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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 2024, including major achievements and lessons learned. It covers the proceedings and outcomes of its two regular meetings in 2024, at which the Group discussed its key areas of work and implementation of its workplan for 2024. With Parties' first biennial transparency reports due for submission by 31 December, 2024 is a pivotal year for implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. As such, the Group focused its work on providing technical support and advice to developing country Parties with the aim of facilitating the preparation and timely submission of their reports.

* This document was submitted to the conference services for processing after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
BTR	biennial transparency report
BUR	biennial update report
CBIT–GSP	joint programme of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and the Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I 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
PAICC	Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee
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
WIM Executive Committee	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

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 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 implementing the training of the technical experts participating in the technical expert review of BTRs.³

B. Scope

3. This report provides an overview of the implementation by the CGE of its workplan for 2024 (see annex I for the workplan) and an updated overview of its activities against its revised terms of reference (see annex II). It covers the proceedings and outcomes of the 11th and 12th meetings of the CGE, including key achievements, lessons learned and challenges.

4. Two other documents capturing the outcomes of key CGE activities in 2024 have been prepared for consideration by the SBI:

(a) A report on the regional hands-on training workshops (see paras. 14–20 below);⁴

(b) An updated technical paper on problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs in preparing NCs, BURs and BTRs (see paras. 31–39 below).⁵

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

5. The SBI is 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. Eleventh meeting

6. The 11th meeting of the CGE was held in Bonn from 5 to 7 February 2024. A total of 21 members participated in the meeting.⁶

7. Jenny Mager (Chile) was elected as Chair of the CGE and Sandra Boitumelo Motshwanedi (South Africa) 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/2024/21](#).

⁵ [FCCC/TP/2024/6](#).

⁶ From Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, the Sudan, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe, the IPCC, UNDP and UNEP.

8. With Parties' BTRs due for submission by 31 December,⁷ 2024 is a pivotal year for implementation of the ETF. As such, the CGE decided at its 11th meeting to focus its work in 2024 on providing technical support and advice to developing country Parties with the aim of facilitating the preparation and timely submission of their reports. This work included providing training on using the tools for reporting under the ETF and promoting peer-to-peer learning regarding the information to be reported in BTRs, as well as peer review of draft text, at its regional hands-on training workshops. In addition, the CGE agreed to hold a preparatory webinar before each regional workshop to explain to participants the objectives of the workshop and provide an overview of the information to be covered.

9. At the meeting, the CGE developed its workplan for 2024. It also reviewed and revised the metrics for measuring the progress of its work,⁸ following the encouragement of SBI 59.⁹ The revised metrics are presented in table 1.

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	To provide a picture of the contribution of the work of the CGE in fulfilling its mandate to support implementation of MRV	2(a), 4(e), 5
	Number of submissions of BURs	To provide a picture of the contribution of the work of the CGE in fulfilling its mandate to support implementation of MRV	2(a), 4(e), 5
	Number of submissions of BTRs	To provide a picture of the contribution of the work of the CGE in fulfilling its mandate to support implementation of the ETF	3(a), 4(e), 5
Progress of the CGE in implementing its work	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)

⁷ The least developed country Parties and small island developing States may submit the information referred to in Article 13, paras. 7–10, of the Paris Agreement at their discretion.

⁸ On the basis of the metrics set out in its vision, mission and metrics for 2020–2026, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/637078>.

⁹ FCCC/SBI/2023/21, para. 27.

B. Twelfth meeting

10. The 12th meeting of the CGE was held in Bonn from 17 to 19 September 2024. A total of 18 members participated in the meeting.¹⁰

11. At the meeting, the CGE reviewed the implementation of its workplan for 2024 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. Further, the CGE updated the overview of its activities against its revised terms of reference (see annex II) in response to the request of SBI 57.¹¹

13. In addition, a one-day training session on ETF reporting tools was conducted on 19 September 2024 for CGE members.

III. Progress of the Consultative Group of Experts in implementing its workplan for 2024

A. Regional hands-on training workshops and webinars

14. The CGE decided to focus the 2024 iteration of its annual series of regional hands-on training workshops on preparing BTRs.¹² The overarching aim of the workshops was to enhance the technical capacity of experts from developing country Parties to prepare BTRs, including their capacity to use the ETF reporting tools. The CGE also wished to promote peer-to-peer learning regarding the information to be reported in BTRs, as well as peer review of draft text.

