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**Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the
Convention**

**Report (for 2020 and 2021) and terms of reference of the
Consultative Group of Experts**

Report of the Consultative Group of Experts*

Summary

This report summarizes the progress of the Consultative Group of Experts in implementing its workplan for 2021, including major achievements and lessons learned. It covers the proceedings and outcomes of its two regular meetings in 2021, at which the Group discussed its key areas of work and implementing its workplan despite the circumstances related to coronavirus disease 2019.

* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



Abbreviations and acronyms

Annex I Party	Party included in Annex I to the Convention
BUR	biennial update report
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
COP	Conference of the Parties
ETF	enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement
GHG	greenhouse gas
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MRV	measurement, reporting and verification
NC	national communication
NDC	nationally determined contribution
non-Annex I Party	Party not included in Annex I to the Convention
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. COP 24 decided to extend the term of the CGE for eight years, from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2026.¹
2. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement decided that the CGE shall serve the Paris Agreement, starting from 1 January 2019, to support implementation of the ETF by, inter alia:
 - (a) Facilitating provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties, as applicable, including for preparing and submitting their biennial transparency reports, and facilitating improved reporting over time;
 - (b) Providing technical advice to the secretariat on the training of technical expert review teams referred to in paragraph 12(c) of decision 18/CMA.1.²
3. COP 24 also decided that the CGE, in fulfilling its mandate, shall function in accordance with decision 19/CP.19 and its annex. At the same time, it requested SBI 50 to review and revise the terms of reference of the CGE taking into account the functions referred to in the annex to decision 19/CP.19, the annual reports of the CGE and paragraph 15 of decision 18/CMA.1 with a view to recommending a draft decision thereon for consideration and adoption at COP 25.³ The SBI, not having concluded the review and revision of the terms of reference of the CGE at SBI 51, will continue its consideration of the matter with a view to recommending a draft decision to COP 26.
4. COP 19 requested the CGE to submit an annual progress report on its work to the SBI for consideration at the sessions of the SBI held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP.⁴
5. COP 19 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.⁵

B. Scope

6. This report provides an overview of the implementation by the CGE of its workplan for 2021 (see the annex). It covers the proceedings and outcomes of the 5th and 6th meetings of the CGE, including key achievements, lessons learned and challenges.
7. Two other reports capturing the outcomes of key CGE activities in 2021 have been prepared for consideration by the SBI:
 - (a) A report on the virtual regional hands-on training workshops on institutional arrangements for the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF, including data management for national GHG inventories (see paras. 14–17 below);⁶
 - (b) A technical paper on problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs in preparing NCs and BURs (see paras. 40–44 below).⁷

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

8. The SBI will be invited to consider this report and to provide guidance, as appropriate, to the CGE.

¹ Decision 11/CP.24, para. 1.

² Decision 18/CMA.1, para. 15.

³ Decision 11/CP.24, paras. 2 and 5.

⁴ Decision 19/CP.19, para. 7.

⁵ Decision 19/CP.19, para. 9(a).

⁶ FCCC/SBI/2021/14.

⁷ FCCC/TP/2021/2.

II. Proceedings of the meetings of the Consultative Group of Experts

A. Fifth meeting

9. The 5th meeting of the CGE was held virtually on 2 and 3 March 2021. A total of 22 members participated,⁸ as well as a representative of non-Annex I Parties from Eastern Europe (Armenia) as an observer invited in accordance with the conclusions of COP 19.⁹

10. Virginia Sena (Uruguay) was elected as Chair of the CGE and Sandra Motshwanedi (South Africa) as Rapporteur, both for a term of one year.

11. At the meeting, the CGE developed its workplan for 2021, guided by its vision, mission and strategic priorities for 2020–2026¹⁰ and taking into account existing and emerging needs and gaps of developing countries and feedback received from national experts and practitioners through engagement of the CGE in various forums and events.

B. Sixth meeting

12. The 6th meeting of the CGE was held virtually on 2 and 3 September 2021. A total of 18 members participated,¹¹ as well as a representative of non-Annex I Parties from Eastern Europe (Armenia) as an observer.

