

Submission of the Eighth National Communications and Fifth Biennial Reports of Annex I Parties

Information note by the secretariat

22 September 2022

As part of their commitments for reporting under the Convention, Annex I Parties are required to prepare national communications every four years¹ and biennial reports every two years.² The fifth BR (BR5) should be submitted as early as the annual greenhouse gas inventory submission for the inventory year 2020 (e.g., 15 April 2022), but no later than 31 December 2022, in order to provide Parties with the opportunity to include the inventory data in these reports³. Annex I Parties shall submit both the textual part of BRs and the BR-CTF tables (generated from the [BR-CTF application](#)⁴) using the [UNFCCC submission portal](#)⁵.

This information note aims to address some frequently asked questions by Annex I Parties to help the Parties submit their eighth national communication (NC8) and BR5 efficiently and consistently with the respective reporting guidelines.

Quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Question: Given that the EU member States have a joint quantified economy-wide emission reduction target (20%) for 2020, how will the ERT assess the achievement of the 2020 target in the case of EU member States.

Answer: The assessment of the achievement of the 2020 target for all Parties will be based on the [proposals](#) discussed at the ninth meeting of NC/BR lead reviewers held in March 2022⁶. These proposals will be further discussed and the approach finetuned in the next LRs meeting scheduled for February 2023.

GHG emissions trends and projection

Question: Is it acceptable to report data from two different GHG inventory submissions in CTF table 1 on GHG inventory trends and CTF table 6 on GHG projections?

Answer: It is quite common for Parties to prepare GHG projections before 15 April of the submission year and thus to use inventory data from earlier inventory submissions for preparing projections. However, as BR5 is the final BR submission, the ERTs need to assess the achievement of Parties' 2020 targets in the technical expert reviews. As such, it is advisable to use data from the most recent GHG inventory submission (i.e. the one for 2022 including any resubmissions) to prepare projections. In case historical GHG inventory data from an earlier submission (e.g. 2020 GHG inventory submission) are used for preparing projections, data from the latest GHG inventory submission should be reported both in BR-CTF table 1 and for historical years in BR-CTF table 6. For greater transparency, a custom footnote should be provided in BR-CTF table 6 explaining that although the earlier GHG inventory submission was used for preparing projections, to ensure consistency with the GHG inventory data reported in BR-CTF table 1, data from the latest GHG inventory submission are reported for historical years in BR-CTF table 6.

Question: Why is it not possible to mark 2020 as a historical year in BR-CTF table 6, when it is possible to do so in BR-CTF table 5? Why is it possible to include projections of key variables and assumptions for years other than 2020 and 2030 (e.g. 2025, 2035 and 2040) in table 5, even though it's not possible to report GHG emission projections for such years in table 6?

¹ Decision 9/CP.16

² Decision 2/CP.17

³ Decision 6/CP.25

⁴ <https://collaborate.unfccc.int/sites/br-ctf>

⁵ <https://collaborate.unfccc.int/submissions/NationalReports/Pages/UserHome.aspx>

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/documents/461007>

Answer: It is not possible to mark 2020 as a historical year in BR-CTF table 6, even though it is possible to do so in CTF table 5. Similarly, unlike in BR-CTF table 5, it is not possible to report projections for years other than 2020 and 2030 (e.g. 2025, 2035 and 2040) in table 6. **This is because as mandated by decision 19/CP.18, the years for which projections are to be reported in BR-CTF table 6 are fixed as 2020 and 2030.** As a workaround, Parties can report the GHG emissions for 2020 from their latest inventory submission (2022) in BR-CTF table 6, while mentioning in a custom footnote that those are actual emissions. Parties wishing to provide projections for years other than 2020 and 2030 may report them in the textual part of the BR for the ERTs to consider during the review.

Financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support

Question: For which years should information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support be reported in NC8 and BR5?

Answer: As per the BR reporting guidelines and the revised NC reporting guidelines, **Parties are required to submit the information on support for 2019 and 2020 in both the NC8 and BR5.**

Submission of reports

Question: Is it fine to submit the 8th national communication (NC8) and BR5 together in a single report?

Answer: According to decision 2/CP.17 paragraph 15 the BR should be presented as an annex or as a separate report to the NC in the years when NCs and BRs are due together.

Question: Is the secretariat planning to implement updates of the BR-CTF application that will significantly alter its existing functionalities and features?

Answer: All necessary updates to the BR-CTF application to enable the submission of BR5s by Parties have already been made and no further changes are envisaged. In case of any software related matters, please contact the secretariat at tools.support@unfccc.int.

Question: How are the BR-CTF tables to be submitted: separately before the submission of the textual part of BR5 or through the BR-CTF application? Is it possible for Parties to submit the BR-CTF tables partially e.g. by submitting them in instalments as they are finalized? Is it fine to submit to the UNFCCC secretariat in advance a complete set of BR-CTF tables for the BR5 submission without officially submitting the complete BR5 textual format including the related BR-CTF tables?

Answer: The BR-CTF tables should be prepared separately by generating a workbook containing the BR-CTF tables using the BR-CTF application. Both the textual part of the BR as well as the BR-CTF tables generated using the BR-CTF application are officially submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat through the National Reports Submission Portal. The BR-CTF tables are generally submitted together with the textual part of the BR, although they can also be submitted before or after the submission of the textual part of the BR.

Please note that the BR-CTF application should only be used as a reporting tool to generate the BR-CTF tables but not to make the Party's official submission to the secretariat. It is advisable to complete all the CTF tables in the BR-CTF application and generate a complete set of BR-CTF tables before submitting them through the UNFCCC submission portal.