



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Fifty-first session

Madrid, 2–9 December 2019

Agenda item 11

Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement

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Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) continued 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 referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement:¹

(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 pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support;

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

2. [The SBSTA welcomed further submissions from Parties² on these matters and took note of the views expressed by Parties at the session. Informal notes³ were prepared by the co-facilitators of the relevant informal consultations under their own responsibility; these notes have no status and do not reflect the consensus views of Parties. The SBSTA noted the divergent views among Parties on the inclusion of their views on certain elements in the informal notes.]

3. The SBSTA also noted that the information sessions on experience with reporting quantitative information in greenhouse gas inventories and on the technical paper⁴ on the

¹ Decision 18/CMA.1, para. 12.

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

³ Available at <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-51#eq-22>.

⁴ FCCC/TP/2019/5.



existing training programmes for technical expert reviews, which includes lessons learned and relevant statistics, contributed to the discussions on the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above at this session.

4. The SBSTA, recognizing the importance of the flexibility provisions in the modalities, procedures and guidelines for those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities, welcomed the dedicated discussion during the session on how to operationalize the flexibility provisions set out in decision 18/CMA.1 that contributed to a better understanding of and clarity regarding Parties' views on options for taking the flexibility provisions into account in work on the methodological issues described in paragraph 1 above.

5. The SBSTA noted the rich exchange of views by Parties on the approaches Parties may consider in operationalizing flexibility provisions provided to developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities in relevant tables and outlines.

6. The SBSTA also noted that Parties discussed a number of approaches for operationalizing the flexibility provisions in the modalities, procedures and guidelines, including, inter alia, making use of footnotes, new or existing notation keys, documentation boxes and drop-down menus; removing or hiding rows, columns and tables, or making other modifications to the tables; and using explanatory narrative in the national inventory document and biennial transparency report. The SBSTA agreed to continue its consideration of how the flexibility provisions should be operationalized under relevant sub-items of the methodological work referred to in paragraph 1 above at SBSTA 52 (June 2020).

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

8. The SBSTA, recalling Article 13, paragraphs 14 and 15, of the Paris Agreement, noted the relevance of the work of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation under agenda sub-item 4(b) on reviewing and revising the terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts and under agenda sub-item 4(c) on providing financial and technical support for reporting in the consideration of the work of the SBSTA under agenda item 11.

9. [The SBSTA requested the secretariat to:

(a) Prepare a technical paper on a proposal for a set of "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", considering the common reporting format tables, as contained in the annex to decision 24/CP.19; the experience in using these tables; the need to ensure the consistency of these tables with both the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the preparation of national inventory reports contained in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1; and the approaches for operationalizing the flexibility provisions, such as (1) making use of footnotes and documentation boxes, (2) using new or existing notation keys and (3) removing or hiding rows, columns and tables;

(b) Prepare, with relevant technical input from the Consultative Group of Experts and lead reviewers, a technical paper on the possible content of the training modules titled "Overview of reporting and review under the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement" and "Technical review of national inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases" for further consideration at SBSTA 52 (June 2020);

(c) Organize an intersessional workshop prior to SBSTA 52 on section III of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1;

(d) Organize an intersessional workshop prior to SBSTA 52 on sections V and VI of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1;

(e) Organize a pre-session expert dialogue on section II of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, to be held immediately prior to SBSTA 52, taking into account the technical paper referred to in paragraph 9(a) above.]

10. The SBSTA took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraph 9 above.
 11. The SBSTA 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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