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Report 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 2023, including major achievements and lessons learned. It covers the proceedings and outcomes of its two regular meetings in 2023, at which the Group discussed its key areas of work and implementation of its workplan for 2023 and work programme for 2022–2026.

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



Abbreviations and acronyms

BTR	biennial transparency report
BUR	biennial update report
CBIT–GSP	global project of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and the Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports by developing country Parties
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
ETF	enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement
GHG	greenhouse gas
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDC	least developed country
MPGs	modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement,
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
QA/QC	quality assurance/quality control
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SIDS	small island developing State(s)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

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 COP 26 adopted the revised terms of reference of the CGE.²
2. Furthermore, CMA 1 decided that the CGE shall also serve the Paris Agreement, starting from 1 January 2019, to support the implementation of the ETF by, inter alia:
 - (a) Facilitating the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties, as applicable, including for preparing and submitting their BTRs and facilitating improved reporting over time;
 - (b) Providing technical advice to the secretariat on the implementation of the training of the technical expert review teams participating in the technical expert review.³

B. Scope

3. This report provides an overview of the implementation by the CGE of its workplan for 2023 (see annex I). It covers the proceedings and outcomes of the 9th and 10th meetings of the CGE, including key achievements, lessons learned and challenges.
4. Two other documents capturing the outcomes of key CGE activities in 2023 have been prepared for consideration by the SBI:
 - (a) A report on the regional hands-on training workshops (see paras. 13–18 below);⁴
 - (b) An updated technical paper on problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs in relation to preparing NCs and BURs (see paras. 32–40 below).⁵

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

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

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

A. Ninth meeting

6. The 9th meeting of the CGE was held in Bonn from 9 to 10 February 2023. A total of 26 members participated in the meeting.⁶
7. Xiang Gao (China) was elected as Chair of the CGE and Jenny Mager (Chile) as Rapporteur, both for a term of one year.

¹ Decision 11/CP.24, para. 1.

² Decision 14/CP.26, annex.

³ Decision 18/CMA.1, para. 15.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2023/19.

⁵ FCCC/TP/2023/5.

⁶ From Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, China, the European Union, Guinea, Haiti, Jamaica, Japan, Maldives, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Togo, Türkiye, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe, the IPCC, UNDP and UNEP.

8. At the meeting, in response to the invitation of SBI 57 to the CGE to elaborate in its next annual report on the relationship between the metrics for measuring the progress of work of the CGE and its revised terms of reference,⁷ the CGE reviewed and updated its vision, mission and metrics to measure the above-mentioned progress (see table 1) as well as its strategic priorities for 2020–2026⁸ and agreed to continue considering these elements at its next meeting.

Table 1
Metrics for measuring the progress of work of the Consultative Group of Experts

<i>Category</i>	<i>Metric</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Paragraph reference in the annex to decision 14/CP.26</i>
Progress of developing country Parties in the transition to the ETF	Number of experts from developing country Parties knowledgeable enough to understand and implement the ETF	To provide an overview of the extent of the reach and impact of the mandate delivered by the CGE in fulfilling its mandate to support implementation of the ETF, with input solicited through feedback surveys and biennial stocktake surveys	3(a–b), 4(a–b), 4(d–e), 5
	Number of submissions of NCs, BURs and BTRs	To provide a picture of the contribution of the work of the CGE in fulfilling its mandate to support implementation of MRV and the ETF	2(a), 3(a), 4(e), 5
Progress in implementation of the work of the CGE	Number of experts who attended training workshops and completed the training programme for technical experts undertaking the technical analysis of BURs	To provide an overview of the extent of the reach of the core mandate (providing technical advice and support analysis to developing country Parties, and training experts on the UNFCCC roster of experts to conduct technical analysis) delivered by the CGE	2(a–e), 4(c)
	Feedback from participants at regional hands-on training workshops	To provide an overview of the quality and alignment of the work of the CGE with its terms of reference and needs of developing country Parties, with input solicited through feedback surveys	2(a), 2(c), 2(e), 3(a–b)
	Number of technical materials on MRV and the ETF	To provide an overview of the contribution of the work of the CGE in fulfilling its mandate to facilitate the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties in the implementation of MRV and the ETF	2(a–e), 3(a–b), 4(a–e)

9. At the meeting, the CGE also reviewed and updated its 2022–2026 work programme⁹ and developed its workplan for 2023, guided by its updated vision, mission, metrics and strategic priorities and taking into account the existing and emerging needs and gaps of developing countries,¹⁰ feedback received from national experts and practitioners through its engagement in various forums and events, and requests from SBI 57.¹¹ The CGE discussed

⁷ FCCC/SBI/2022/20, para. 21.

