs.

Preparation: 2014

Implementation: 2014–2016

Target audience: New review experts reviewing emission trends, projections and the total effect of PaMs, and lead reviewers.

Type of course: E-learning, without instructor

Examination requirements and format: New review experts must pass the examination before participating in expert review teams. Online examination.

4. Technical review of the provision of financial support, technology transfer and capacity-building

Description: This course provides general guidance and approaches for the technical review of information on the provision of financial resources by Parties included in Annex II to the Convention to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the promotion, facilitation and financing of the transfer of technology, and capacity-building, including creating national expertise on climate change related issues, strengthening institutions and developing educational, training and awareness-raising activities.

Preparation: 2014

Implementation: 2014–2016

Target audience: New review experts reviewing provision of financial support, technology transfer and capacity-building, and lead reviewers

Type of course: E-learning, without instructor

Examination requirements and format: New review experts must pass the examination before participating in expert review teams. Online examination.]