



Subsidiary Body for Implementation

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Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

**Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications
from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**

Progress of work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Report by the secretariat

Summary

This report summarizes the progress of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) in implementing its workplan for 2017. It covers the proceedings and outcomes of the two meetings of the CGE held in 2017. During those meetings, the CGE revised its work programme for 2017–2018 on the basis of its long-term strategy and took stock of progress in the implementation of its workplan for 2017. In addition, the CGE assessed the achievements and lessons learned in implementing its work programme and provided an outlook of priority areas and activities for 2018.



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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 19/CP.19, decided to continue the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) for a period of five years, from 2014 to 2018.
2. By the same decision, the COP requested the CGE to submit a progress report on its work annually to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) for consideration at the sessions of the SBI held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP.¹
3. The COP also requested the secretariat to facilitate the work of the CGE by organizing its meetings and workshops and compiling reports thereon for consideration by the SBI.²

B. Scope of the report

4. This report provides an overview of the implementation of the 2017 workplan of the CGE and covers the proceedings of its 18th and 19th meetings. The report also looks at areas for improvement and the priority areas for 2018.
5. In addition to this report, three reports capturing the outcomes of key activities of the CGE undertaken in 2017 have been prepared for consideration at SBI 47:
 - (a) A report on the regional hands-on training workshops on the preparation of mitigation actions and reporting on them in national communications (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs) (see paras. 20–22 below);³
 - (b) A technical report on the constraints in and recommendations for composing teams of technical experts (TTEs) (see paras. 40–44 below);⁴
 - (c) An updated technical report on problems, constraints, lessons learned and best practices in the preparation of NCs and BURs (see paras. 46–48 below).⁵

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

6. The SBI, having considered this report and the three reports referred to in paragraph 5 above, is invited to take note of the progress of the CGE in implementing its workplan for 2017 and of priority areas identified for 2018, and to provide further guidance, as appropriate, to the CGE.
7. In addition, the SBI may wish to reiterate its urging of developed country Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other developed country Parties in a position to do so to provide financial resources⁶ that would enable the CGE to implement the activities planned in its work programme, and to invite multilateral programmes and organizations to collaborate with the CGE, as appropriate, in the provision of technical and financial support to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) for preparing their NCs and BURs.

¹ Decision 19/CP.19, paragraph 7.

² Decision 19/CP.19, paragraph 9(a).

³ FCCC/SBI/2017/17.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2017/12.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2017/16.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/2016/8, paragraph 40.

II. Proceedings of the 18th and 19th meetings of the Consultative Group of Experts

8. The 18th meeting of the CGE was held in Bonn, Germany, from 14 to 16 February 2017. Twenty-one members of the CGE attended the meeting,⁷ where Mr. Sin Liang Cheah (Singapore) was elected as the Chair of the CGE and Ms. Estefania Ardila Robles (Colombia) as the Rapporteur, both for a term of one year. The CGE reviewed and revised its two-tiered, broad work programme for 2017–2018 and finalized its more detailed annual workplan for 2017.⁸

9. The 19th meeting of the CGE was held in Bonn from 21 to 22 September 2017. Nineteen members attended the meeting⁹ along with an observer from Azerbaijan representing non-Annex I Parties from the Eastern European region, who was invited in accordance with the conclusions of COP 19.¹⁰ The CGE took stock of progress in the implementation of its workplan for 2017 and engaged in preliminary discussions on its workplan for 2018, which included identifying priority areas for its work.

10. The progress in implementing the activities planned for 2017 is described in detail in chapter III below, including the operational details of some of the key activities. Chapter IV below contains priority areas and activities identified for 2018 and corresponding estimated financial resources.

III. Progress in the implementation of the workplan for 2017

A. Training materials

1. Training materials on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

11. At its 18th meeting, the CGE considered the need for updated training materials on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (hereinafter referred to as the 2006 IPCC Guidelines). The CGE noted that since March 2016 the secretariat had been conducting training on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for national experts in collaboration with the Technical Support Unit of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and the CGE. The CGE agreed that it would work with the IPCC to make the related training materials available on the UNFCCC website.