13. At the meeting, the CGE reviewed the implementation of its 2021 workplan and identified lessons learned and challenges. In addition, it considered its 2021 progress report to the SBI, including the reports referred to in paragraph 7 above.

III. Progress of the Consultative Group of Experts in implementing its workplan for 2021

A. Virtual regional hands-on training workshops

14. Building on the seven virtual regional hands-on training workshops that it held in 2020 on the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF, the CGE decided to organize, as part of its workplan for 2021, virtual regional hands-on training workshops on institutional arrangements for the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF, including data management for national GHG inventories.

15. The main objective of the workshops was to enhance the technical capacity of experts from developing country Parties to establish or build on and strengthen their countries' institutional arrangements to facilitate implementation of the existing MRV arrangements and prepare for ETF implementation and understand data management for national GHG inventories. Specifically, after completing the training, participants were expected to:

- (a) Better understand the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF;
- (b) Have good knowledge of the key components of institutional arrangements, including data management for GHG inventories, in the context of the existing MRV arrangements and the transition to the ETF;

⁸ From Algeria, China, the Congo, Cuba, the European Union, France, Haiti, Japan, Maldives, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Turkey, the United States of America, Uruguay, the IPCC, UNDP and UNEP.

⁹ FCCC/CP/2013/10, para. 131.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBI/2020/15, annex I.

¹¹ From China, the Congo, Cuba, France, Haiti, Japan, Maldives, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Turkey, the United States of America, Uruguay, the IPCC, UNDP and UNEP.

(c) Be able to articulate the essential elements of establishing, sustaining and continually improving institutional and legal arrangements to support the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF, including data management for GHG inventories;

(d) Have examples of tools and practical experience that can be applied and/or built on in establishing or strengthening relevant institutional arrangements;

(e) Be able to identify gaps and capacity-building needs in relation to establishing and reporting on institutional arrangements for the transition to the ETF.

16. Taking into account language and time differences between regions, the CGE agreed to conduct seven virtual regional hands-on training workshops in June–September 2021.¹² A total of 313 participants¹³ from 90 countries were trained at the workshops (see the table below). In its letter inviting nominations for national experts to participate in the regional workshops, the CGE continued to encourage the participation of women.

17. Participants indicated in their feedback that the workshops and training sessions were well structured and well organized, their questions were addressed, and they were able to access training materials easily or very easily. They expressed the view that the training enhanced their understanding of the institutional arrangements for existing MRV arrangements and prepared them for the implementation of the ETF. Some participants stated that the new knowledge they have gained will help them to enhance their institutional arrangements, promote stakeholder engagement, improve data collection processes, develop climate change laws and legal frameworks, and complete other related work; and for some that it will support them in training their colleagues and building the capacity of other stakeholders.

Consultative Group of Experts virtual regional hands-on training workshops in 2021

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Region(s)/subregion(s)</i>	<i>Number of countries represented</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
22–24 June	English	Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe and other	21	57 (33 male and 24 female)
29 June to 1 July	English	Pacific	4	24 (12 male and 12 female)
5–7 July	English	Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean	27	93 (51 male and 42 female)
13–15 July	French	Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean	8	15 (11 male and 4 female)
7–9 September	Spanish	Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and other	16	62 (24 male and 38 female)
13–15 September	Arabic	Middle East and North Africa	10	45 (24 male and 21 female)
13–15 September	Russian	Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe and other	4	17 (4 male and 13 female)

¹² The report on the workshops is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2021/14.

¹³ The number of registered participants connected; in some cases, more than one person may have participated through a single connection.

B. Regional webinar series

18. The CGE agreed to organize two series of regional webinars¹⁴ as part of its workplan for 2021, to address:

(a) Synergies at the national level in data collection for reporting under the existing MRV arrangements, the ETF, the SDG monitoring framework and other international instruments (see paras. 19–22 below);

(b) Embedding climate reporting in national statistics as a way of enhancing institutional arrangements in a sustainable manner (see paras. 23–25 below).

