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## Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Fiftieth session

Bonn, 17–27 June 2019

Agenda item 10

**Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement**

## Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement

### Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) initiated its consideration of methodological issues under the Paris Agreement to develop, pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support (MPGs):<sup>1</sup>

(a) Common reporting tables for the electronic reporting of the information in the national inventory reports of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases;

(b) Common tabular formats for the electronic reporting of the information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement;

(c) Common tabular formats for the electronic reporting of the information on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support provided and mobilized, as well as support needed and received, under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement;

(d) Outlines of the biennial transparency report, national inventory document and technical expert review report;

(e) A training programme for technical experts participating in the technical expert review.

2. The SBSTA welcomed the submissions from Parties<sup>2</sup> on these matters and took note of the views expressed by Parties at the session. The SBSTA also took note of the informal notes<sup>3</sup> prepared by the co-facilitators of the relevant informal consultations under their own responsibility, which have no status and do not reflect the consensus views of Parties. The SBSTA also noted the divergent views among Parties on the consistency of certain elements of the informal notes with the MPGs.

3. The SBSTA noted that the special events held at the session on the existing measurement, reporting and verification system, as well as on the training programme for

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<sup>1</sup> Annex to decision 18/CMA.1.

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/bonn-climate-change-conference-june-2019/sessions/sbsta-50#eq-23>.



technical experts participating in the technical expert review, contributed to the discussions on these matters at the session.

4. The SBSTA also noted that work on these matters should be guided by the principles contained in paragraph 3 of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1 and adhere fully to and be consistent with the MPGs.

5. The SBSTA stressed that the work on these matters, in accordance with the request in paragraph 12 of decision 18/CMA.1, is technical in nature.

6. The SBSTA recognized that the tables, tabular formats, outlines and training programme referred to in paragraph 1 above will facilitate the operationalization of the MPGs.

7. The SBSTA also recognized that in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14 and 15, of the Paris Agreement, support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of Article 13 and for building the transparency-related capacity of developing country Parties on a continuous basis.

8. The SBSTA further recognized the importance of the provisions in the MPGs on flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, and that there are various options on how to take the flexibility provisions established by the MPGs of the enhanced transparency framework into account in the methodological work described in paragraph 1 above.

9. The SBSTA agreed to have a dedicated discussion on how to operationalize the flexibility provisions defined in decision 18/CMA.1 under this agenda item at SBSTA 51 (December 2019).

10. The SBSTA noted that the existing guidelines and tables,<sup>4</sup> including those for greenhouse gas inventories, mitigation policies and measures, greenhouse gas emission projections, and financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support provided, as well as the current measurement, reporting and verification system, offer a good starting point for the work referred to in paragraph 1 above.

11. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit their views on the matters related to the fulfilment of the mandate referred to in paragraph 1 above via the submission portal<sup>5</sup> [by 30 September 2019 at the latest], including on:

(a) Experience with using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2006 *IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, the common reporting format, the transition to the 2006 *IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and countries' experience with that transition, and the development of country-specific tools for facilitating greenhouse gas inventory reporting;

(b) Common tabular format tables for tracking progress in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions;

(c) Tables for reporting on support needed and received, and support mobilized;

(d) Approaches to operationalizing the flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, as defined in decision 18/CMA.1.

12. [The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare summary reports on greenhouse gas inventory tables, chapter III.C of the MPGs, the outlines as referred to in paragraph 1(d) above, and the operationalization of the flexibility provisions of the MPGs on the basis of the submissions from Parties referred to in paragraph 2 above, any additional submissions received in response to the invitation referred to in paragraph 11 above, and discussions at the session, to facilitate further understanding of Parties' views in a comprehensive and balanced manner].

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<sup>4</sup> Including, inter alia, common reporting format tables as contained in annex II to decision 24/CP.19, tables 1 and 2 in the annex to decision 17/CP.8, tables 3, 5, 6a, 8 and 9 in the annex to decision 19/CP.18 and tables 7, 7(a) and 7(b) in the annex to decision 9/CP.21.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

13. The SBSTA also requested the secretariat to prepare a technical paper providing an overview of the existing training programmes for technical expert reviews, including lessons learned, and how they could be used for the purpose of the training courses referred to in paragraph 1(e) above, including relevant statistics, to facilitate further work under this agenda item at SBSTA 51.

14. The SBSTA invited interested developing country Parties to request access to the CRF Reporter, through the secretariat, in order to familiarize themselves with the tool.

15. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to facilitate access to and use of the CRF Reporter.

16. The SBSTA took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraphs [12][13]–15 above and requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

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