15. With the regional hands-on training workshops on preparing BTRs, the CGE aimed to achieve the following learning outcomes, equipping participants with:

- (a) The knowledge needed to apply the MPGs,¹³ including the flexibility provisions;
- (b) The skills needed to compile the common reporting tables and common tabular formats;¹⁴
- (c) Information on the available tools for preparing BTRs, including the ETF reporting tools;
- (d) An understanding of the BTR review process, including reviewer training;
- (e) Hands-on experience in drafting BTR sample chapters;
- (f) Peer-to-peer exchange of experience and best practices in preparing BTRs.

16. The CGE decided to hold preparatory webinars one week before each regional workshop to familiarize workshop participants with the background to BTRs and the technical materials to be used as learning tools in the workshops. The specific objectives of the preparatory webinars were to:

- (a) Introduce participants to the objectives and programme of the workshop;
- (b) Provide participants with an overview of the ETF and the MPGs, to be applied in preparing BTRs, including the flexibility provisions;

¹⁰ From Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, the Sudan, Uganda, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, the IPCC, UNDP and UNEP.

¹¹ [FCCC/SBI/2022/20](#), para. 24.

¹² The report on the workshops is contained in document [FCCC/SBI/2024/21](#).

¹³ Decision [18/CMA.1](#), annex.

¹⁴ Decision [5/CMA.3](#), annexes I–III.

(c) Convey the expectations of the CGE regarding the preparation of participants for the workshop, including the data and information to be compiled in advance for the practical exercises, in order to enhance the learning experience;

(d) Solicit information from participants on their expectations regarding the workshop and, more broadly, their feedback on the CGE.

17. The target participants were national experts and practitioners involved in transparency-related processes supporting the preparation of NCs, BURs and BTRs. In its letter inviting nominations for national experts to participate in the regional hands-on training workshops, the CGE continued to encourage the participation of women.

18. Given the financial resources available, the CGE was able to conduct two regional workshops in 2024, which were attended by a total of 76 participants from 56 countries (see table 2).

Table 2

Regional hands-on training workshops of the Consultative Group of Experts in 2024

<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>
8–10 May	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	English, French	Africa	37	46 (11/35)
22–24 August	Panama City, Panama	English, Spanish	Latin America and the Caribbean	19	30 (17/13)

19. Following each workshop, participants were invited to share their feedback in an online survey. The CGE received 62 responses in total. The preparatory webinars and workshops were well received by participants, who commended the clarity of the information presented, the structure of the programme, the relevance of the hands-on exercises and the overall effective organization of the events. The webinars served to effectively prepare participants by providing the technical background necessary for the practical sessions of the workshops. Participants emphasized their appreciation of the hands-on exercises conducted by CGE members with relevant technical expertise, including the exercises on drafting the BTR chapters and compiling the common tabular formats and common reporting tables. Participants expressed confidence in applying the knowledge gained at the workshops to their national reporting processes and transparency efforts, with many highlighting the enhanced understanding and skills they had acquired. Overall, the webinars and workshops were deemed successful, providing both valuable insights and practical experience. Continuous learning sessions to enable participants to build on the skills acquired were suggested.

20. Considering the extent of the information to be provided by Parties in the common reporting tables and common tabular formats in preparing the BTRs, the CGE acknowledged the need to extend the duration of, and allocate more time to hands-on exercises in, future workshops. It also acknowledged that delivering presentations in the relevant official United Nations languages in a balanced manner during the workshops could boost overall satisfaction with the workshops.

B. E-learning courses

21. In 2024, the CGE started offering its e-learning courses in an offline format, available for download, with the aim of improving their accessibility.¹⁵

¹⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts/cge-eLearning>.