1. Synergies at the national level in data collection for reporting under the UNFCCC and other international instruments

19. This series of three regional webinars, two in English for the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions and one in Spanish for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, was attended by 84 experts. The objectives were to:

(a) Highlight the importance of sustainable institutional arrangements for reporting;

(b) Explore potential synergies in data collection at the national level for reporting under the existing MRV arrangements, the ETF, the SDG monitoring framework and other international instruments;

(c) Showcase experience of developing country Parties that have integrated SDG monitoring into their national MRV arrangements;

(d) Provide an opportunity for discussing and sharing experience, lessons learned and needs.

20. The webinars focused on providing an overview of the benefits of national MRV systems and sustainable institutional arrangements for reporting under the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF; discussing national reporting under different international instruments, including the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the SDG monitoring framework and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and commonalities and/or linkages in data requirements and data and information sources for reporting under these instruments; and highlighting examples of countries integrating SDG monitoring into their national MRV system. Country presentations were made by the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Montenegro and Uganda.

21. The target audience was MRV experts and practitioners, those involved in monitoring SDG indicators and implementing the Sendai Framework and representatives of national statistical offices.

22. Participants appreciated the quality of the webinars in general and remarked positively on:

(a) The pertinence of the topic to their respective countries as they plan for ETF implementation and develop their understanding of the relationship between the ETF and the SDG monitoring framework;

(b) The informative examples and country case studies;

(c) Speakers sharing national experience in response to questions, which enriched understanding of the various approaches to data collection in place.

2. Embedding climate reporting in national statistics as a way of enhancing institutional arrangements in a sustainable manner

23. This series of three regional webinars, was organized between August and September 2021 in collaboration with UNSD. Two webinars were held in English for the Asia-Pacific

¹⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-cge/cge-webinar-series>, including for webinar recordings and background material.

region and one in Spanish with English interpretation for the Latin America and the Caribbean region.¹⁵ A total of 215 experts participated in the first two webinars. The objectives were to:

- (a) Highlight the importance of sustainable institutional arrangements for climate reporting;
- (b) Explore potential synergies in data collection and analysis for reporting on the climate and other areas at the national level;
- (c) Showcase country experience of national statistical office involvement in national MRV and transparency processes;
- (d) Provide an opportunity for discussing and sharing experience and lessons learned.

24. The webinars provided an overview of climate data and information reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and country examples of approaches and processes that showcase the opportunities for involvement and the role of national statistical offices in climate reporting. The target audience is experts and practitioners from national statistical offices who are actively involved in preparing NCs, BURs and national GHG inventories and are or will be involved in planning for ETF implementation. Country presentations were made by Suriname and Turkey. Presentations were also made by representatives of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

25. Participants were appreciative of the quality of the webinars and remarked positively on:

- (a) The clarity of the webinars and the high level of expertise of the presenters;
- (b) The examples and country cases provided, with good practices and lessons learned shared by the climate and statistical offices in Suriname and Turkey;
- (c) The logistical arrangements, in particular support provided by the technical team, the quality of the interpretation and the accessibility of the presentations.

C. E-learning courses

26. The CGE e-learning courses¹⁶ are hosted on the secretariat's Learning Management System and cover vulnerability and adaptation assessment, mitigation assessment and national GHG inventories. As at 2 August 2021, 368 participants had registered for the courses.

27. The CGE noted that the content of the e-learning courses is now obsolete and needs to be updated, in particular to take into account recent developments, including relevant aspects from the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the ETF¹⁷ and key findings from the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.

28. The CGE agreed to continue discussing this matter at its next meeting with a view to defining a scope and timeline for the update.

D. Informal forum

29. The CGE agreed to organize its fourth annual informal forum on MRV arrangements and the ETF virtually in the first week of December 2021.

¹⁵ The third webinar for the Africa and Eastern Europe regions will be held on 30 September 2021.

¹⁶ Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/support-for-developing-countries/training#eq-1>.

¹⁷ Annex to decision 18/CMA.1.

30. The CGE uses its informal forum to engage with key stakeholders on its current and future work and brainstorm with participants on key factors in the successful implementation of the existing MRV arrangements under the Convention and transition to the ETF under the Paris Agreement.