⁸ For the updated vision, mission, metrics and strategic priorities, see https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/CGE%20Vision%20Mission%20Metrics%20Strategic%20priorities_2020-2026_0.pdf.

⁹ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/CGE%20work%20programme%202022-2026_0.pdf.

¹⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-cge/transparency-needs-assessment>.

¹¹ FCCC/SBI/2022/20, paras. 24–26.

its rules of procedure with a view to updating them,¹² but was unable to conclude its deliberations. It will continue the discussion of this matter at its 11th meeting.

B. Tenth meeting

10. The 10th meeting of the CGE was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 2 to 3 October 2023. A total of 20 members participated in the meeting.¹³

11. At the meeting, the CGE reviewed the implementation of its workplan for 2023 and identified lessons learned and challenges. In addition, it considered this report, as well as the workshop report and technical paper referred to in paragraph 4 above.

12. The CGE also prepared, in tabular format, an overview of its activities against its revised terms of reference (see annex II) in response to the request of SBI 57 for the CGE to clearly reflect, in its next and subsequent annual progress reports to the SBI, how it has fulfilled its mandates, contained in its revised terms of reference, to support implementation of the existing MRV arrangements under the Convention by non-Annex I Parties and to support implementation of the ETF.¹⁴

III. Progress of the Consultative Group of Experts in implementing its workplan for 2023

A. Regional hands-on training workshops

13. In fulfilling its mandate to support implementation of the existing MRV arrangements under the Convention and the ETF, the CGE continued to organize its annual series of regional hands-on training workshops, giving special consideration to the LDCs and SIDS. The overarching aim of the workshops is to enhance the technical capacity of experts from developing country Parties to implement the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF.

14. The workshops conducted between 2020 and 2022 provided participants with information, examples and an opportunity for discussion in order to enhance their understanding of the following aspects of the transparency arrangements:

- (a) The commonalities and differences between the MRV arrangements and the ETF;
- (b) The key components of institutional arrangements in the context of existing MRV arrangements and transition to the ETF;
- (c) The provisions for tracking progress of implementation and achievement of NDCs;
- (d) The tools for implementing the transparency arrangements, as well as practical experience in and lessons learned from applying them;
- (e) The capacity-building gaps and needs of developing country Parties in relation to their transition to implementing the ETF.

15. In developing its workplan for 2023 (see para. 9 above), the CGE decided to focus its 2023 regional hands-on training workshops on reporting information on climate change impacts and adaptation and on support needed and received in relation to adaptation.

16. The objectives of the workshops conducted in 2023 were to:

¹² In the light of decision 14/CP.26.

¹³ From Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, China, the European Union, Haiti, Jamaica, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Türkiye, the United States of America, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, the IPCC and UNDP.

¹⁴ FCCC/SBI/2022/20, para. 24.

(a) Raise awareness among national institutions and experts of the provisions for reporting information on climate change impacts and adaptation, including on support needed and received, under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

(b) Provide participants with an overview of data-collection and data management methodologies and approaches used for assessing impacts, risks and vulnerabilities; enhance the understanding of approaches to translate the impact, vulnerability and risk assessment results into priority adaptation actions; report information related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts; and report on support needed and received for adaptation;

(c) Promote good practices for and draw on lessons learned from communicating adaptation information under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as facilitate networking and the sharing of relevant experience among national experts.

17. The CGE, in its letter inviting nominations for national experts to participate in the regional hands-on training workshops, continued to encourage the participation of women.