C. Informal forum

22. The CGE uses its informal forums to engage with key stakeholders on its current and future work.

23. The CGE held its sixth annual informal forum as a hybrid event on 5 February 2024, back to back with its 11th meeting. Participants in the forum comprised 30 experts attending in person and more than 120 experts from around the world attending virtually. The CGE sought feedback from them and brainstormed together with them on factors that are critical to successful implementation of the ETF. The 2.5-hour long event was broadcast live on YouTube;¹⁶ the recording had been viewed 221 times as at 18 September 2024.

D. Support for the technical analysis of biennial update reports

1. Composition of teams of technical experts

24. 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.¹⁷ At its 11th and 12th meetings, the CGE considered the reports prepared by the secretariat.

25. As at 31 July 2024, 32 rounds of technical analysis of BURs under international consultation and analysis had been conducted by 69 teams of technical experts¹⁸ taking into consideration advice from the CGE. These teams involved a total of 311 experts, 68 per cent of whom were from non-Annex I Parties. The geographical representation of these experts was as follows: 30.9 per cent from Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Europe (combined), 23.8 per cent from Latin America and the Caribbean, 22.8 per cent from Africa and 22.5 per cent from Western Europe and other States. In terms of gender representation, 46 per cent were women and 54 per cent were men.

2. Training programme for teams of technical experts

26. The CGE training programme for experts conducting technical analysis of BURs was rolled out in April 2015 and converted to an online course¹⁹ in June 2015. 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 alike.

27. Recognizing that the number of technical analyses of BURs will decrease substantially after the submission of final BURs at the latest by 31 December 2024, the CGE, at its 10th meeting, agreed to hold certification examination for the CGE training programme for experts conducting technical analysis of BURs in 2024 and on an as-needed basis thereafter. At its 11th meeting, the CGE agreed that there is no need to hold a certification examination in 2024. The CGE also agreed to consider and reassess at its 13th meeting the need to hold certification examinations in 2025 and thereafter. The training materials are now publicly available on the UNFCCC website for experts and other stakeholders to use at their convenience.²⁰

¹⁶ The recording is available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/ymlRiPxv60A>.

¹⁷ As per decision 20/CP.19, annex, para. 2.

¹⁸ Composed in accordance with the annex to decision 20/CP.19.

¹⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-convention/training-review-experts>.

²⁰ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/training-programmes-for-expert-reviewers/training-programmes-under-the-convention/training-programmes-for-the-technical-analysis-of-biennial-update-reports>.

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

28. In 2024, owing to unexpected circumstances, the nominated CGE member could not participate as an observer in the technical assessment of submissions from Parties on their proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels.²¹

F. Technical materials on the enhanced transparency framework

29. In 2024, the CGE conducted an online public survey to solicit feedback and suggestions regarding its technical materials on MRV arrangements under the Convention and on the ETF.²² It agreed to consider the findings from the survey in developing its 2025 workplan.

Consultative Group of Experts toolbox on institutional arrangements

30. The CGE maintains a toolbox comprising resources aimed at assisting experts and practitioners in improving national institutional arrangements such that they support implementation of the MRV arrangements under the Convention and the ETF.²³ Two video recordings of interviews with national experts from developing countries were added to the toolbox during the reporting period. In the videos, the experts talk about the approaches they have taken in addressing the challenges and constraints identified during the MRV process.

G. Assessment of capacity-building gaps and needs

31. At its 11th meeting, the CGE agreed to continue assessing the existing and emerging problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs of developing country Parties in relation to implementing the existing MRV arrangements under the Convention and the ETF, and to update the 2023 technical paper on problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs in preparing NCs and BURs.²⁴

32. The update of the technical paper took into account information from the 16 NCs, 22 BURs and 2 BTRs submitted and the 18 summary reports on the technical analysis of BURs published between 1 July 2023 and 31 May 2024. In total, the most recent 152 NCs, 100 BURs and 2 BTRs from 152 developing country Parties and 65 summary reports on the technical analysis of BURs published by 31 May 2024 were drawn on.

