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**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and
Technological Advice**

**Technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other
information reported by Parties included in Annex I as
defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol**

Report by the secretariat**

Summary

This report provides information on the status of submission and review of the annual information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including greenhouse gas inventories and supplementary information, and activities during the 2019 and 2020 review cycles, including the review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. It also provides information on review training activities for experts participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, and on the compilation of the information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 25 March 2021.

** The advance version of this document was issued on 23 December 2020.



Abbreviations and acronyms

CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
CR	centralized review
ERT	expert review team
EU	European Union
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICR	in-country review
KP-LULUCF activities	activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3–4, of the Kyoto Protocol
LR	lead reviewer
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
NA	not applicable
QELRC	quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The secretariat is to prepare an annual report to the SBSTA on the composition of the ERTs participating in the review of the information submitted under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including the selection of experts for the review teams and the LRs.¹ ² In addition, the LRs of GHG inventories are collectively to prepare an annual report to the SBSTA with suggestions on how to improve the review process.³
2. CMP 11 requested the secretariat to include in its report information on the training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, in particular information on examination procedures and the selection of trainees and instructors, in order for Parties to assess the effectiveness of the programme.⁴
3. Finally, the secretariat is to annually compile information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.⁵

B. Scope of the report

4. This report provides information on:
 - (a) The status of submission of the annual information required from Parties included in Annex I⁶ and the review of that information, including their GHG inventories, and the review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (see chap. II below);⁷
 - (b) The selection of experts and LRs for the review process and their participation in the process (see chap. III below);
 - (c) The annual report to the SBSTA prepared by the LRs in accordance with decision 22/CMP.1 in conjunction with decision 4/CMP.11, including their conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the review process (see chap. IV below);
 - (d) The training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol (see chap. V below);
 - (e) The compilation of information on minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol (see chap. VI below).
5. In accordance with the “Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol”, the review under the Kyoto Protocol encompasses the existing review under the Convention. The lessons learned and challenges in the review processes under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol have many common elements. This report focuses on the elements of the review process that are specific to the Kyoto Protocol and should be read in conjunction with the annual report on the technical review of GHG inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.⁸

¹ As per decision 22/CMP.1, annex, para. 35.

² Information on the composition of the ERTs participating in the review of the information submitted under Article 7, para. 1, of the Kyoto Protocol can be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.3, chap. II.B.2.

³ As per decision 22/CMP.1, annex, para. 40(a).

⁴ Decision 5/CMP.11, para. 3.

⁵ As per decision 15/CMP.1, annex, para. 26.

⁶ As defined in Article 1, para. 7, of the Kyoto Protocol.

⁷ At the time of publication of this report, the Doha Amendment had not yet entered into force.

⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.3.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

6. The SBSTA will be invited to take note of this report.

II. Submission and review of information from Parties included in Annex I

A. Annual submissions for 2020

7. The annual inventory submission under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol comprises the national inventory report and the common reporting format tables. In addition, Parties included in Annex I must submit supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol. The due date of the annual submission is 15 April. Parties making their submissions after the due date can delay the review process, making the preparation of the review tools to support the review process more difficult, and the GHG inventory data of such Parties may not be included in the relevant reports prepared by the secretariat.

8. As at 31 October 2020, the secretariat had received 42 submissions from Parties included in Annex I (see table 1). Most of the submissions contain tables with accounting units prepared in the standard electronic format, which are part of the supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol: 26 Parties submitted tables in this format for the first commitment period and 39 Parties for the second commitment period.

9. Status reports for the 24 submissions subject to individual review were prepared and published on the UNFCCC website⁹ and forwarded to the Compliance Committee. The secretariat coordinated individual reviews of only 24 of the submissions referred to in paragraph 8 above owing to there being insufficient resources in the UNFCCC core budget for organizing the 2020 review cycle fully in accordance with relevant mandates, and insufficient supplementary funding available as at 30 April 2020 (the latest date for the start of preparations for the review cycle) to complement the resources from the core budget make up for the lack of resources in the core budget.¹⁰ Of the individual reviews, 20 were organized as centralized reviews and conducted remotely (between 2 September and 21 November 2020) and 4 as two desk reviews (conducted between 31 August and 14 November 2020).¹¹ The reports on the reviews are in preparation.