18. A total of 157 participants from 78 countries attended the three workshops held in 2023 (see table 2 for a breakdown of participants by region and for other details of each workshop). The report on the workshops¹⁵ also includes information on the workshops organized in October and December 2022.

Table 2

Regional hands-on training workshops of the Consultative Group of Experts in 2023

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Language(s)</i>	<i>Region(s)</i>	<i>Number of countries represented</i>	<i>Number of participants (women/men)</i>
25–28 April	Praia, Cabo Verde	English, French	Africa	37	74 (18/56)
16–19 May	San Ignacio, Belize	English, Spanish	Latin America and the Caribbean	20	39 (27/12)
26–29 September	Siem Reap, Cambodia	English	Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe	21	44 (21/23)

B. Regional webinar series

19. At its 9th meeting, the CGE agreed to organize three regional webinars on introducing its updated training materials for reporting on mitigation actions under the ETF.¹⁶

20. One webinar was held for Africa and Eastern Europe, one for Asia and the Pacific and one for Latin America and the Caribbean. The webinars were attended by a total of 155 participants and directed at experts and practitioners actively involved in the preparation of NCs, BURs and national GHG inventories or in the monitoring and reporting of climate change mitigation policies and measures.

21. Through the webinars, the CGE aimed to:

(a) Provide an overview of the ETF;

(b) Discuss key approaches to assessing mitigation options;

(c) Provide an overview of the reporting of information on mitigation under the ETF, including on the status of implementation of approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;

(d) Showcase relevant experience, lessons learned and best practices from countries in relation to reporting mitigation information.

¹⁵ FCCC/SBI/2023/19.

¹⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-cge/cge-webinar-series>.

22. Following each webinar, participants were invited to share their feedback in an online survey. The CGE received 27 responses in total. The respondents were overall satisfied with the content of the presentations and appreciative of the comprehensive information shared on the ETF and on the operationalization of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and how operationalization is linked to the preparation of BTRs, as well as on the latest CGE activities. The level of interaction between the speakers and the participants was considered sufficient. Suggestions for improving future webinars included providing practical exercises when presenting reporting tables or data-related information, providing simultaneous interpretation, and, given the depth of content presented, increasing the duration of the webinars or organizing webinars more frequently, where possible.

C. E-learning courses

23. The CGE e-learning courses¹⁷ are hosted on the secretariat's Learning Management System and cover mitigation assessment and vulnerability and adaptation assessment. As at 4 September 2023, 343 participants had registered for the courses.

D. Informal forum

24. The CGE agreed to organize its sixth annual informal forum and hold it as a hybrid event in the first quarter of 2024, back to back with the 11th meeting of the CGE. The CGE will use the informal forum to engage with key stakeholders on its current and future work and seek feedback from as well as brainstorm with participants on factors that are critical to the successful implementation of the ETF. The forum will also be an opportunity for participants to exchange views on the technical support available on the ground and explore how the support-related efforts of other providers could complement those of the CGE.

E. Support for the technical analysis of biennial update reports

1. Composition of teams of technical experts

25. 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 9th and 10th meetings, the CGE considered the reports prepared by the secretariat.

26. As at 30 June 2023, 28 rounds of technical analysis of BURs under international consultation and analysis had been conducted by 63 teams of technical experts,¹⁹ taking into consideration advice from the CGE. These teams involved in total 292 experts, 67 per cent of whom were from non-Annex I Parties. The geographical representation of these experts was as follows: 31.2 per cent from Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Europe (combined), 23.6 per cent from Africa, 23.6 per cent from Western Europe and other States, and 21.6 per cent from Latin America and the Caribbean. In terms of gender representation, 46 per cent were women and 54 per cent were men.

2. Training programme for teams of technical experts

27. 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 course²⁰ in June 2015.²¹ Since then, the programme has been offered to experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts by Parties included and not included in Annex I to the Convention

¹⁷ Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/support-for-developing-countries/support-to-developing-countries#E-learning-courses>.

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

¹⁹ Composed in accordance with 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.

alike. The sixteenth round of the training programme started in July 2023, with an assessment period in September 2023.