33. The results of the assessment by the CGE show that developing country Parties continue to face challenges and constraints in preparing NCs and BURs, and that they also face challenges in preparing BTRs. Across all regions, the challenges predominantly relate to preparing national GHG inventories, followed by reporting on climate change impacts and adaptation (for Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean) or cross-cutting issues (for Africa, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe and other States).

34. With regard to preparing national GHG inventories, the challenge most frequently identified by developing country Parties was lack of quality data (including historical data, activity data, disaggregated data, data for the complete time series, data consistent with IPCC guidelines and data from satellite imagery), resulting in difficulties in inventory preparation and high uncertainties in the reported estimates. Parties underscored that enhanced availability and quality of data would substantially improve their inventories by allowing them to conduct uncertainty analyses (including quality assurance/quality control procedures), develop country-specific correction and emission factors, and use higher-tier IPCC methodologies for estimating emissions. Many Parties reported challenges in collecting data for national GHG inventories and the need for improvements such as conducting

²¹ As per decision [13/CP.19](#), annex, para. 9.

²² See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/support-for-developing-countries/consultative-group-of-experts/enhanced-transparency-framework-technical-material>.

²³ Available at <https://unfccc.int/CGE/IA>.

²⁴ [FCCC/TP/2023/5](#).

targeted surveys of and consultations with data providers to gather sector- and country-specific data. The need to develop and standardize templates and mechanisms for collecting data was identified as pressing and the need to establish or enhance systems for gathering data and sharing information as crucial. Building or strengthening the capacity of stakeholders to collect and provide to inventory teams accurate data was also identified as a need. Many Parties reported the need to strengthen national and sectoral experts' understanding of and capacity to apply IPCC guidelines, methodologies, tools and software, as well as UNFCCC reporting guidelines.

35. With regard to reporting on mitigation actions, many developing country Parties reported limited understanding of and technical capacity to use methodologies and tools for estimating and analysing the impacts of mitigation measures, as well as a lack of such methodologies and tools. These challenges encompass identifying, assessing and prioritizing (including by conducting cost-benefit analyses) mitigation measures, by sector and by gas; establishing baseline emission levels and quantifying the impacts of measures against them; and tracking the progress (including by using indicators) and assessing the outcomes (both ex post and ex ante) of mitigation policies and measures, including those that are NDC targets. The need to enhance national capacity for collecting quality data for use in assessing mitigation actions was also reported by Parties.

36. Regarding reporting on climate change impacts and adaptation, many developing country Parties emphasized the need to enhance climate research that enables tailored, scaled-down climate modelling specific to national and local contexts and improves understanding of the multifaceted impacts of climate change, including its socioeconomic consequences for various sectors (e.g. agriculture, food security, biodiversity, energy, fisheries, infrastructure, public health, human settlements, coastal areas and zones, and water). Improvement in vulnerability and risk assessment and management was also considered an essential need. Many Parties reported a lack of appropriate tools and methodologies for monitoring climate change impacts, evaluating the effectiveness of adaptation measures and conducting vulnerability assessments. They also expressed the need to establish, maintain or upgrade technological infrastructure for collecting climate-related data and monitoring meteorological, atmospheric, oceanographic and terrestrial variables related to climate change.

37. The main challenges and needs identified by developing country Parties 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. Some Parties noted that challenges in tracking climate finance arose from the lack of a common definition of climate finance. Many Parties reported encountering challenges in collecting data and information on support needed and received owing to insufficient national technical capacity for data collection, the absence of a standardized data-collection process, and the relevant data being dispersed across ministries, private sector organizations, research and academic institutions, civil society organizations and other entities. They also reported the need to strengthen national capacity to define, identify, classify and report on support needed and received.