31. Under the existing MRV arrangements, both developed and developing country Parties deem factors such as domestic political buy-in, capacity-building and access to finance as critical to national efforts to enhance and maintain the institutional arrangements for preparing and submitting national reports under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. These factors will remain critical, especially for developing country Parties, as they prepare for and transition to the ETF.

32. The objective of the fourth informal forum of the CGE is to showcase its work and seek feedback from stakeholders on reinforcing this work in a manner that addresses the main challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties. It will also be an opportunity to informally reflect and exchange views on country cases and lessons learned in the areas of domestic political buy-in, capacity-building and access to finance.

E. Support for the technical analysis of biennial update reports

1. Composition of teams of technical experts

33. The secretariat reports to the CGE on the composition of the teams of technical experts for the technical analysis of BURs on a semi-annual basis.¹⁸ At its 5th and 6th meetings, the CGE considered the reports prepared by the secretariat.

34. As at June 2021, 19 rounds of technical analysis of BURs under international consultation and analysis had been conducted by 44 teams of technical experts, composed in accordance with the defined criteria¹⁹ and taking into consideration advice from the CGE.

2. Training programme for teams of technical experts

35. As requested at COP 19, the CGE training programme for experts conducting technical analysis of BURs was rolled out in April 2015 and converted to an online e-course²⁰ in June 2015.²¹ Since then, the programme has been offered to experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts by Annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties. The thirteenth and fourteenth rounds of the training programme were scheduled for 2021.²² In the thirteenth round, 69 experts (55 from non-Annex I Parties and 14 from Annex I Parties) became newly qualified to take part in the technical analysis of BURs.

F. Participation in the technical assessment of submissions on proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels

36. In 2021, a CGE member participated as an observer in two sessions of the technical assessment of submissions from Parties on their proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels,²³ conducted remotely from 12 to 16 March and from 19 to 23 April.

37. At its 6th meeting, the CGE considered this matter, including the report on the technical assessment, and thanked the CGE member for participating in the technical assessment and preparing the report. The CGE agreed to take into consideration the observations and findings contained in the report at its 7th meeting.

¹⁸ As per decision 20/CP.19, annex, para. 2.

¹⁹ Decision 20/CP.19, annex.

²⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-convention/training-review-experts>.

²¹ In accordance with decision 20/CP.19, paras. 1 and 4.

²² Round 13 was completed by 30 April 2021 and round 14 will be completed by the end of November 2021.

²³ As per decision 13/CP.19, annex, para. 9.

G. Stocktake of training materials on mitigation assessment and vulnerability and adaptation assessment

38. At its 5th meeting, the CGE agreed to conduct a light update of its two training materials for reporting on mitigation and adaptation. References and information on tools, which have undergone some changes since 2015, were updated and references to obsolete models were deleted. The revised materials are available on the UNFCCC website.²⁴

39. The CGE also agreed to conduct a full update of the training materials in 2022 after relevant parts of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report become available. The CGE expressed its interest in collaborating with partners with relevant expertise in advancing this work.

H. Assessment of gaps and needs

40. At its 5th meeting, the CGE agreed to continue assessing existing and emerging constraints and challenges, lessons learned and capacity-building needs of developing country Parties in implementing the existing MRV arrangements and preparing for ETF implementation, and to update the technical paper on problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs in preparing NCs and BURs prepared in 2020.²⁵

41. The updated technical paper²⁶ took into account the results of the online survey on the existing and emerging gaps and needs regarding the implementation by developing country Parties of the existing MRV arrangements and in preparation for the ETF conducted by the CGE from 15 April to 30 June 2021,²⁷ as well as information from the 16 NCs and 20 BURs submitted and the 16 summary reports on the technical analysis of BURs published between 1 August 2020 and 30 June 2021. In total, the most recent 125 NCs and 65 BURs from 152 developing country Parties and 54 summary reports on the technical analysis of BURs published by 20 June 2021 were drawn upon.

42. The results of the assessment by the CGE show that developing country Parties continue to face constraints and challenges in preparing NCs and BURs, with similar challenges and constraints observed across regions. These challenges and needs predominantly relate to preparing national GHG inventories, followed by reporting on adaptation; reporting on mitigation; support needed and received; and cross-cutting issues.