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

28. In 2023, a CGE member participated as an observer in the technical assessment of submissions from Parties on their proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels,²² conducted from 20 to 24 March 2023.

29. At its 10th 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 account the observations and findings contained in the report in its future relevant work.

G. Technical materials on the enhanced transparency framework

1. Technical handbook

30. At its 7th meeting, the CGE agreed to update its technical handbook for developing country Parties on preparing for implementation of the ETF with a view to capturing in the update the relevant decisions of the COP and the CMA on the ETF. At its 9th meeting, the CGE agreed to publish the updated technical handbook and translate the document from English into other United Nations languages. The work was completed in 2023 and the updated technical handbook is available on the UNFCCC website, in all United Nations languages.²³

2. Training materials

31. At its 7th meeting, the CGE agreed to update its training materials for reporting on mitigation and for reporting on adaptation with a view to including in those materials the relevant findings from the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC. The aim of the materials is to assist developing country Parties in preparing the information that is required to be reported in the NCs and the BTRs in accordance with the MPGs.²⁴ The work was completed in 2023 and the updated materials are available on the UNFCCC website.²⁵

H. Assessment of capacity-building gaps and needs

32. At its 9th meeting, the CGE agreed to continue assessing the existing and emerging constraints and challenges, lessons learned and capacity-building needs of developing country Parties in relation to implementing the existing MRV arrangements and preparing for ETF implementation, and to update the 2022 technical paper on problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs in relation to preparing NCs and BURs.²⁶

33. The update of the technical paper took into account the results of the biennial stocktake survey on existing and emerging gaps and needs, and lessons learned regarding implementation by developing country Parties of the existing MRV arrangements and preparation for the ETF, which was conducted by the CGE from 1 April to 15 July 2023.²⁷ The update also took into account information from the 20 NCs and 21 BURs submitted and the 28 summary reports on the technical analysis of BURs published between 1 July 2022

²² As per decision 13/CP.19, annex, para. 9.

²³ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-cge/cge-training-materials/enhanced-transparency-framework-technical-material>.

²⁴ Decision 18/CMA.1, annex.

²⁵ As footnote 23 above.

²⁶ FCCC/SBI/2022/INF.12.

²⁷ The 2023 CGE stocktake survey report is available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-cge/transparency-needs-assessment>.

and 30 June 2023. In total, the most recent 152 NCs and 90 BURs from 152 developing country Parties and 59 summary reports on the technical analysis of BURs published by 30 June 2023 were drawn on.

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

35. With regard to preparing national GHG inventories, the main challenges and needs relate to the lack of quality data and the lack of or ineffective databases for standardizing the data-collection process. They also concern lack of technical capacity for applying IPCC guidelines, methodologies, tools and software, as well as for transitioning to higher-tier IPCC methodologies; conducting uncertainty assessments and implementing QA/QC procedures.

36. As for reporting on mitigation actions, the main challenges and needs concern the lack of access to practical guidance, tools and methods for assessing the progress of implementation of mitigation policies and actions and estimating and reporting their associated emission reductions (including tracking progress in achieving NDCs); lack of technical capacity or skills for using available tools and methods; and lack of a standardized and effective data-collection process.

37. The main challenges and needs regarding reporting on climate change impacts and adaptation are related to promoting research that enables tailored, scaled-down climate modelling specific to national and local contexts as well as a better understanding of climate change impacts, including socioeconomic consequences, across sectors (such as agriculture, biodiversity, coastal areas and zones, energy, fisheries, human settlements, infrastructure, public health and water); developing or improving methodologies for ensuring the consistent monitoring of adaptation measures and for assessing whether aspects of vulnerability and of adaptation are applicable to some or to all sectors; and establishing, improving or maintaining technological infrastructure for collecting climate data and monitoring meteorological, atmospheric, oceanographic and terrestrial variables related to climate change.

38. The main challenges and needs with respect to reporting on support needed and received relate to the lack of guidelines, tools and efficient processes and systems for defining, identifying, tracking and reporting on capacity-building, technical and financial support needed and received, including the lack of a coherent or common definition of climate finance; and the lack of a standardized and effective data-collection process among various data providers. They also relate to sustaining and strengthening institutional capacity for the continuous provision of high-quality data on support needed and received.