38. Regarding cross-cutting issues, many developing country Parties reported challenges in meeting reporting commitments arising from the absence of an MRV system, limited technical capacity and insufficient financial resources. Some Parties emphasized the need to establish and maintain expert teams. A high turnover of experts and government officers was noted as posing significant challenges to sustaining technical capacity, emphasizing the need for institutionalizing knowledge and providing ongoing capacity-building, training and learning support to experts and institutions involved in the MRV and ETF processes. Other major challenges revolved around the lack of data-collection processes, encompassing all reporting areas, and the lack of coordination mechanisms for data-sharing among stakeholders.

39. Emerging needs relating to effective implementation of the ETF were also identified by developing country Parties, including the need to enhance existing MRV systems and national capacity to meet the reporting requirements outlined in the MPGs; strengthen national capacity to use the common reporting tables, common tabular formats and ETF

reporting tools; and continuously build capacity relevant to themes mentioned in paragraphs 34–38 above.

H. Other elements of the workplan

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

40. In response to the requests of CMA 3 and 4,²⁵ the CGE provided technical advice to the secretariat on developing and implementing the training programme for technical experts participating in the technical expert review of BTRs.

41. Four courses of the training programme were launched in 2023: course A, on general and cross-cutting aspects; course B, on GHG inventories; course C, on tracking progress in implementing and achieving NDCs; and course D, on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support. All courses are open access and available on the UNFCCC website in both interactive e-learning and downloadable formats.²⁶

42. As at 1 September 2024, 1,215 experts had completed course A, 380 experts course B, 551 experts course C and 268 experts course D. A total of eight rounds of examinations for all courses have been conducted since the launch of the training programme (five rounds in 2023 and three rounds in 2024 as at 1 September). In 2023, more than 1,100 experts on the UNFCCC roster of experts registered for the five examination periods; 98.9 per cent of those who took the examinations passed them. In 2024 (as at 1 September), more than 3,322 experts had registered for the three examination periods; 89.5 per cent of those who took the examinations passed them.

2. Communications and outreach

43. At its 11th meeting, the CGE prepared its communication and outreach plan for 2024. The objective of outreach by the CGE is to increase awareness among national focal points, national experts, other UNFCCC constituted bodies, transparency support providers and the general public 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,²⁷ 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 use the social media platforms 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 60 entitled “BTR dialogue with the CGE and PAICC” and will organize a side event to be held on the margins of COP 29 entitled “Reporting on progress: BTR dialogue with the CGE”.

3. Online platform

46. The CGE continued to enhance its MRV/Transparency helpdesk²⁸ 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.

²⁵ Decisions [5/CMA.3](#), para. 31, and [9/CMA.4](#), para. 8.

²⁶ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/training-programmes-for-expert-reviewers#PA-review-training-programme>.

²⁷ <https://unfccc.int/CGE>.

²⁸ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/transparency/Pages/Home.aspx>.

I. Collaboration and cooperation

1. Constituted bodies and expert groups

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

Table 3

Collaboration of the Consultative Group of Experts with UNFCCC constituted bodies in 2024

<i>Body</i>	<i>Key collaborative activities</i>
AC	<p>Three members of the CGE participated in four meetings and events led by the AC concerning work on the global goal on adaptation in response to mandates from CMA 5 (see decision 2/CMA.5, paras. 44–45), namely a meeting of the AC, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the CGE, held virtually on 27 February 2024; the 25th meeting of the AC, held from 12 to 15 March 2024; a side event under the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, held at SB 60; and the 26th meeting of the AC, held from 10 to 13 September 2024.</p> <p>The CGE is a contributor to the work of the national adaptation plan task force under the AC and was invited as an observer to the meeting of the task force held on 28 February 2024. One CGE member attended, providing an overview of the work of the CGE relevant to the task force and informing the task force about the adaptation component of the CGE capacity-building gaps and needs assessment.</p> <p>One CGE member attended the virtual dialogue on addressing developing countries' capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding (part II), convened by the AC on 6 March 2024.</p>
PAICC	<p>In response to an invitation from the CGE, a PAICC Co-Chair participated virtually in the 11th meeting of the CGE, the CGE side event held during SB 60 and the two CGE regional hands-on training workshops held in 2024. The Co-Chair introduced the role and mandate of the PAICC and explained the procedure that the PAICC will follow if a Party fails to submit its BTR on time.</p>
Paris Committee on Capacity-building	<p>One CGE member participated in the 7th meeting of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, which was held in hybrid format on the margins of SB 60. The member provided an overview of the workplan for 2024 and capacity-building activities of the CGE.</p> <p>The CGE will consider contributing to the 8th meeting of the informal coordination group to be held during COP 29, including by sharing relevant information and identifying further opportunities for collaboration.</p>
WIM Executive Committee	<p>The WIM Executive Committee has a mandate arising from the outcome of the first global stocktake to prepare voluntary guidelines for enhancing the collection and management of data and information to inform the preparation of BTRs (see decision 1/CMA.5, para. 133). The CGE member introduced the activities of the CGE conducted in 2024.</p>