Table 1

Submission of the annual information required under the Kyoto Protocol in 2020

Party	Original submission dates			
	National inventory report	Common reporting format tables	Standard electronic format tables for the first commitment period	Standard electronic format tables for the second commitment period
Australia	27 May 2020	27 May 2020	27 May 2020	27 May 2020
Austria	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020
Belarus	15 April 2020 ^a	15 April 2020 ^a	–	–
Belgium	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020
Bulgaria	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020

⁹ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/national-inventory-submissions-2019>.

¹⁰ For more information about the financial circumstances, see document FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.4, annex, paras. 6–7.

¹¹ The 2020 GHG inventory submission of the United States of America was also subject to a centralized review, but the United States is not a Party to the Kyoto Protocol.

<i>Party</i>	<i>Original submission dates</i>			
	<i>National inventory report</i>	<i>Common reporting format tables</i>	<i>Standard electronic format tables for the first commitment period</i>	<i>Standard electronic format tables for the second commitment period</i>
Croatia	10 April 2020	10 April 2020	10 April 2020	10 April 2020
Cyprus	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	–	8 April 2020
Czechia	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020
Denmark	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	–	15 April 2020
Estonia	13 April 2020	13 April 2020	–	9 April 2020
EU	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	18 August 2020	14 April 2020
Finland	9 April 2020	9 April 2020	–	6 April 2020
France	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020
Germany	15 April 2020	18 March 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020
Greece	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	–	14 April 2020
Hungary	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	–	15 April 2020
Iceland	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020
Ireland	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020
Italy	12 April 2020	12 April 2020	–	14 April 2020
Japan	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020
Kazakhstan	22 September 2020	15 April 2020	–	–
Latvia	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	–	14 April 2020
Liechtenstein	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	–	15 April 2020
Lithuania	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	–	15 April 2020
Luxembourg	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020
Malta	13 April 2020	8 April 2020	7 April 2020	7 April 2020
Monaco	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	16 March 2020	16 March 2020
Netherlands	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	–	15 April 2020
New Zealand	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	15 April 2020
Norway	3 April 2020	3 April 2020	12 April 2019	30 April 2019
Poland	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	9 April 2019	9 April 2019
Portugal	3 April 2020	3 April 2020	3 April 2020	3 April 2020
Romania	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	–	15 April 2020
Russian Federation	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	–	–
Slovakia	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020
Slovenia	15 April 2020	13 April 2020	–	13 April 2020
Spain	6 April 2020	6 April 2020	6 April 2020	6 April 2020
Sweden	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020
Switzerland	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020	14 April 2020
Turkey ^b	13 April 2020 ^a	13 April 2020 ^a	–	–
Ukraine	25 May 2020	25 May 2020	–	6 May 2020
United Kingdom	15 April 2020	15 April 2020	–	15 April 2020

^a Submission made under the Convention only.

^b Although Turkey is considered to be a Party included in Annex I for the purpose of the Kyoto Protocol, in the absence of commitments under Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period, its reporting obligations under Article 7, para. 1, of the Kyoto Protocol do not appear to be triggered in relation to that period.

B. Review of the reports to facilitate calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period

10. CMP 8 decided that each Party with a QELRC inscribed in the third column of Annex B in the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol¹² was to submit to the secretariat by 15 April 2015 a report to facilitate the calculation of its assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 bis, 8 and 8 bis, of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period and demonstrate its capacity to account for its emissions and assigned amount.¹³

11. As at 21 September 2016, the secretariat had received 36 such reports. The secretariat organized the reviews of the reports in conjunction with the reviews of the 2016 annual submissions,¹⁴ which took place in the third quarter of 2016. The published review reports are available on the UNFCCC website.¹⁵ See table 2 for the dates of the reviews and publication of the review reports (as at 25 November 2020).

