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## Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

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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, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol**

## **Technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol**

### **Report 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 greenhouse gas inventories and supplementary information, and review activities during the 2017 and 2018 review cycles, including the review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. It also provides information on review training activities for experts participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol. Finally, it reports on the information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.

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## I. Introduction

### A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), by decision 22/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 35, stated that the secretariat is to prepare an annual report to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on the composition of the expert review teams (ERTs) participating in the review of the information submitted under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including the selection of experts for the review teams and the lead reviewers.<sup>1</sup> The CMP, in paragraph 40(a) of the annex to the same decision, also stated that the lead reviewers of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory reviews collectively are to prepare an annual report to the SBSTA with suggestions on how to improve the review process.

2. CMP 11 requested the secretariat to include in its report information on the training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, in particular information on examination procedures and the selection of trainees and instructors, in order for Parties to assess the effectiveness of the programme.<sup>2</sup>

3. Finally, the CMP, by decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 26, stated that the secretariat is to annually compile information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.

### B. Scope of the report

4. This document provides information on:

(a) The status of submission of the annual information required from Parties included in Annex I under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol (Parties included in Annex I) and the review of that information, including the GHG inventories of those Parties; the review upon expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; and the review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (chapter II);

(b) The selection of experts and lead reviewers for the review process and their participation in this process (chapter III);

(c) The annual report to the SBSTA prepared by the lead reviewers in accordance with decision 22/CMP.1 in conjunction with decision 4/CMP.11, including their conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the review process (chapter IV);

(d) The training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol (chapter V);

(e) The minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, as required by decision 15/CMP.1 (chapter VI).

5. In accordance with the “Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol”, 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 under the Kyoto Protocol 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 GHG inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Information on the composition of the ERTs participating in the review of the information submitted under Article 7, paragraph 2, of the Kyoto Protocol can be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/2018/INF.3, chapter II.B.2.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 5/CMP.11, paragraph 3.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2018/INF.3.

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

6. The SBSTA will be invited to take note of this report.

## II. Submission and review of information from Parties included in Annex I

### A. Annual submissions for 2018

7. The annual inventory submission under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol comprises the national inventory report and the common reporting format tables. In addition, Parties included in Annex I must submit supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol. The due date of the annual submission is 15 April. 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.

8. As at 31 October 2018, the secretariat had received 42 submissions from Parties included in Annex I (see table 1). Most of these submissions contain tables with accounting units prepared in the standard electronic format, which are part of the supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol: 31 Parties submitted tables in this format for the first commitment period and 39 Parties for the second commitment period.

9. Status reports for the 23 submissions subject to individual review were prepared and published on the UNFCCC website<sup>4</sup> and forwarded to the Compliance Committee. The secretariat coordinated individual reviews of only 23 of the submissions referred to in paragraph 8 above owing to there being insufficient resources from the core budget of the secretariat to organize the 2018 review cycle fully in accordance with relevant mandates, while the available support in terms of supplementary funding, as at 2 April 2018 (the latest date for the start of preparations), was not at a level to make up for the lack of resources in the core budget.<sup>5</sup> Nine of the individual reviews were organized as in-country reviews (between 10 September and 10 November 2018),<sup>6</sup> nine as three centralized reviews (in Bonn between 17 September and 13 October 2018) and four as two desk reviews (between 10 September and 6 October 2018). The reports on these reviews are in preparation.

Table 1

#### Submission of the annual information required under the Kyoto Protocol in 2018

Party	Original submission dates			
	NIR	CRF tables	SEF-CPI	SEF-CP2
Australia	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	30 May 2018	30 May 2018
Austria	12 April 2018	12 April 2018	12 April 2018	12 April 2018
Belarus	13 April 2018 <sup>a</sup>	13 April 2018 <sup>a</sup>		
Belgium	28 September 2018	13 April 2018	15 April 2018	15 April 2018
Bulgaria	12 April 2018	14 April 2018	10 May 2018	10 May 2018
Croatia	24 May 2018	12 April 2018	12 April 2018	12 April 2018
Cyprus	9 May 2018	13 April 2018		16 March 2018

<sup>4</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/national-inventory-submissions-2018>.