12. Subsequently, the CGE, in collaboration with the IPCC, prepared the training materials covering all sectors of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines except agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU).

⁷ Members from Bangladesh, the Bahamas, Brazil (remote participation), Canada, Colombia, the Congo, Cuba, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia (remote participation), Singapore, South Africa, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America (remote participation) and Uruguay, and two experts representing international organizations (the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)).

⁸ The detailed workplan of the CGE for 2017 is available at <http://unfccc.int/2608.php>.

⁹ Members from Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (remote participation), the Congo, Cuba, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia (remote participation), Singapore, the Sudan, the United States of America (remote participation) and Uruguay, and three experts representing international organizations (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, UNDP and UNEP).

¹⁰ FCCC/CP/2013/10, paragraph 131.

13. At its 19th meeting, the CGE agreed to make these materials available on the UNFCCC website.¹¹ The CGE also agreed that the pending materials on AFOLU would be uploaded to the website once available.

2. Training materials on reporting information on mitigation actions and their effects

14. At its 18th meeting, the CGE discussed and took stock of the training materials it has developed on reporting information on mitigation actions and their effects. These comprise materials developed in 2013 for training on BURs and supplementary training materials developed in 2015 for the TTEs.

15. The CGE noted the need to align the contents of these training materials and to address any gaps in reporting by Parties in order to enhance the depth of the technical knowledge of experts from non-Annex I Parties on the methods and approaches for identifying and implementing mitigation actions as well as assessing their effects and reporting in a manner consistent with the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention” (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on BURs).

16. Accordingly, the CGE updated its training material on reporting information on mitigation actions and their effects in BURs. The updated training material is available on the UNFCCC website.¹²

3. Training materials on reporting information on constraints and gaps, and related finance, technology and capacity-building needs and support received

17. At its 18th meeting, the CGE noted the need to update the materials on the training of national experts to prepare BURs and on reporting on constraints and gaps, and related finance, technology and capacity-building needs and support received consistently with the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on BURs. The materials were subsequently updated. They include those developed in 2013 for training on BURs and supplementary training materials developed in 2015 for the TTEs. The updated materials are available on the UNFCCC website.¹³

4. Technical tool to facilitate non-Annex I Parties’ preparation for and participation in international consultation and analysis

18. At its 18th meeting, the CGE noted that a technical tool explaining the international consultation and analysis (ICA) process would assist non-Annex I Parties in effectively preparing for and participating in that process. The CGE subsequently developed such a technical tool and agreed at its 19th meeting to make it available on the UNFCCC website.¹⁴

19. The technical tool was developed taking into account the experience, lessons learned and feedback received from the first eight rounds of the technical analysis of BURs and the three workshops for the facilitative sharing of views. The tool provides information to Parties and experts on the process-related aspects of ICA, identifies the key steps, documents and tools used in ICA, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the various actors involved, including guidance facilitating efficient participation.

¹¹ <http://unfccc.int/349.php>.

¹² <http://unfccc.int/7915>.

¹³ As footnote 12 above.

¹⁴ <http://unfccc.int/8621>.

B. Training workshops and programmes

1. Regional hands-on training workshops on the preparation of mitigation actions and reporting on them in national communications and biennial update reports

20. The CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the two bodies that jointly administer the Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties (GSP), conducted two regional hands-on training workshops on the preparation of mitigation actions and reporting on them in NCs and BURs:

(a) A workshop for the African region, held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 21 to 24 August 2017;

(b) A workshop for the Asia-Pacific and Eastern European regions, held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 4 to 7 September 2017.

21. The workshops were aimed at enhancing the capacity of national experts from non-Annex I Parties involved in the process of preparation of NCs and BURs. The level of satisfaction of the generally appreciative participants was high regarding both the content and the organization of the two workshops. They acknowledged the usefulness of the training and requested additional hands-on training opportunities on the assessment and reporting of mitigation actions and their effects so as to build in-country capacity.¹⁵

22. While three regional hands-on training workshops had been planned for 2017, the one for the Latin American and Caribbean region could not be organized owing to insufficient financial resources.