39. Regarding cross-cutting issues, the primary challenges revolve around fulfilling reporting commitments and are attributable to limited capacity for report preparation and insufficient technical and financial resources; the lack of data-collection processes, encompassing all reporting areas; and the lack of coordination mechanisms for data-sharing among various stakeholders.

40. In relation to the ETF, the emerging needs of developing country Parties centre on enhancing understanding of the MPGs, common tabular formats and common reporting tables; and on addressing the lack of methods or practical guidelines for tracking the progress of implementation and achievement of NDCs and for assessing climate change impacts and adaptation.

I. Other elements of the workplan

1. Training programme for technical experts participating in the technical expert review of biennial transparency reports

41. In response to the requests of CMA 3 and CMA 4,²⁸ the CGE provided technical advice to the secretariat on the development and implementation of the training programme for technical experts participating in the technical expert review of BTRs.

42. The first module of the training programme (on general and cross-cutting aspects) was rolled out in March 2023 and the other three modules (on GHG inventories; tracking progress in implementing and achieving NDCs; and financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support) were released in September 2023.²⁹

2. Communications and outreach

43. At its 9th meeting, the CGE reviewed and noted its communication and outreach plan for 2023. 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.

44. The CGE web pages,³⁰ one of the main channels of communication of the CGE, continued to be updated to ensure that the latest information and technical resources are easily accessible. In addition, the CGE continued to utilize social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn to share information and reach out to its stakeholders.

45. As part of its outreach activities, the CGE held a side event on the margins of SB 58 entitled “Promoting data collection for Paris Agreement, a CGE dialogue for Parties and non-Party stakeholders” and will organize a side event to be held on the margins of COP 28 entitled “Achievements of the CGE, upcoming activities and national insights on the preparation of BTRs”.

3. Online platform

46. The CGE continued to enhance its MRV/Transparency helpdesk³¹ for sharing technical materials, news and announcements.

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

J. Collaboration and cooperation

1. Constituted bodies and expert groups

48. The CGE continued to collaborate with expert groups and other UNFCCC constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (see table 3).

Table 3

Collaboration of the Consultative Group of Experts with constituted bodies in 2023

<i>Body</i>	<i>Key collaborative activities</i>
Adaptation Committee	A CGE member participated in the 23 rd meeting of the Adaptation Committee, sharing information and providing updates on CGE activities. Potential areas for collaboration between the entities were also explored, and as a result, the Adaptation Committee presented its work at the 2023 regional

²⁸ Decisions 5/CMA.3, para. 31, and 9/CMA.4, para. 8.

²⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/training-programmes-for-expert-reviewers#PA-review-training-programme>.

³⁰ <https://unfccc.int/CGE>.

³¹ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/transparency/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<i>Body</i>	<i>Key collaborative activities</i>
	hands-on training workshops and provided inputs to the updates of the training materials for reporting on adaptation. Four CGE members attended a meeting of the Adaptation Committee's task force on national adaptation plans as observers and were listed as contributors to the work of the task force. Two CGE members participated in part I of the Adaptation Committee's annual dialogue with UNFCCC constituted bodies on addressing developing countries' capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding.
Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts	A CGE member participated in the 18 th meeting of the Executive Committee, sharing information and providing updates on CGE activities. The activities that may benefit from collaboration with the Executive Committee were highlighted, and as a result, the Executive Committee presented its work at the 2023 regional hands-on training workshops and provided inputs to the updates of the training materials for reporting on adaptation.
Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform	A CGE member participated in the 9 th meeting of the Facilitative Working Group, highlighting the technical support provided by the CGE to developing countries for implementing the existing MRV arrangements and the ETF. The CGE will continue its engagement with the Group on its planned activities in the remainder of 2023 and in 2024.
Least Developed Countries Expert Group	Upon the invitation of the CGE, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group presented its work at the 2023 regional hands-on training workshops.
Paris Committee on Capacity-building	The CGE provided inputs to the knowledge products of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building in response to a call for submissions on the Committee's 2023 focus area, "Capacity-building support for adaptation, with a focus on addressing gaps and needs related to formulating and implementing national adaptation plans".