<sup>5</sup> For more information about the financial circumstances, see document FCCC/SBSTA/2018/INF.3, annex, paragraphs 4–8.

<sup>6</sup> The 2018 GHG inventory submission of the United States of America was also reviewed in an in-country review, but the United States is not a Party to the Kyoto Protocol.

<i>Party</i>	<i>Original submission dates</i>			
	<i>NIR</i>	<i>CRF tables</i>	<i>SEF-CP1</i>	<i>SEF-CP2</i>
Czechia	12 April 2018	12 April 2018	3 May 2018	3 May 2018
Denmark	12 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018
Estonia	13 April 2018	14 April 2018	16 May 2018	13 April 2018
European Union	25 May 2018	14 April 2018		7 May 2018
Finland	6 April 2018	6 April 2018	6 March 2018	6 March 2018
France	15 March 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018
Germany	13 April 2018	5 April 2018	20 April 2018	14 April 2018
Greece	15 April 2018	15 April 2018		15 April 2018
Hungary	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	25 May 2018	13 April 2018
Iceland	13 April 2018	12 April 2018		12 April 2018
Ireland	12 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018
Italy	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018
Japan	24 April 2018	24 April 2018	24 May 2018	24 May 2018
Kazakhstan		23 April 2018	18 April 2018	18 April 2018
Latvia	13 April 2018	13 April 2018		10 May 2018
Liechtenstein	12 April 2018	12 April 2018	12 April 2018	12 April 2018
Lithuania	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	27 April 2018	27 April 2018
Luxembourg	5 April 2018	5 April 2018	29 May 2018	29 May 2018
Malta	12 April 2018	12 April 2018		12 April 2018
Monaco	14 April 2018	14 April 2018	17 May 2018	17 May 2018
Netherlands	13 April 2018	13 April 2018		24 May 2018
New Zealand	12 April 2018	12 April 2018	12 April 2018	12 April 2018
Norway	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018
Poland	25 May 2018	10 April 2018	10 April 2018	10 April 2018
Portugal	10 May 2018	11 April 2018	18 September 2018	12 April 2018
Romania	7 May 2018	13 April 2018	7 May 2018	7 May 2018
Russian Federation	14 April 2018	14 April 2018		
Slovakia	15 May 2018	10 April 2018	11 April 2018	11 April 2018
Slovenia	13 April 2018	13 April 2018		12 April 2018
Spain	2 April 2018	2 April 2018	2 April 2018	2 April 2018
Sweden	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	25 May 2018	25 May 2018
Switzerland	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018	13 April 2018
Turkey <sup>b</sup>	20 April 2018 <sup>a</sup>	14 April 2018 <sup>a</sup>		
Ukraine	23 May 2018	23 May 2018	25 May 2018	25 May 2018
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	12 April 2018	12 April 2018	22 May 2018	15 April 2018

*Note:* Blank cells indicate that no submission had been received as at 31 October 2018. Once these submissions have been made, they will be available on the UNFCCC website at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/national-inventory-submissions-2018>.

*Abbreviations:* CRF = common reporting format, NIR = national inventory report, SEF-CP1 = standard electronic format for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, SEF-CP2 = standard electronic format for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

<sup>a</sup> The submission was made under the Convention only.

<sup>b</sup> Although Turkey is considered to be a Party included in Annex I for the purposes of the Kyoto Protocol, in the absence of commitments under Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period, its reporting obligations under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol do not appear to be triggered in relation to that period.

## B. Review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period

10. CMP 8 decided that each Party with a quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment inscribed in the third column of Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol, as contained in annex I to decision 1/CMP.8 (the Doha Amendment), was to submit to the secretariat by 15 April 2015 a report to facilitate the calculation of its assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 bis, 8 and 8 bis, of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period and to demonstrate its capacity to account for its emissions and assigned amount.<sup>7</sup>

11. As at 21 September 2016, the secretariat had received 36 of the reports referred to in paragraph 10 above. The secretariat organized the reviews of these reports in conjunction with the reviews of the 2016 submissions, as requested by the CMP.<sup>8</sup> These reviews took place in the third quarter of 2016. The published review reports are available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>9</sup> See table 2 for the dates of the reviews and of publication of the review reports (status as at 31 October 2018).