2. Regional hands-on training workshops on sustainable national greenhouse gas inventory management systems and use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

23. At its 18th meeting, the CGE agreed to continue to contribute, in a resource role, to the UNFCCC regional hands-on training workshops on building sustainable national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory management systems and use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. Two regional hands-on training workshops were held, namely:

(a) Workshop for the African region, held in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 24 to 28 April 2017;

(b) Workshop for the Latin American and Caribbean region, held in Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia, from 12 to 16 June 2017.

24. The workshop for the African region was conducted in collaboration with the IPCC and the CGE, and the workshop for the Latin American and Caribbean region with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), GSP and the CGE. The CGE made presentations on the transition from the use of the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

25. The workshop participants expressed their appreciation to the secretariat for organizing the regional hands-on training workshops. The level of satisfaction of the participants was high regarding both the content and the organization of the two workshops. They acknowledged the usefulness of the training, and requested additional hands-on training opportunities, including in the form of e-courses.¹⁶

3. Training programme for the teams of technical experts

26. The COP, by decision 20/CP.19, adopted the composition, modalities and procedures of the TTEs under ICA. It requested the CGE to develop and organize appropriate training programmes for nominated technical experts, taking into account

¹⁵ The report on these workshops is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2017/17.

¹⁶ The report on these workshops is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2017/INF.9.

annexes III and IV to decision 2/CP.17, based on the most up-to-date training materials of the CGE.¹⁷ As mandated and as per its workplan, the CGE developed a training programme in 2014–2015.

27. The CGE training programme for experts undertaking the technical analysis of BURs was rolled out in April 2015 and converted to a web-based e-course training programme¹⁸ in June 2015. The training programme has been offered to experts from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) and non-Annex I Parties since April 2015, and a number of experts have successfully completed the training to date (see para. 29 below).

28. The fifth and sixth rounds of the training programme were offered in 2017. A total of 175 experts registered for these rounds, with 62 experts (45 from non-Annex I Parties and 17 from Annex I Parties) participating in the examinations. Fifty-five experts (40 from non-Annex I Parties and 15 from Annex I Parties) passed one or more exams.¹⁹

29. The CGE explored the possibility of utilizing interested partners and academic institutions to assist in conducting this training at the subregional and national levels. It also noted the value of having in-person hands-on sessions as a part of the training programme.

4. Webinars

30. As at September 2017, the CGE had conducted seven thematic webinars of 90 minutes each, in English, as follows:

(a) Four webinars (a total of 214 participants) on vulnerability and adaptation assessment, focusing on the framework for assessment, climate change scenarios, coastal resources, and monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation planning;

(b) Two webinars (a total of 48 participants) on mitigation assessment, focusing on the development of standardized baselines and the mitigation potential of the agriculture sector;

(c) One webinar (25 participants) on national GHG systems.

31. All webinars were aimed at building the momentum of CGE capacity-building initiatives and addressing target issues. The CGE collaborated with external experts and international organizations, including GSP, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and FAO on presenting these webinars. The participants included national government representatives, researchers and technical specialists. The webinars allowed the participants to learn from and engage with experts remotely to address their questions.

C. Online training resources

1. E-learning courses

32. The e-learning courses that were developed and released on the secretariat's Learning Management System are fully operational.²⁰ They address: (1) vulnerability and adaptation assessment; (2) mitigation assessment; and (3) national GHG inventories.

33. As at 25 August 2017, 394 participants had registered for the e-learning courses.

34. The CGE agreed to continue to offer the e-learning courses in 2018 and conduct additional outreach in order to increase enrolment. It also identified ways to improve the

¹⁷ Decision 20/CP.19, paragraph 4.

¹⁸ <http://unfccc.int/9279.php>.