49. COP 28 invited the constituted bodies to submit inputs on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the gender action plan, and on future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change.²⁹ The CGE submitted information on three gender-related initiatives: its capturing of gender-related statistics concerning its training workshops and reporting of them in its progress reports and workshop reports; its invitation to the secretariat's gender team to attend the 12th meeting of the CGE in order to raise awareness of gender issues among CGE members; and its plan to develop a gender-related case study and add it to the CGE toolbox on institutional arrangements. Furthermore, three CGE members attended an informal meeting on gender and transparency convened by the gender team for national gender and climate change focal points, held virtually on 30 July 2024. At this meeting, a presenter from UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre highlighted example entry points for gender in national transparency reports and informed participants of the process of updating UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre's gender toolkit. The CGE will consider

²⁹ Decision [15/CP.28](#), para. 2.

disseminating the gender toolkit of UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre when the updated version is available late in 2024.

2. Intergovernmental and international organizations

50. At the 11th and 12th meetings of the CGE, the members representing the IPCC, UNDP and UNEP provided the following updates on their work:

(a) IPCC: updates on its sixtieth plenary session, its preparation of the Seventh Assessment Report, and its ongoing work to modify the IPCC inventory software, in cooperation with the UNFCCC secretariat, with a view to achieving interoperability with the ETF reporting tools;

(b) UNDP: updates on its project on enhancing climate transparency, its provision of transparency-related support to developing countries with funds from the Global Environment Facility, its analysis of data from a NC–BUR–BTR status survey conducted in 2023, and potential opportunities for further collaboration with the CGE;

(c) UNEP: updates on its provision of support for BTR preparation and the CBIT–GSP, including modalities, regional networks, the CBIT–GSP Climate Transparency Platform, knowledge products, gender mainstreaming and upcoming events.

51. UNDP and UNEP 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 on transparency processes to developing country Parties. Its workplan for 2024 builds on a number of successful activities in 2023 with the aim of comprehensively fulfilling the CGE mandate of assisting developing country Parties in improving their capacity to implement MRV and the ETF, with a focus on BTR preparation, in a timely and sustainable manner.

53. The CGE carried out activities outlined in its workplan for 2024:

(a) Training 76 national experts from 56 countries in Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean during two regional hands-on training workshops and preparatory webinars on preparing BTRs, which helped to enhance their understanding of the topics covered and build their confidence in preparing their BTR1s, including the use of the ETF electronic reporting tools;

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

(c) Producing two videos on sustainable institutional arrangements for preparing national transparency reports;

(d) Increasing awareness of CGE activities among stakeholders 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 sessions of the subsidiary bodies, as well as through its web page and the MRV/Transparency helpdesk;

(e) Undertaking targeted analytical work, such as compiling and summarizing problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs related to preparing NCs, BURs and BTRs, and conducting a feedback survey on the CGE technical materials.

54. Developing country Parties continue to require technical capacity-building for enhancing their preparedness to implement the ETF while continuing to implement existing MRV arrangements.

55. 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 encourages other entities providing support for transparency-related reporting to take note of

the capacity-building gaps and needs of developing country Parties referred to in paragraphs 34–39 above.