43. With regard to preparing national GHG inventories, the main challenges and needs relate to dealing with outdated, incomplete or incompatible data and setting up a database to simplify the data collection process; and the availability of accurate data and lack of adequate backstopping of technical expertise to apply methodologies and tools. Similarly, for reporting on adaptation actions, the main challenges and needs are related to establishing, improving or maintaining technological infrastructure with a view to improving data quality and addressing data gaps; promoting research to better understand climate change impacts in various sectors (e.g. biodiversity, health, water resources and agriculture); improving impact and vulnerability assessments (backstopping of technical expertise); and closing the gap between available and necessary data for existing vulnerability and adaptation assessment models. As for mitigation, the main challenges and needs are lack of access to practical guidance, tools and methods for conducting mitigation assessments and tracking progress towards implementing and achieving NDCs; lack of a standardized, effective data collection and compilation process; and lack of technical capacity or skills in relation to using available tools and methods. The main challenges and needs with respect to support needed and received relate to strengthening institutional arrangements for the continuous provision of high-quality data; lack of a standardized, effective data collection and compilation process;

²⁴ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts/cge-training-materials/cge-training-materials-for-the-preparation-of-national-communications>.

²⁵ FCCC/TP/2020/1.

²⁶ FCCC/TP/2021/2.

²⁷ The 2021 survey report is available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts/cge/cge-training-materials/enhanced-transparency-framework-technical-material#eq-4>.

and lack of a clear methodology and guidance for ensuring that climate finance is accounted for, assessed and reported consistently. With regard to cross-cutting issues, the key challenges concern enhancing institutional capacity to sustain and improve the MRV and transparency process over time, and enhancement of coordination across sectors and institutions to collect and share data.

44. Parties acknowledged that participating in the international consultation and analysis process has led to improvements in their report preparation process over time, while recognizing the need for challenges and needs to be addressed more swiftly in preparation for the transition to the ETF.

I. Other elements of the workplan

1. Communications and outreach

45. At its 5th meeting, the CGE approved the communication and outreach plan for 2021.²⁸ The objective of outreach by the CGE is to increase awareness of its role and activities in supporting developing country Parties so that it is able to engage effectively with its target audience.

46. The CGE web pages,²⁹ one of the main channels of communication of the CGE, were revised and updated in 2021 to ensure that the latest information and technical resources are easily accessible.

2. Online platform

47. The CGE continued to enhance its MRV/Transparency helpdesk³⁰ for sharing technical materials, news and announcements.

48. At its 5th meeting, the CGE agreed to revise the layout of the platform and the information available on it.

49. The CGE encourages national experts and other stakeholders involved in implementing MRV arrangements, including preparing NCs and BURs and preparing for ETF implementation, to make use of the MRV/Transparency helpdesk.

J. Collaboration and cooperation

1. Constituted bodies and expert groups

(a) Adaptation Committee

50. In 2021, a CGE member participated in the 19th meeting, held from 16 to 19 March, and 20th meeting, held from 7 to 10 September, of the Adaptation Committee. The CGE took note of the report of the Adaptation Committee.

51. A CGE member also participated in a webinar on adaptation communications, on 20 June 2021, and presented findings on gaps and challenges in reporting on adaptation from the technical paper referred to in paragraph 40 above.

(b) Paris Committee on Capacity-building

52. A CGE member participated in the 1st meeting of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, on 8 June 2021, where several avenues for coordination and collaboration among UNFCCC constituted bodies and expert groups were identified, including knowledge-sharing and joint events.

²⁸ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-cge/cge-news-and-announcements>.

²⁹ <https://unfccc.int/CGE>.

³⁰ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/transparency/Pages/Home.aspx>.

53. The CGE noted that it should continue to share information resulting from its capacity-building needs assessment with the Paris Committee on Capacity-building.

(c) Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

54. As part of its communication and outreach activities, the CGE continued to provide input to the Nairobi work programme eUpdate newsletter in 2021.

55. The CGE identified the possibility of collaborating with the Nairobi work programme on the update of the CGE training materials on the vulnerability and adaptation assessment to be conducted in 2022 (see para. 39 above).

