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Annual reports on technical reviews

**Technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included
in Annex I to the Convention**

Technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

Report by the secretariat

Summary

This report provides information on the greenhouse gas inventory reviews conducted in the 2023 and 2024 review cycles. It also provides information on the meeting of lead reviewers in 2024, review training activities under the Convention, and progress in updating the UNFCCC roster of experts and the tools and other materials used in the reviews.



Abbreviations and acronyms

Annex I Party	Party included in Annex I to the Convention
BTR	biennial transparency report
COP	Conference of the Parties
CR*	centralized review
ERT	expert review team
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICR*	in-country review
LR	lead reviewer
MPGs	modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement
NA	not applicable
NIR	national inventory report
non-Annex I Party	Party not included in Annex I to the Convention
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
TER	technical expert review
UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines	“Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories”
UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines	“Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part III: UNFCCC guidelines for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention”

* Used exclusively in the table.

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. COP 9 requested the secretariat to prepare an annual report on GHG inventory review activities, including any recommendations resulting from the meetings of inventory LRs participating in the technical review of GHG inventories of Annex I Parties, for consideration by the SBSTA.¹ COP 20 requested the secretariat to report annually to the SBSTA on the composition of ERTs, including the selection of experts and LRs, and on the actions taken to ensure the application of the selection criteria for ERTs.²

2. COP 20 also requested the secretariat to include in its report any revised set of the standardized data comparisons, for consideration by the SBSTA, as well as information on the development of new and revised review tools and materials that support the tasks of the ERTs.³

3. Furthermore, COP 20 requested the secretariat to include in its report information on the training programme for review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories of Annex I Parties, in particular on examination procedures and the selection of trainees and instructors, to allow Parties to assess the effectiveness of the programme.⁴ In addition, SBSTA 24 requested the secretariat to include in the report information on progress in updating the UNFCCC roster of experts.⁵

B. Scope

4. This report provides information on activities relating to GHG inventory reviews conducted in the 2023 and 2024 review cycles.

5. The report focuses on the elements of the GHG inventory review process that are specific to the Convention and should be read in conjunction with the annual report on the technical review of GHG inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol.⁶ The lessons learned and challenges in the review processes under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol have many elements in common.

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. Submissions and review of information from Annex I Parties

7. GHG inventory review activities, along with some training of review experts and the organization of LR meetings, are funded from the trust fund for the core budget of the UNFCCC and by voluntary contributions to specific projects via the trust fund for supplementary activities. Some related work, such as strengthening the secretariat's capacity to support review and training activities and developing the GHG information system, continues to be funded by voluntary contributions to the trust fund for supplementary activities.

¹ Decision [12/CP.9](#), para. 10.

² Decision [13/CP.20](#), annex, para. 40.

³ Decision [13/CP.20](#), para. 6 and annex, para. 78.

⁴ Decision [14/CP.20](#), para. 3.

⁵ [FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5](#), para. 95.

⁶ [FCCC/SBSTA/2024/INF.3](#).

A. 2023 cycle of individual greenhouse gas inventory reviews

8. The secretariat received original submissions of annual GHG inventories for 2023 from all 43 Annex I Parties.⁷ The secretariat organized the 2023 review cycle taking into consideration the secretariat's programme budget for the biennium 2022–2023⁸ and that 2022 was the last review cycle of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. In accordance with the programme budget, while Parties continued to submit inventories on an annual basis, the core budget provided for organizing 44 individual inventory reviews during the biennium. Additional individual reviews could be carried out if supported through supplementary funding.

9. For the 2023 review cycle, the available supplementary funding was insufficient to complement the resources from the core budget. Therefore, considering that 37 submissions were reviewed in 2022,⁹ the secretariat organized individual reviews of 10 of the submissions referred to in paragraph 8 above. Of the individual reviews, seven were organized as centralized reviews (conducted between 11 and 22 September 2023) and three as in-country reviews (conducted between 11 September and 7 October 2023). All the review reports, except that for Cyprus, had been published as at 12 September 2024.¹⁰ The table below provides information on the 2023 review cycle and the publication date of each review report.

2023 review cycle for greenhouse gas inventory submissions

<i>Party</i>	<i>Review dates (review type)^a</i>	<i>Review report publication date</i>
Australia	NA ^b	7 November 2023
Austria	18–22 September 2023 (CR)	9 January 2024
Belarus	18–22 September 2023 (CR)	25 March 2024
Belgium	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Bulgaria	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Canada	25–30 September 2023 (ICR)	11 July 2024
Croatia	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Cyprus	18–22 September 2023 (CR)	In progress
Czechia	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Denmark	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Estonia	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
European Union	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Finland	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
France	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Germany	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Greece	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Hungary	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Iceland	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Ireland	11–16 September 2023 (ICR)	6 February 2024
Italy	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA

⁷ Kazakhstan submitted its annual GHG inventory for 2023. However, Kazakhstan is considered to be a Party included in Annex I for the purpose of the Kyoto Protocol while remaining a non-Annex I Party for the purpose of the Convention (see document [FCCC/KP/CMP/2009/21](#), para. 91).

⁸ See decision [22/CP.26](#).

⁹ See document [FCCC/SBSTA/2023/INF.6](#).

¹⁰ Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/inventory-review-reports-2023>.