12. The secretariat received the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount of Kazakhstan and Monaco (submitted on 4 July 2017 and 4 August 2017, respectively). The secretariat organized the reviews of these reports in conjunction with the reviews of the 2017 annual submissions. The review report for Monaco was published on 23 March 2018 and the report for Kazakhstan is in preparation.<sup>10</sup> As at 31 October 2018, Belarus had not submitted its report to facilitate the calculation of its assigned amount.

Table 2

### Review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amounts for the second commitment period and to demonstrate the capacity to account for emissions and assigned amounts

<i>Party</i>	<i>Review week dates (review type)</i>	<i>IRR publication date</i>
Australia	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	27 April 2017
Austria	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	31 May 2017
Belarus <sup>a</sup>	Not subject to review <sup>a</sup>	NA
Belgium	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	20 June 2017
Bulgaria	10–15 October 2016 (ICR)	21 June 2017
Croatia	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	30 March 2017
Cyprus	12–17 September 2016 (ICR)	20 October 2017
Czechia	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	31 August 2017
Denmark	26 September to 1 October 2016 (ICR)	9 August 2017
Estonia	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	22 March 2017
European Union	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	14 May 2018
Finland	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	16 March 2017

<sup>7</sup> Decision 2/CMP.8, paragraph 2.

<sup>8</sup> Decision 10/CMP.11, paragraph 2.

<sup>9</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-kyoto-protocol/second-commitment-period/initial-reports>.

<sup>10</sup> The review report for Monaco is available at <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-kyoto-protocol/second-commitment-period/initial-reports>. The review report for Kazakhstan, when published, will be available on the same web page.

<i>Party</i>	<i>Review week dates (review type)</i>	<i>IRR publication date</i>
France	19–24 September 2016 (ICR)	26 July 2017
Germany	19–24 September 2016 (ICR)	13 April 2017
Greece	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	31 August 2017
Hungary	19–24 September 2016 (ICR)	10 March 2017
Iceland	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	30 March 2017
Ireland	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	20 July 2017
Italy	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	1 June 2017
Japan <sup>b</sup>	NA	NA
Kazakhstan	18–23 September 2017 (ICR)	In preparation
Latvia	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	7 March 2017
Liechtenstein	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	21 September 2017
Lithuania	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	6 March 2017
Luxembourg	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	30 August 2017
Malta	10–15 October 2016 (ICR)	21 July 2017
Monaco	25–30 September 2017 (CR)	23 March 2018
Netherlands	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	23 June 2017
New Zealand <sup>b</sup>	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	10 August 2017
Norway	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	28 March 2017
Poland	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	21 June 2017
Portugal	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	5 September 2017
Romania	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	21 June 2017
Russian Federation <sup>b</sup>	NA	NA
Slovakia	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	3 March 2017
Slovenia	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	22 August 2017
Spain	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	14 July 2017
Sweden	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	6 April 2017
Switzerland	5–10 September 2016 (ICR)	20 April 2017
Turkey <sup>b</sup>	NA	NA
Ukraine	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	20 April 2017
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	4 December 2017

*Abbreviations:* CR = centralized review, ICR = in-country review, IRR = report on the review of the report to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, NA = not applicable.

<sup>a</sup> As at 31 October 2018, Belarus had not submitted its report to facilitate the calculation of its assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 bis, 8 and 8 bis, of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period and to demonstrate its capacity to account for its emissions and assigned amount.

<sup>b</sup> Japan, New Zealand and the Russian Federation are Parties included in Annex I that had a quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment (QELRC) for the first commitment period but do not have a QELRC for the second commitment period. New Zealand submitted a report to facilitate the calculation of its emission budget for the period 2013 to 2020. Turkey does not have a QELRC for the first or the second commitment period.

### III. Expert review teams and lead reviewers

13. 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 its

Kyoto Protocol and who have passed the corresponding examinations can participate in the reviews of annual submissions.<sup>11</sup>

14. The annual report on the technical review of GHG inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention provides more information on the number and nominating Party of experts participating in the reviews in 2018, the number of ERTs and experience in organizing the reviews.<sup>12</sup>

#### **IV. Annual report of inventory lead reviewers**

15. The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of GHG inventory lead reviewers was held in Bonn on 26 and 27 February 2018. Of the 38 experts from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention that were invited, 32 attended the meeting. In the case of experts from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, 61 were invited and 30 attended. The secretariat held a refresher seminar for lead reviewers and experienced reviewers on the morning of 26 February, before the lead reviewers meeting, which was attended by 60 experts (32 from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and 28 from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention). The refresher seminar focused on simplifying the analysis of data in GHG inventories with the use of review tools.