¹⁹ The initial assessment period for the sixth round of training concluded on 28 August 2017. Experts who did not receive passing scores on these exams will be given the opportunity to retake the exams from 5 to 9 October 2017. The figures provided in this report do not reflect the results of the repeat examinations.

²⁰ The Learning Management System can be accessed by logging in at <https://climate.csod.com/client/climate/default.aspx>.

design of the course with a view to promoting active use of it (see para. 68 below for further details).

2. Interactive electronic platform

35. The long-term strategy of the CGE formulated in 2014 included enhancing interaction between the CGE members and their constituencies as part of its communication and outreach efforts. Accordingly, the CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, created a web-based online platform called the e-Network.²¹

36. The e-Network allows users to access relevant information on the preparation of NCs and BURs, search a database of experts, pose questions to the CGE and participate in online discussion forums.

37. The CGE encourages national experts and other stakeholders involved in the preparation of NCs and BURs to make use of the e-Network.

D. Other activities

1. Composition of the teams of technical experts

38. As at May 2017, the secretariat had organized eight rounds of the technical analysis of BURs, covering 41 BURs of 36 Parties, including 5 second BURs. A total of 111 experts from both Annex I and non-Annex I Parties, including current and former members of the CGE, participated in these technical analyses as members of the TTEs.

39. The TTEs were composed following the selection criteria defined in the annex to decision 20/CP.19. Further, in composing the TTEs, the language in which the BURs were submitted was taken into consideration.

40. Following decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(h), the CGE, at its 16th meeting, noted the report by the secretariat on the composition of the TTEs conducting the technical analysis of BURs. The report also included lessons learned and challenges in composing the TTEs in 2015. These challenges included, among others:

(a) The limited availability of experts to form the TTEs, taking into account the requirements for their qualifications and expertise, knowledge of a language other than English, geographical distribution and Annex I Party/non-Annex I Party representation;

(b) The high demand for experts participating in similar UNFCCC processes, the timing of which occasionally overlaps with that of the technical analysis of BURs.

41. With a view to addressing those challenges, to the extent possible, the CGE established a task force to undertake an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced in composing the TTEs to undertake the technical analysis of BURs, and to identify and recommend solutions that respond to or mitigate those identified constraints and challenges.

42. The task force consisted of 10 CGE members, with two members each from Asia-Pacific, Latin American and Caribbean, and African States, three members from Annex I Parties and one member from an international organization.

43. Given that the terms of 5 of the 10 members of the task force ended following elections for the CGE held during COP 22, the CGE, at its 18th meeting, reconstituted the task force to complete the report.

44. The report of the task force is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2017/12.

2. Update of information on problems and constraints, lessons learned and best practices

45. The CGE, in accordance with decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(a) and (g), agreed to prepare an updated technical report compiling and synthesizing available

²¹ The e-Network can be accessed by logging in at <https://process.unfccc.int/sites/eNET/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

information on the problems and constraints, lessons learned and best practices in the process of and preparation of NCs and BURs by non-Annex I Parties, which is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2017/16.

46. The technical report is an updated compilation and synthesis of problems and constraints, lessons learned and best practices identified in the process and preparation of NCs and BURs. The information contained in the report has been obtained from, among others:

- (a) NCs and BURs submitted by non-Annex I Parties;²²
- (b) The survey conducted by the CGE in 2017 on problems and constraints, lessons learned and best practices in the process of and the preparation of NCs and BURs;
- (c) Past survey reports of the CGE and the GSP.