(d) Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

56. A CGE member participated in the 5th meeting of the Facilitative Working Group, held from 21 to 24 June 2021. The CGE noted that it would be willing to engage with the Facilitative Working Group on matters related to indigenous peoples and local communities in national reporting frameworks and the ETF.

2. Intergovernmental organizations and related arrangements

(a) Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties

57. At the 5th and 6th meetings of the CGE, the CGE members representing UNDP and UNEP provided an update on the progress of implementation of the Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties.

58. The CGE recognized the successful collaboration with the Global Support Programme and noted that it will continue such collaboration.

(b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

59. At the 5th and 6th meetings of the CGE, the member representing the IPCC provided an update on its work. The CGE took note of the planned dates of publication of the various reports that make up the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.³¹

60. The CGE agreed to explore opportunities for collaborating with the IPCC on outreach events in 2022 to showcase the key findings from these reports, as well as with IPCC Working Groups II and III when updating its training materials on mitigation and adaptation (see para. 39 above).

(c) United Nations Statistics Division

61. The CGE and the Environment Statistics Section of UNSD convened an informal meeting on 28 April 2021. Both entities acknowledged that the discussion was useful in forging a closer working relationship and noted several opportunities to reinforce each other's work.

62. The CGE provided input to UNSD during its development of the questionnaire for the Global Consultation on the draft Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators.³² In addition, UNSD was invited to present at the CGE regional webinar series.

IV. Conclusions

63. Guided by its vision, mission and strategic objectives, the CGE continued providing technical support and advice to developing country Parties. Its 2021 workplan builds on a number of successful activities implemented in 2020, with the aim of comprehensively

³¹ See <https://www.ipcc.ch/calendar/>.

³² https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/ClimateChange_StatAndInd_global.cshtml.

fulfilling its mandate of assisting developing country Parties in improving their capacities to implement the existing MRV arrangements as well as start preparing for transitioning to the ETF in a smooth, timely and sustainable manner.

64. Despite ongoing challenges posed by the coronavirus disease 2019, the CGE was able to successfully implement the activities outlined in its workplan for 2021. Experience gained and lessons learned in 2020 helped it to further refine its innovative approaches and working methods to advance the implementation of its work, resulting in the following major outputs:

- (a) Training 313 national experts in seven virtual regional hands-on training workshops on institutional arrangements for the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF;
- (b) Organizing two series of regional webinars on synergies at the national level in data collection for reporting under the UNFCCC and other international instruments and on embedding climate reporting in national statistics as a way of enhancing institutional arrangements in a sustainable manner, which reached 300 experts;
- (c) Developing, translating and disseminating online training resources on institutional arrangements, including a tool for conducting stakeholder analysis;
- (d) Continuing to offer the training programme on the technical analysis of BURs to experts on the UNFCCC roster;
- (e) Increasing awareness of CGE activities among stakeholders that are actively engaged in providing support to developing country Parties in the area of MRV and transparency, including bilateral and multilateral entities, through special events on the margins of COP 26, as well as through its website and interactive online platform;
- (f) Undertaking targeted analytical work, such as compiling and summarizing problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs for the preparation of NCs and BURs.

65. The CGE noted that the expectations specified by developing country Parties in response to its survey (see para. 41 above) provide clear guidance for its future work. As per the survey, developing country Parties' key expectations of the CGE relate to:

- (a) Developing and disseminating guidance documents and tools on topics such as transitioning from existing MRV arrangements to the ETF; tracking progress towards implementing and achieving NDCs; and assessing social and economic consequences of response measures;
- (b) Conducting hands-on training workshops, such as on applying the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the ETF; conducting mitigation assessments; and preparing information for reporting on support needed and received;
- (c) Convening information sessions, such as on sharing lessons learned in formalizing data-sharing agreements and data management systems; sharing experience of managing funds from the Global Environment Facility; and aligning the existing MRV arrangements with national reporting on progress towards achieving the SDGs;
- (d) Creating and maintaining (sub) regional platforms for promoting exchanges and networking among practitioners and strengthening South–South cooperation;
- (e) Compiling and disseminating information on practical tools and methods for enhancing national MRV arrangements and sharing good practices and examples related to the national benefits of climate reporting.