49. The CGE participated in the dialogue among the Chairs of the constituted bodies on progress in integrating a gender perspective into their processes held during SB 58.³² Three CGE members gave a presentation on the gender-related elements of the mandate and work programme of the CGE, providing gender-disaggregated statistics on participants in its activities and sharing insights into its gender-focused work and plans for future gender integration into its technical support. The CGE will continue to implement gender-related mandates arising from decisions of the COP and the CMA.

2. Intergovernmental and international organizations

50. At the 9th and 10th meetings of the CGE, the members representing the IPCC, UNDP and UNEP provided the following updates on their work:

(a) IPCC: updates on the preparation of its Sixth and Seventh Assessment Reports and on its ongoing work to modify the IPCC inventory software, in cooperation with the UNFCCC secretariat, with a view to achieving interoperability with the tools for facilitating reporting under the ETF;

(b) UNDP: updates on its latest projects, initiatives and events aimed at supporting developing country Parties in their transition towards reporting in line with ETF requirements and on the progress of developing country Parties in preparing NCs, BURs and BTRs;

³² See document FCCC/SBI/2023/13 for the report on the dialogue.

(c) UNEP: updates on the CBIT–GSP, including on current finance delivery models, regional networks and the progress of developing country Parties in preparing NCs, BURs and BTRs. The CGE requested the secretariat to help share relevant information on the work of the CGE on the CBIT–GSP Climate Transparency Platform.

51. The CBIT–GSP, UNDP and the World Meteorological Organization provided technical resource persons, in their respective areas of expertise, for the regional hands-on training workshops.

IV. Conclusions

52. Guided by its vision, mission and strategic priorities, the CGE continued providing technical support and advice to developing country Parties. Its 2023 workplan builds on a number of successful activities implemented in 2022 and has the aim of comprehensively fulfilling the CGE mandate of assisting developing country Parties in improving their capacity to implement existing MRV arrangements and the ETF, in a smooth, timely and sustainable manner.

53. The CGE was able to successfully implement the activities outlined in its workplan for 2023, which resulted in the following outputs:

(a) Training 157 national experts in three regional hands-on training workshops on reporting information on climate change impacts and adaptation and on support needed and received in relation to adaptation;

(b) Holding three regional webinars on introducing its updated training materials for reporting on mitigation actions under the ETF, which reached 155 experts;

(c) Continuing to offer the training programme on the technical analysis of BURs to experts on the UNFCCC roster;

(d) Producing two new videos on sustainable institutional arrangements;

(e) Increasing awareness of CGE activities among stakeholders actively engaged in providing support to developing country Parties in the area of MRV and the ETF, including bilateral and multilateral entities, through side events on the margins of SB 58 and COP 28, as well as through its website and MRV/Transparency helpdesk;

(f) Undertaking targeted analytical work, such as compiling and summarizing problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs related to preparing NCs and BURs.

54. The CGE noted that the expectations of developing country Parties expressed in their responses to the biennial stocktake survey (see para. 33 above) provide clear guidance for future work of the CGE. The key expectations relate to the following activities:

(a) Conducting hands-on training workshops on topics such as establishing sustainable systems for MRV and reporting under the ETF, understanding the ETF and the MPGs, and tracking progress in achieving the NDCs;

(b) Developing and disseminating guidance documents on topics such as reporting in accordance with the MPGs, common tabular formats and common reporting tables; using methods and tools for conducting climate change impact and vulnerability assessments; using methods and tools for preparing national GHG inventories; applying IPCC guidelines; and implementing good practices for data processing and data archiving;

(c) Providing online training programmes on topics such as conducting QA/QC for national GHG inventories, identifying indicators to track progress in implementing and achieving the NDCs, and collecting the activity data necessary for preparing national GHG inventories in accordance with IPCC guidelines;

(d) Providing a regional or subregional platform that facilitates information exchange, the sharing of experience and peer-to-peer learning; promotes networking among experts and practitioners; and strengthens South–South cooperation;

(e) Conducting webinars that provide an opportunity for participants to exchange country experience and lessons learned in relation to preparing national GHG inventories, reporting on adaptation and mitigation actions, and reporting on support needed and received, among other topics.