47. The CGE noted a number of key messages from the updated technical report, including the following:

(a) Non-Annex I Parties have acknowledged that a lack of legal instrument (by-law or regulation) and/or policy support usually results in an insufficient institutional basis for the preparation of NCs and BURs. The responsible institution is often unable to justify the resource commitment for the preparation and submission of national reports, resulting in the number of national experts being insufficient to maintain the quality of the technical processes involved in the preparation of the national reports. Further, the lack of policy support also poses a challenge in data collection, including from the private sector, especially in cases where data collection and storage involves costs;

(b) In dealing with data-related issues, non-Annex I Parties have found it important to raise the awareness of data custodians and key stakeholders regarding data gaps and methods for data collection, and to dedicate resources to explore approaches to dealing with data gaps. Furthermore, documenting the steps in the data collection process and annotating collected data can help to maintain institutional memory and serve as the basis for a larger data depository;

(c) Through the scope of the national reports, non-Annex I Parties are increasingly recognizing that the benefits of conducting national GHG inventories and vulnerability and adaptation and mitigation assessments go beyond fulfilling the reporting requirements under the Convention. The information prepared for NCs and BURs has been used for national planning, international climate negotiations and the mobilization of financing for climate change and development activities.

48. At its 19th meeting, the CGE noted the need to take into account the findings contained in the updated technical report referred to in paragraph 45 above in programming its workplan in 2018. The CGE also recognized the role of other bilateral and multilateral partners in addressing some of the problems and constraints identified in the updated technical report.

E. Cooperation and collaboration

49. The CGE noted the importance of participating in the activities of other constituted bodies and expert groups. Such participation helps in identifying activities that are cross-cutting in nature and in exploring synergies and opportunities for collaborating on their respective activities and/or complementing each other's work, especially related to the capacity-building of non-Annex I Parties.

50. As a part of the outreach to other constituted bodies, the CGE shared its 2017 workplan and work programme for 2017–2018 and sought to explore possible areas of collaboration with the other constituted bodies and expert groups in order to maximize the provision of assistance to non-Annex I Parties.

²² In total, 137 NCs and 24 BURs from 137 non-Annex I Parties were submitted between 1 January 2006 and 15 October 2016.

F. Constituted bodies

1. Adaptation Committee

51. The CGE collaborated with the Adaptation Committee to organize a webinar on coastal resources.

2. Paris Committee on Capacity-building

52. The CGE participated as an observer in the first meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), held in Bonn from 11 to 13 May 2017. The CGE made a presentation to the PCCB on its capacity-building activities to assist non-Annex I Parties in preparing their NCs and BURs. The CGE also outlined the approaches it took in developing and delivering its training materials.

53. Further, in response to the invitation from the PCCB, the CGE made a submission²³ highlighting the need for synergy and collaboration among the various constituted bodies and expert groups under the Convention and provided inputs of information and suggestions regarding:

(a) The PCCB mandates related to the capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention;

(b) The web-based capacity-building portal.

54. The CGE agreed to continue providing input to the PCCB on capacity-building support through its capacity-building portal.

3. Standing Committee on Finance

55. The CGE noted with appreciation the outreach from the Standing Committee on Finance, where it shared its workplan with the CGE. The CGE, in response, shared its work programme and workplan with the Standing Committee on Finance.

G. Intergovernmental organizations

1. Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties

56. The Chair of the CGE participated in the 2nd meeting of the project advisory committee of the GSP, held on 20 September 2017 in Bonn.

57. At the 18th and 19th meetings of the CGE, the CGE members from UNDP and UNEP provided an update on progress in the implementation of the GSP.

58. The CGE identified areas for collaboration with the project advisory committee of the GSP, which include the translation of training materials on vulnerability and adaptation assessment for the preparation of NCs and BURs into other United Nations languages, conducting webinars, the dissemination of existing CGE training materials through workshops at the subregional and national levels, and outreach activities for the preparation of NCs and BURs.

59. The GSP is also assisting the CGE with its work on the compilation of information on: (a) existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of NCs and BURs; and (b) steps to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions.

60. The CGE collaborated with the GSP to organize the two regional hands-on training workshops referred to in paragraphs 20 and 21 above.

²³ <http://unfccc.int/10412.php>.

2. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

61. The CGE and the IPCC collaborated on the organization of the regional training workshops on sustainable national GHG inventory management systems and use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines (see para. 23 above). The CGE has also partnered with the IPCC on the development of the training materials on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines (see para. 11 above).