12. Kazakhstan and Monaco submitted their reports to facilitate the calculation of their assigned amount on 4 July and 4 August 2017, respectively. The secretariat organized the reviews of the reports in conjunction with the reviews of the 2017 annual submissions. The review report for Monaco was published on 23 March 2018 and the report for Kazakhstan on 18 February 2019. As at 25 November 2020, Belarus had not submitted its report to facilitate the calculation of its assigned amount.

Table 2

Review of the reports to facilitate calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period and demonstrate the capacity to account for emissions and the assigned amount

<i>Party</i>	<i>Review dates (review type)</i>	<i>Review report publication date</i>
Australia	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	27 April 2017
Austria	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	31 May 2017
Belarus	Not subject to review ^a	NA
Belgium	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	20 June 2017
Bulgaria	10–15 October 2016 (ICR)	21 June 2017
Croatia	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	30 March 2017
Cyprus	12–17 September 2016 (ICR)	20 October 2017
Czechia	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	31 August 2017
Denmark	26 September to 1 October 2016 (ICR)	9 August 2017
Estonia	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	22 March 2017
EU	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	14 May 2018
Finland	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	16 March 2017
France	19–24 September 2016 (ICR)	26 July 2017
Germany	19–24 September 2016 (ICR)	13 April 2017
Greece	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	31 August 2017
Hungary	19–24 September 2016 (ICR)	10 March 2017
Iceland	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	30 March 2017

¹² Decision 1/CMP.8, annex I.

¹³ Decision 2/CMP.8, para. 2.

¹⁴ As per decision 10/CMP.11, para. 2.

¹⁵ <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-kyoto-protocol/second-commitment-period/initial-reports>.

<i>Party</i>	<i>Review dates (review type)</i>	<i>Review report publication date</i>
Ireland	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	20 July 2017
Italy	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	1 June 2017
Japan ^b	NA	NA
Kazakhstan	18–23 September 2017 (ICR)	18 February 2019
Latvia	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	7 March 2017
Liechtenstein	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	21 September 2017
Lithuania	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	6 March 2017
Luxembourg	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	30 August 2017
Malta	10–15 October 2016 (ICR)	21 July 2017
Monaco	25–30 September 2017 (CR)	23 March 2018
Netherlands	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	23 June 2017
New Zealand ^b	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	10 August 2017
Norway	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	28 March 2017
Poland	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	21 June 2017
Portugal	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	5 September 2017
Romania	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	21 June 2017
Russian Federation ^b	NA	NA
Slovakia	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	3 March 2017
Slovenia	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	22 August 2017
Spain	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	14 July 2017
Sweden	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	6 April 2017
Switzerland	5–10 September 2016 (ICR)	20 April 2017
Turkey ^b	NA	NA
Ukraine	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	20 April 2017
United Kingdom	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	4 December 2017

^a As at 25 November 2020, Belarus had not submitted its report.

^b Japan, New Zealand and the Russian Federation are Parties included in Annex I that had a QELRC for the first commitment period but do not have a QELRC for the second commitment period. New Zealand submitted a report to facilitate the calculation of its emission budget for 2013–2020. Turkey does not have a QELRC for the first or second commitment period.

III. Expert review teams and lead reviewers

13. The information provided in the annual submissions under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including the GHG inventories, is examined by international teams of experts selected by the secretariat from the individuals nominated by Parties to the UNFCCC roster of experts. Invitations to experts to participate in the review are copied to the national focal point. Only experts who have taken the training courses under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and passed the corresponding examinations can participate in the review of annual submissions (see chap. V below).

14. The annual report on the technical review of GHG inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention provides more information on the organization of reviews and the number of experts participating in the reviews in 2020 and their nominating Parties.¹⁶

¹⁶ See document FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.3, paras. 13–23 and table 3.