55. The CGE noted the feedback from the participants of its regional hands-on training workshops, which indicated the continued need for support in understanding the ETF and the MPGs, preparing BTRs using the electronic reporting tools, reporting on adaptation actions, and establishing and strengthening institutional arrangements, among others.

56. While recognizing that the hands-on training workshops contributed to enhancing the knowledge of experts from developing countries, the CGE highlighted that such workshops, subject to the availability of timely resources, could be improved further by, for example, splitting the regions into small groups of countries with similar national circumstances, targeting priority areas, including mandatory provisions of the MPGs, focusing on exercises and discussions and inviting the technical experts who will be using the ETF reporting tools.

57. The CGE saw value in further enhancing its efforts to improve its web pages, outreach materials, survey design and collaborations with partners.

58. The CGE is mandated to facilitate the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties and to facilitate improved reporting over time, including, as applicable, in relation to the preparation and submission of NCs, BURs and BTRs. The CGE recognizes that other support providers are working on transparency reporting and encourages them to take note of the expectations of developing countries referred to in paragraphs 54–55 above.

59. Parties to the Paris Agreement are required to submit their first BTR and national inventory report, if submitted as a stand-alone report, in accordance with the MPGs, at the latest by 31 December 2024.³³ Noting the provision that a Party failing to submit the mandatory report or communication of information under Article 13, paragraphs 7 and 9, of the Paris Agreement can lead to the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee initiating a consideration of the issue for that Party, the CGE highlighted the need to raise awareness among developing countries of that provision. Further, the CGE expressed its interest in engaging with the Committee with a view to exploring potential ideas for collaboration.

60. The CGE extended its gratitude to the Governments of Belize, Cabo Verde and Cambodia for hosting the regional hands-on training workshops and expressed its appreciation to UNDP, UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization for their collaboration on these workshops.

61. The CGE extended its appreciation to other constituted bodies and expert groups (see paras. 48–49 above) for their collaboration and contribution to the work of the CGE.

62. The CGE also extended its appreciation to developing country Parties for actively engaging in its activities in 2023 and providing feedback that will greatly help the CGE to align its workplan with their needs and priorities.

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

64. The CGE expressed its appreciation to those members who will be leaving the group on completion of their term, after elections at COP 28.

³³ Decision 18/CMA.1, para. 3.

Annex I

Workplan of the Consultative Group of Experts for 2023

Theme	Activity	Timeline for implementation in 2023														
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.			
A. Knowledge products	1. Technical handbook on the ETF															
	a. Publish the updated technical handbook	x	x													
	b. Produce translations of the updated technical handbook			x	x	x	x	x	x	x						
	2. Training materials on the reporting of mitigation and adaptation															
	a. Publish the updated training materials on the reporting of mitigation	x	x	x												
	b. Publish the updated training materials on the reporting of adaptation	x	x	x												
	c. Produce translations of the updated training materials, based on resource availability				x	x	x	x	x							
	3. Technical paper on the benefits of transparency															
	a. Consider the technical paper	x	x	x	x	x										
	4. Toolbox on institutional arrangements to support the MRV and ETF of climate action and support															
	a. Continue collecting and publishing information on lessons learned and experience in written form and as video interviews	x	x	x	x	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	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	5. Capacity-building gaps and needs assessment															
	a. Continue compiling information on capacity-building gaps and needs and conducting the biennial survey	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	b. Publish the results of the capacity-building gaps and needs assessment (updated technical paper)									x	x	x				
c. Produce and disseminate a distilled version of the updated technical paper comprising infographics and data visualizations												x	x			
B. Knowledge delivery	6. Regional hands-on training workshops on reporting information on climate change impacts and adaptation and on support needed and received in relation to adaptation															
	a. Conduct the workshop for Africa (in English and French)						x									
	b. Conduct the workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean (in English and Spanish)								x							