62. At its 19th meeting, the CGE expressed its interest in broadening engagement with the IPCC with a view to exploring opportunities to collaborate with working groups of the IPCC on physical science, adaptation and mitigation.

IV. Outlook for 2018

A. Areas for improvement

63. The CGE took stock of progress in the implementation of its work programme in 2017 and lessons learned from the year. The group concluded that it had managed to successfully deliver a number of activities that contributed to enhancing the capacity of non-Annex I Parties to prepare and submit better-quality NCs and BURs. At the same time, the CGE was also of the view that there are certain areas which would benefit from certain improvements that would further maximize the impacts on the ground.

64. The CGE recognized that, while some of the identified actions for improvements could be implemented without financial resource implications, there are others that may result in significant financial resource requirements, posing a challenge for the group itself to address them. Under such a scenario, the CGE should play a catalytic role by encouraging and promoting other interested partners to intervene, as appropriate.

1. Regional hands-on training workshops

65. The CGE identified the following areas for improvement in the regional hands-on training workshops:

(a) Taking language into consideration, to the extent resources permit (in the event resources are not sufficient, at a minimum the effort should be made to translate the workshop presentations into other United Nations languages expected to be used by a significant number of participants);

(b) Exploring the introduction of certain criteria to guide the nomination of national experts to the CGE training workshops;

(c) Setting clear expectations and objectives for the workshops;

(d) Revisiting the purpose/aim of the CGE workshops; initial ideas include using the workshops as a platform to train the trainers and to conduct in-depth training on certain technical areas, for example, AFOLU;

(e) Building on experience from the two regional hands-on training workshops (see paras. 20 and 21 above), and building on and continuing to hold dedicated peer exchange sessions;

(f) Encouraging self-funded participation in addition to funded participation, for example, by mentioning the availability of such an opportunity in the invitation letters;

(g) Introducing 'homework' in advance of the workshops; for example, asking the nominated participants to prepare and bring country data or requiring nominated participants to undergo an e-learning course;

(h) Strengthening further collaboration with the GSP and the IPCC, and exploring opportunities to collaborate with other working groups of the IPCC;

(i) Adjusting workshop evaluation surveys to better understand how the participants plan to make use of the training in their countries;

(j) Integrating some of the related substantive themes for the workshop, for example, addressing GHG inventories and tracking progress towards the achievement of mitigation goals in an integrated manner.

2. Webinars

66. With regard to the delivery of webinars, the CGE identified the following areas for improvement:

(a) Enhancing the understanding of the profile of resource persons as well as the participants, including the role and contributions of the participants to the national process);

(b) Communicating to the relevant country entities, for their information, information on participation in the webinars;

(c) Disseminating the recordings of the webinars;

(d) Using the webinars to disseminate background information for the regional training workshops;

(e) Taking advantage of the regional training workshops, through workshop evaluation surveys, and reaching out to the national focal points to enhance the understanding of needs in terms of topics and language for the webinars.

3. E-learning course

67. For the operations of the e-learning course, the CGE identified the following areas for improvement:

(a) Enhancing outreach to the national focal points; an initial idea included sending two communications to the national focal points, the first one inviting three nominations and, after six months, a second one providing feedback on the participation of the nominated experts;

(b) Revisiting the design and structure of the e-learning course with a view to breaking it into palatable modules.

B. Focus areas

68. Taking into account the achievements in the implementation of the 2017 workplan, as well as the lessons learned, the CGE, with a view to informing the development of the workplan of the CGE at its first meeting in 2018, identified the following as the priority areas for 2018:

(a) Addressing all the major issues captured in the work programme of the CGE. The CGE, recognizing the challenges of financial resource constraints, agreed to enhance its effort to collaborate with other interested partners. To that end, the CGE requested the secretariat to facilitate broadening CGE engagement with other interested partners through enhanced communication and outreach;

(b) Creating a formal network of experts and practitioners involved in the process of and preparation of NCs and BURs, by region, to serve as a vehicle for the dissemination of relevant information from the CGE to stakeholders;

(c) Strengthening communication and outreach so that the stakeholders have a better understanding of the training products and opportunities available through the CGE. This was agreed in response to the view that there is a limited awareness of the mandate and activities of the CGE among the stakeholders;

(d) Playing a catalytic role in promoting and attracting intervention from interested partners by providing strategic guidance and direction to respond to the needs of non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of NCs and BURs.