IV. Meeting of greenhouse gas inventory lead reviewers

15. The 17th meeting of GHG inventory LRs took place from 29 June to 3 July 2020. The in-person meeting scheduled to take place in Bonn from 2 to 4 March 2020 had to be postponed and held as a virtual meeting owing to the circumstances related to the coronavirus disease 2019. Of the 75 experts from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention invited to the meeting, 56 attended, including one acting as representative of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. In the case of experts from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, 50 were invited and 36 attended. In addition, two members of the facilitative branch of the Compliance Committee, the Co-Chairs of the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee, one representative of the European Commission, two representatives of the European Environment Agency and two representatives of the International Energy Agency attended the meeting as observers.

16. The meeting facilitated the work of the LRs in fulfilling their task of ensuring consistency of reviews across Parties and in providing suggestions on how to improve the quality, efficiency and consistency of the reviews.¹⁷ The conclusions and recommendations from the meeting will be reported to the SBSTA.¹⁸

V. Training of experts

A. Training programme for experts participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol

17. Since 2006, the secretariat has been implementing the updated training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol with the aim of training them for the review of information submitted under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol.¹⁹ All training courses and final examinations are offered online, in some cases with the support of an instructor, subject to the availability of resources.

18. The updated training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol was launched in 2016 in order to prepare them for conducting the reviews in the second commitment period.²⁰ All courses – including on national systems, application of adjustments, modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol, review of national registries and information on assigned amounts, and review of KP-LULUCF activities – have been updated to reflect the reporting requirements for Parties in the initial and subsequent years of the second commitment period. The format of the courses and examinations has not changed since the first commitment period.

19. To ensure that ERTs have the skills and knowledge to meet the requirements of the reviews in the second commitment period both new experts and experts who participated in the reviews during the first commitment period must pass certain examinations in order to participate in ERTs or take on the role of LR, generalist or reviewer for KP-LULUCF activities.²¹ Experienced experts have been invited to take part in the updated training programme.

¹⁷ As per decision 13/CP.20, annex; decision 22/CMP.1, annex, in conjunction with decision 4/CMP.11; and decision 24/CMP.1, annex II.

¹⁸ As per decisions 13/CP.20, annex, para. 44, and 22/CMP.1, annex, para. 40(a). The conclusions and recommendations from the 17th meeting of GHG inventory LRs are contained in the annex to document FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.3 and also available at <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/review-process>.

¹⁹ As per decisions 24/CMP.1 and 8/CMP.5.

²⁰ As per decision 5/CMP.11.

²¹ As per decision 5/CMP.11, annex.

B. Implementation of the training programme

20. In 2020, 30 experts, including 25 new reviewers, took and passed at least one examination for the courses under the training programme. As a result, 14 new experts, including 4 LULUCF experts and 5 generalists, became eligible to participate in the reviews for the second commitment period. Regarding experienced experts, one expert became eligible for the role of LR by passing the examination for the course on the review of KP-LULUCF activities for non-LULUCF experts.

VI. Compilation of information on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol

21. The secretariat compiles the supplementary information submitted annually by Parties relating to how they are striving, under Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, to implement their commitments under Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol in such a way as to minimize adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing country Parties, particularly those identified in Article 4, paragraphs 8–9, of the Convention, and information on any changes that have occurred compared with the information reported in their previous annual submissions.²²

22. The compilation is also to include information on how Parties included in Annex I that are also included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so give priority in implementing their commitments under Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol to the actions referred to in decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 24, on the basis of relevant methodologies referred to in decision 31/CMP.1, paragraph 11.²³

23. The compilation based on the annual submissions received for 2020 was published on 24 September 2020.²⁴

²² As per decision 15/CMP.1, annex, para. 26.

²³ As per decision 15/CMP.1, annex, para. 24.

²⁴ Available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/mitigation/workstreams/response-measures/compilation-reports-on-article-314-of-the-kyoto-protocol>.