56. The CGE noted that the participants in its regional hands-on training workshops requested more training workshops, including at the national level; longer workshops; more case presentations by workshop participants; and that more time be allocated to hands-on exercises at the workshops.

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

58. The CGE sees value in enhancing its efforts to improve its web pages and outreach materials.

59. The CGE expressed an interest in continuing its collaboration with the PAICC and underlined the importance of collaborating with partners for implementing its work.

60. The CGE underlined the importance of receiving financial contributions from donors to support the full implementation of its annual workplans.

61. The CGE expressed concerns about the number of vacant member positions and urged Parties to submit nominations through their regional groups and constituencies as per the revised terms of reference of the CGE.³⁰

62. The CGE expressed gratitude to the Governments of Panama and Zimbabwe for hosting the regional hands-on training workshops in 2024, and appreciation to UNDP and UNEP for their collaboration thereon.

63. The CGE also expressed appreciation to:

- (a) Other constituted bodies and expert groups (see paras. 48–49 above) for their collaboration and contribution to the work of the CGE;
- (b) Developing country Parties for engaging in its activities in 2024 and providing feedback that will help the CGE to align its workplan with their needs and priorities;
- (c) Parties that provided financial contributions that enabled the CGE to implement its workplan in a timely and effective manner;
- (d) The members who will be leaving the CGE on completion of their term after the election of new members at COP 29.

³⁰ Decision [14/CP.26](#), and its annex.

Annex I

Workplan of the Consultative Group of Experts for 2024

Theme	Activity	Timeline for implementation in 2024											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
A. Knowledge products	1. Technical handbook on the ETF												
	a. Continue promoting the CGE technical materials and solicit feedback thereon	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	2. Toolbox on institutional arrangements to support implementation of MRV and the ETF for developing country Parties												
	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
	b. Continue collecting feedback on and enhancing the CGE toolbox on institutional arrangements	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	3. Capacity-building gaps and needs assessment												
	a. Continue compiling information on capacity-building gaps and needs	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	4. Regional hands-on training workshops on preparing BTRs, with pre-workshop webinars												
	a. Conduct the workshop and pre-workshop webinar for Africa (in English and French)				x	x							
	b. Conduct the workshop and pre-workshop webinar for Latin America and the Caribbean (in English and Spanish)						x	x					
	c. Conduct the workshop for Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Europe (in English)								x	x			
	5. Continue offering e-learning courses on preparing NCs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	6. Training of technical experts												
	a. Continue offering the training programme on technical analysis of BURs (no examination held in 2024)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	b. Continue offering the training programme on technical expert review of BTRs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Theme	Activity	Timeline for implementation in 2024											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
C. Cross-cutting issues	7. Collaboration and cooperation												
	a. Implement the CGE 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
	8. Communications and outreach												
	a. Develop and implement the annual CGE communication and outreach plan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	b. Hold CGE side events at UNFCCC sessions						x					x	
	c. Conduct the CGE informal forum		x										
	d. Implement CGE 25 th anniversary activity plan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	9. 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	10. Conduct regular meetings of the CGE		x							x			
	11. Participate in forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level technical assessments			x									
	12. Consider the periodic update of the composition of teams of technical experts, as appropriate		x							x			

Annex II

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

Reference paragraph in the annex to decision 14/CP.26	Relevant section(s) of this report
2(a) Provide, taking into account paragraphs 38 and 43(a–b) of decision 1/CP.24 , 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.G
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.G
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 paragraphs 3–5 of the annex to decision 20/CP.19 , taking into account the reports provided by the secretariat in this regard on a semi-annual basis	III.D.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.D.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.F
3(b) Provide technical advice to the secretariat on the implementation of the training for technical expert review teams referred to in paragraph 12(c) of decision 18/CMA.1	III.A
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.D, III.H
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.E, III.G
4(c) Seek to promote sectoral, gender and geographical balance among experts from developing countries eligible to participate in technical expert reviews	III.D

<i>Reference paragraph in the annex to decision 14/CP.26</i>	<i>Relevant section(s) of this report</i>
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.C, III.F
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.C, III.F, III.H.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.I