66. There is still demand for building the capacity of developing country Parties to enhance their preparedness to implement the ETF while continuing to implement the existing MRV arrangements. More specifically, feedback from CGE regional workshop participants indicates a continued need for:

- (a) Understanding the ETF (including the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the ETF for tracking progress towards implementing and achieving NDCs);
- (b) Developing and reporting GHG inventories;
- (c) Identifying and reporting mitigation actions;

- (d) Understanding data requirements, synergies and collection;
- (e) Identifying and reporting adaptation actions;
- (f) Compiling and reporting information on support needed and received;
- (g) Establishing and strengthening institutional arrangements.

67. The CGE agreed to take the observations and feedback contained in paragraphs 65–66 above into consideration when it develops its workplan for 2022 at its next meeting, to be held in February 2022.

68. The CGE extended its appreciation to developing country Parties for actively engaging in its activities in 2021 and providing invaluable feedback that will help align its workplan with the needs and priorities of developing country Parties.

69. The CGE also extended its appreciation to Parties that provided financial contributions that enabled the CGE to implement its workplan in a timely and effective manner.

Workplan of the Consultative Group of Experts for 2021

Theme	Activity	Timeline for implementation in 2021											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
A. Knowledge products	1. Training materials												
	a. Update training materials on mitigation assessment				X	X	X	X					
	b. Update training materials on vulnerability and adaptation assessment				X	X	X	X					
	2. Toolbox on institutional arrangements to support MRV/transparency of climate action and support for developing country Parties												
	a. Continue collecting and publishing lessons learned and experience in written and video interview format		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	b. Continue collecting feedback on and enhancing the toolbox	X	X	X	X	X	X						
	3. Capacity-building needs assessment												
	a. Continue compiling information on capacity-building needs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	b. Publish results of capacity-building needs assessment (updated technical paper)			X	X	X	X	X	X				
	c. Conduct survey on capacity-building needs				X	X	X						
B. Knowledge delivery	d. Prepare and disseminate infographics and visualization materials								X	X	X		
	4. Regional hands-on training workshops on institutional arrangements for the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF, including data management for national GHG inventories												
	a. Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe and other (English)						X						
	b. Pacific (English)						X						
	c. Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean (English)							X					
	d. Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean (French)							X					
	e. Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and other (Spanish)								X				
	f. Middle East and North Africa (Arabic)									X			
	g. Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe (Russian)									X			

Theme	Activity	Timeline for implementation in 2021											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	5.a Webinar on maximizing synergies at the national level in data collection for reporting under the existing MRV arrangements, the ETF, the SDG monitoring framework and other international instruments												
	a. Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe (English)					X							
	b. Latin America and the Caribbean (Spanish)					X							
	c. Africa (English)						X						
	5.b Webinar on embedding climate reporting in national statistics as a way of enhancing institutional arrangements in a sustainable manner												
	a. Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe (English)									X			
	b. Latin America and the Caribbean (English and Spanish)								X				
	c. Africa (English)										X		
	6. E-learning courses on the preparation of NCs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	7. Training of technical experts for the technical analysis of BURs												
	a. Thirteenth round	X	X	X	X								
	b. Fourteenth round								X	X	X	X	
C. Cross-cutting issues	8. Collaboration												
	a. Engage and/or collaborate with other constituted bodies, as appropriate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	b. Engage and/or collaborate with international organizations/initiatives/programmes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	9. Communications and outreach												
	a. Develop and implement an annual CGE communication and outreach plan			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	b. Hold CGE side events at sessions											X	
	c. Organize and conduct informal forum(s)												X
	10. Information technology support tools												
	a. Maintain and/or update the CGE virtual team room	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	b. Maintain and update the CGE web pages on the UNFCCC website, including the MRV/Transparency helpdesk, and CGE social media accounts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D. Other	11. Conduct regular meetings of the CGE			X						X			

Theme	Activity	Timeline for implementation in 2021											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	12. Participate in forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level technical assessments				X	X							
	13. Consider periodic technical report on the selection of teams of technical experts, as appropriate			X						X			
	14. Provide input to the global stocktake						X	X	X	X	X	X	X