Theme	Activity	Timeline for implementation in 2023											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	c. Conduct the workshop for Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Europe (in English)												x
	7. Regional webinars on introducing the updated training materials for reporting on mitigation actions												
	a. Conduct the webinar for Africa and Eastern Europe												x
	b. Conduct the webinar for Latin America and the Caribbean												x
	c. Conduct the webinar for Asia and the Pacific												x
	8. E-learning courses												
	a. Continue offering e-learning courses on the preparation of NCs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	9. Training of technical experts												
	a. Conduct the sixteenth round of the training programme for the technical analysis of BURs											x	x
	b. Provide technical advice to the secretariat on the implementation of the training programme for the technical expert review of BTRs											x	x
	10. Collaboration and cooperation												
	a. Develop and implement the strategic plan for engagement with relevant constituted bodies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	b. Continue collaboration with international organizations	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	11. Communications and outreach												
	a. Develop and implement the annual communication and outreach plan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	b. Organize side events and hold them at sessions												x
	c. Organize and hold the informal forum												x
	d. Plan events for celebrating 25 years of the CGE												x
	12. 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 social media accounts	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
D. Other	13. Conduct regular meetings of the CGE												x
	14. Participate in forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level technical assessments												x
	15. Consider the periodic update on the composition of teams of technical experts, as appropriate												x

Annex II

Activities of the Consultative Group of Experts as per its revised terms of reference

<i>Reference paragraph in the annex to decision 14/CP.26</i>	<i>Section in this report</i>
2(a) Provide, taking into account decision 1/CP.24, paragraphs 38 and 43(a–b), technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the process of and the preparation of their NCs and BURs in accordance with the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, contained in the annex to decision 17/CP.8, and the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, contained in annex III to decision 2/CP.17	III.A, III.B, III.C, III.H
2(b) Provide recommendations, as appropriate, on elements to be considered in a future revision of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, taking into account the experience of non-Annex I Parties in preparing their NCs	Will be provided when needed
2(c) Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, on the provision of the information to be reported on steps taken to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1(f), of the Convention	III.A, III.B, III.C, III.D, III.H
2(d) Provide guidance and periodic advice to the secretariat to assist it in fulfilling the selection criteria for the composition of teams of technical experts, in accordance with decision 20/CP.19, annex, paragraphs 3–5, taking into account the reports provided by the secretariat in this regard on a semi-annual basis	III.E.1
2(e) Continue updating and organizing, as needed, with the assistance of the secretariat, the training programmes for nominated technical experts for the technical analysis of BURs, on the basis of the most up-to-date training materials of the CGE, with a view to improving the technical analysis, taking into account the experience of non-Annex I Parties, in particular the LDCs and SIDS, in preparing their BURs, and increasing the representation of the LDCs and SIDS in teams of technical experts	III.E.2
3(a) Facilitate the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties, as applicable, including for the preparation and submission of their BTRs, and facilitate improved reporting over time in accordance with the MPGs	III.A, III.B, III.C, III.D, III.G
3(b) Provide technical advice to the secretariat on the implementation of the training for technical expert review teams referred to in decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 12(c)	III.A, III.B
4(a) Give special consideration to the LDCs and SIDS, including in the context of the need to improve the ability of experts to participate in technical expert reviews	III.E, III.I
4(b) Identify and take into account, as appropriate, lessons learned and best practices, and the challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties in preparing, as appropriate, national reports, including in relation to financial and other support available, as well as the areas for improvement and capacity-building needs identified in the technical analyses of BURs and the technical expert review of BTRs	III.F, III.H
4(c) Seek to promote sectoral, gender and geographical balance among experts from developing countries eligible to participate in technical expert reviews	III.A, III.E
4(d) Facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of the processes for preparing, as appropriate and relevant, national reports, including by providing technical advice and support on elaborating appropriate institutional arrangements and establishing and maintaining national technical teams	III.A, III.B, III.D, III.G

4(e) Provide, upon request, information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation, as appropriate, of national reports	III.A, III.B, III.D, III.G, III.I.2
5 The CGE should collaborate, to the extent possible, with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement as well as with relevant multilateral programmes and organizations, while avoiding duplication of work	III.J