C. Financial resources

69. The CGE expressed its appreciation to those Parties and organizations that had provided financial contributions to support the work of the CGE. It noted with concern the lack of financial resources available to support the work of the CGE in 2018.

70. The CGE further noted the estimates, provided by the secretariat, of the potential financial resource implications arising from the activities tentatively programmed for 2018 would be USD 800,000.

D. Tentative calendar of events

71. Without prejudice to the outcomes of the first meeting of the CGE in 2018, where the workplan for 2018 will be finalized, the group identified tentative venues and dates for the events shown in the table below. These were identified tentatively for the sole purpose of planning. The final venues and dates are contingent on sufficient financial resources becoming available in a timely manner, as well as on the outcomes of the first meeting of the group in 2018.

Tentative venues and dates for the planned events for 2018 of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

<i>Event</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>
20 th meeting of the CGE	Bonn, Germany	Quarter 1
Hands-on training workshops on the preparation of mitigation actions and reporting on them in national communications and biennial update reports	TBD	TBD
Hands-on training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment for African States	TBD	Quarter 2
Hands-on training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment for Asia-Pacific and Eastern European States	TBD	Quarter 2
Hands-on training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment for Latin American and Caribbean States	TBD	Quarter 2 and 3
21 st meeting of the CGE	TBD	Quarter 3

Abbreviations: CGE = Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, TBD = to be determined.

V. Conclusions

72. The CGE concluded that it has managed to successfully implement most of its planned activities for 2017. The CGE welcomed the appreciation extended by non-Annex I Parties for its contribution.

73. The CGE faced financial resource constraints and as a result the group was not in a position to complete some of the key planned activities, including the regional hands-on training workshop for the Latin American and Caribbean region on the preparation of mitigation actions and reporting on them in NCs and BURs.

74. The CGE identified several areas for improvement. Subject to the availability of resources, the CGE is fully committed to taking such improvement into consideration in programming its work for 2018.

75. Taking into consideration the important role played by the CGE in improving the technical capacity of non-Annex I Parties in the process of measurement, reporting and verification, the CGE highlighted the value in further strengthening its engagement, for example, with the PCCB and the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency. This would provide an avenue for such entities to benefit from the rich experience and technical expertise residing in the CGE, particularly in responding effectively to the capacity-building needs of non-Annex I Parties.

76. The CGE saw the need to approach its work in a strategic manner, taking into account the broader perspective. To that effect, the CGE noted the value of demonstrating the potential benefits of NCs and BURs with a view to encouraging non-Annex I Parties to actively engage in the preparation of these reports.

77. The CGE recognized the need to respond to the constraints and needs reflected in the updated technical report (see para. 46 above). While some of the issues raised could be addressed by the CGE, there are others that may be beyond the scope of the CGE, owing to either the scale of the resources involved or the nature of the issue. For such cases, the CGE considered playing a catalytic role by facilitating the intervention of other interested partners.

78. The CGE extended its gratitude to the Governments of Cambodia, Namibia, St. Lucia and South Africa and the regional office of UNEP in South Africa for hosting the training workshops (see paras. 20–25 above). The CGE expressed its appreciation to FAO, GSP and the IPCC for their collaboration on and contribution to these workshops.

79. The CGE expressed its appreciation to the GSP for its contributions to the CGE, which enabled it to implement some of its major planned activities. The CGE also extended its appreciation to the IPCC for its contribution to the development of training materials on national GHG inventories. The CGE looks forward to continuing these successful collaborations in 2018.

80. The CGE extended its appreciation to those members who will be leaving the group upon completion of their term, after elections at COP 23.