16. In accordance with decisions 13/CP.20, 22/CMP.1 and 24/CMP.1, the meeting referred to in paragraph 15 above facilitated the lead reviewers' task of ensuring the consistency of reviews across Parties and provided conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the quality and efficiency of such reviews. Such conclusions and recommendations are reported to the SBSTA, in accordance with the annexes to decisions 13/CP.20 and 22/CMP.1.<sup>13</sup>

#### **V. Training of experts**

##### **A. Training programme for members of expert review teams participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol**

17. Since 2006, as required by decision 24/CMP.1 and decision 8/CMP.5, the secretariat has been implementing the updated training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol with the aim of training members of ERTs for the review of information submitted under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol. All training courses and final examinations are offered online, in some cases with the support of an instructor, subject to the availability of resources.

18. In 2016, as requested by decision 5/CMP.11, the updated "Training programme for members of expert review teams participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol" was launched in order to meet the needs for the reviews in the second commitment period. All courses – including on national systems; application of adjustments; modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol; review of national registries and information on assigned amounts; and review of activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol – have been updated to meet the reporting requirements for Parties in the initial and subsequent years of the second commitment period. The format of the courses and the examinations remains the same as for the training courses held during the first commitment period.

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<sup>11</sup> For more information on the training of review experts, see chapter V below.

<sup>12</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2018/INF.3, paragraphs 13–23 and table 3.

<sup>13</sup> See the annex to document FCCC/SBSTA/2018/INF.3 for the conclusions and recommendations from the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of GHG inventory lead reviewers. These conclusions and recommendations are also available at <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/review-process>.

19. In order to ensure ERTs have the skills and knowledge to meet the requirements in the second commitment period, decision 5/CMP.11 requires some examinations to be mandatory not only for new experts, but also for experienced reviewers who participated in the reviews during the first commitment period in order for them to be able to take the roles of lead reviewers, generalists and KP-LULUCF<sup>14</sup> reviewers. Experienced experts who are to take the role of lead reviewer for the first time must pass the examinations for the updated courses on national systems, application of adjustments, national registries and review of activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol; experienced sectoral experts who are to take the role of generalist for the first time must pass the examination for the updated course on national registries; and all land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) experts and new lead reviewers must pass the examinations for the updated courses on the review of LULUCF activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period. Experienced experts have been invited to take part in the updated training programme.

## **B. Implementation of the training programme**

20. Forty-eight experts registered in 2018 for the courses under the training programme referred to in paragraph 18 above. Seventeen of the registered experts, including 12 experienced reviewers, took and passed one or more examinations. One new expert passed the mandatory courses as non-LULUCF review expert, four new experts passed some of the mandatory courses as non-LULUCF review experts and 12 experienced experts passed one or more exams.

21. Decision 22/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 31, requires the members of the ERT for the reviews under the Kyoto Protocol to be selected in a way that the collective skills of the team address the areas of information submitted under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol by Parties included in Annex I. Decision 22/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 32, requires the selection of the members of the ERTs to be done with a view to achieving a balance between experts from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention in the overall composition of the ERTs. Training activities are crucial for meeting these requirements and for GHG inventory review experts, in particular those from Parties not included in Annex I who are not involved in the activities of Parties included in Annex I related to the reporting of supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol.

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

22. The CMP, by decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 26, stated that the secretariat is 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.

23. The compilation is also to include information on how Parties included in Annex I that are also 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 decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 24, on the basis of relevant methodologies referred to in decision 31/CMP.1, paragraph 11.

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<sup>14</sup> Land use, land-use change and forestry emissions and removals from activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol.

24. The compilation based on the annual submissions received for 2018 was published on 29 October 2018 and is available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://unfccc.int/documents/183642>.