<i>Party</i>	<i>Review dates (review type)^a</i>	<i>Review report publication date</i>
Japan	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Kazakhstan ^c	18–22 September 2023 (CR)	16 February 2024
Latvia	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Liechtenstein	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Lithuania	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Luxembourg	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Malta	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Monaco	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
New Zealand	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Norway	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Poland	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Portugal	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Romania	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Russian Federation	18–22 September 2023 (CR)	12 March 2024
Slovakia	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Slovenia	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Spain	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Sweden	11–15 September 2023 (CR)	1 March 2024
Switzerland	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
Türkiye	2–7 October 2023 (ICR)	2 April 2024
Ukraine	11–15 September 2023 (CR)	12 September 2024
United Kingdom	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA
United States	No individual review of the 2023 inventory submission	NA

^a In the secretariat's programme budget for the biennium 2022–2023, the core budget provided for the organization of 44 individual inventory reviews during the biennium. Additional individual reviews could be carried out if supported through supplementary funding.

^b Australia submitted common reporting tables in accordance with the MPGs (decision [18/CMA.1](#), annex). The simplified review of Australia's submission was conducted in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations from the 2023 joint meeting of LRs (see document [FCCC/SBSTA/2023/INF.6](#), annex, paras. 15–19), and the report thereon is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/633086>.

^c See footnote 7 in this document.

B. 2024 cycle of individual greenhouse gas inventory reviews

10. Owing to the special circumstances related to the submission of BTR1s under the Paris Agreement, the deadline for submitting annual GHG inventories of Annex I Parties that are also Parties to the Paris Agreement was changed to 31 December 2024.¹¹ As at 12 September 2024, the secretariat had received original submissions of annual GHG inventories for 2024 from seven Annex I Parties. The individual GHG inventories submitted in 2024 will be reviewed concurrently with the BTR1s submitted by Annex I Parties.

III. Meeting of lead reviewers

11. The 1st meeting of LRs¹² of BTRs was held in Bonn from 24 to 25 April 2024. At the meeting the LRs noted with appreciation that the work at previous meetings of LRs of GHG inventories had both ensured and reinforced over time a smooth transition from the reviews under the measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention to the BTR reviews under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. The meeting facilitated the work of the LRs in ensuring that the TERs of BTRs and NIRs are conducted in accordance with the MPGs,¹³ including implementing simplified review procedures for national inventory reports submitted in a year in which a BTR is not due.¹⁴

IV. Training programme for review experts for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Annex I Parties

12. The basic course of the training programme for review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories of Annex I Parties, mandated by the COP and implemented by the secretariat,¹⁵ provides a comprehensive introduction to the UNFCCC Annex I inventory review guidelines, an overview of the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines, guidance on procedures and approaches for the technical review of GHG inventories based on the methodological guidance provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and detailed information on the specific aspects of the review of its five GHG inventory sectors. Since 2012, the secretariat has also offered an online course on the review of complex models and higher-tier methods to both experienced and new experts. In 2024, no experts took the course.

13. In 2023, the secretariat launched a new training programme for technical experts who will participate in the TER of BTRs.¹⁶ Since then, no rounds of the basic course referred to in paragraph 12 above have been conducted.

V. UNFCCC roster of experts and availability of nominated experts

14. As at 12 September 2024, the UNFCCC roster of experts included 2,838 GHG inventory experts: 2,022 from non-Annex I Parties, 799 from Annex I Parties and 17 from intergovernmental organizations. Among them, 654 had passed all mandatory examinations to participate in the annual reviews of GHG inventory submissions under the Convention from Annex I Parties. In addition, since the launch of the new training programme for technical experts participating in the TER of BTRs, 153 experts have passed the mandatory

¹¹ Decision [6/CP.27](#), para. 6.

¹² As per decision [18/CMA.1](#), para. 171.

¹³ Decision [18/CMA.1](#), annex.

¹⁴ The conclusions from the meeting are available at <https://unfccc.int/event/First-meeting-of-lead-reviewers-of-biennial-transparency-reports-btr>.

¹⁵ See decision [14/CP.20](#).

¹⁶ See decision [5/CMA.3](#), annex VII, and <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/training-programmes-for-expert-reviewers#PA-review-training-programme>.

examinations to participate in the reviews of GHG inventory submissions under the Paris Agreement.

15. Each year, national focal points are requested to nominate more GHG inventory experts to the roster. In January 2023, before registration opened for the first cycle of the 2023 basic course of the training programme for review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories of Annex I Parties, the secretariat sent a letter to all national focal points calling for nominations of new experts who could participate in the reviews of GHG inventories and who would be available to take the basic course in 2023. The letter contained a link to the online form available on the UNFCCC website, which facilitates experts' self-nomination to the roster and approval by the national focal points. In May 2024, the secretariat sent a letter to all national focal points calling for nominations of new experts who could participate in the reviews of GHG inventories and who would be available to take the relevant training course under the BTR training programme.

VI. Review tools and materials

16. Providing support for the UNFCCC reporting and review processes requires a number of information technology systems and tools that differ in purpose, scope, size and degree of support. They vary from extensive, complex databases, such as the UNFCCC data warehouse, GHG data interface and GHG Locator tool, to smaller, focused review tools serving particular analytical purposes and facilitating the review process, such as the Statistical Outlier Detection Tool and the GHG inventory virtual team room.

17. The GHG data interface is a portal on the UNFCCC website¹⁷ that provides public access to GHG data reported by Parties under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. The data in the interface were updated in May 2024 to include information from GHG inventory submissions received as at 22 March 2024.

¹⁷ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/greenhouse-gas-data/ghg-data-unfccc/ghg-data-from-unfccc>.