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Report on the technical expert review of the first biennial transparency report of Belgium*

Summary

This report presents the results of the technical expert review of the first biennial transparency report of Belgium, conducted by a technical expert review team in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The review took place from 7 to 11 April 2025 in Brussels.

* In the symbol for this document, 2024 refers to the year in which the original biennial transparency report was submitted, not to the year of publication.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AEA	annual emission allocation
BTR	biennial transparency report
CH_4	methane
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2 eq	carbon dioxide equivalent
CRT	common reporting table
CTF	common tabular format
ESR	European Union effort-sharing regulation
EU	European Union
EU ETS	European Union Emissions Trading System
GHG	greenhouse gas
HFC	hydrofluorocarbon
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPU	industrial processes and product use
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
MPGs	modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NA	not applicable
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NE	not estimated
NF_3	nitrogen trifluoride
NID	national inventory document
PaMs	policies and measures
PFC	perfluorocarbon
QA/QC	quality assurance/quality control
SF_6	sulfur hexafluoride
TERT	technical expert review team
WAM	‘with additional measures’
WM	‘with measures’

I. Introduction and summary

A. Introduction

1. This report covers the technical expert review of the BTR1 of Belgium. The review was organized by the secretariat and conducted by the TERT in accordance with the MPGs,[1] particularly chapter VII thereof.

2. A draft version of this report was transmitted to the Government of Belgium, which provided comments that were taken into account, as appropriate, in this final version of the report.[2]

3. The review was conducted as an in-country review from 7 to 11 April 2025 in Brussels by the following team of nominated experts from the UNFCCC roster of experts: Sander Luca Akkermans (Kingdom of the Netherlands), Souhila Bouilouta (Algeria), Daniel Bretscher (Switzerland), Eloïse Anastasia Guidi (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Youngsook Lyu (Republic of Korea), Kadi Meltz (Estonia), Newton Paciornik (Brazil) and Ridhima Sud (India). Daniel Bretscher and Newton Paciornik were the lead reviewers. The review was coordinated by Jeeyoon Jung (secretariat).

B. Scope

4. The TERT conducted a technical expert review of the information reported in the BTR1 of Belgium as per the scope of the review defined in paragraph 146 of the MPGs, consisting of:

(a) Review of the consistency of the information submitted by the Party under Article 13, paragraphs 7 and 9, of the Paris Agreement with the MPGs (see chap. II.A below);

(b) Consideration of the Party's implementation and achievement of its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement (see chap. AII.B below);

(c) Consideration of the support provided by the Party, as relevant (see chap. II.C below;

(d) Identification of areas of improvement[3] for the Party related to implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (see chap. II.D below).

C. Summary

5. Belgium submitted its BTR1 on 18 December 2024, before the deadline of 31 December 2024 mandated in decision 18/CMA.1. Belgium submitted its NID as a stand-alone document on 18 December 2024, before the deadline of 31 December 2024. Belgium also submitted its CRTs on 18 December 2024, before the deadline of 31 December 2024.[4]

6. A list of the areas of improvement identified on the basis of the review of the consistency of the reported information with the MPGs can be found in the assessment tables.[5]

[1] Decision 18/CMA.1, annex.
[2] As per para. 162(e) of the MPGs.
[3] As referred to in paras. 7, 8, 146(d) and 162(d) of the MPGs.
[4] The technical expert review was conducted on the basis of the version of the BTR submitted on 13 February 2025, and the versions of the NID, CTF tables and CRTs submitted on 18 December 2024.
[5] Contained in document FCCC/ETF/TERR.1/2024/BEL/Add.1, available at https://unfccc.int/first-biennial-transparency-reports.

D. Information provided by the Party pursuant to paragraphs 143–145 of the modalities, procedures and guidelines

7. Belgium considers itself a developed country Party under the Paris Agreement and as such did not report information on support needed and received for implementing Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and transparency-related activities, including for transparency-related capacity-building.

II. Technical expert review[6]

A. Review of the consistency of the submitted information with the modalities, procedures and guidelines[7]

1. National inventory report[8]

8. The TERT assessed the information reported in the BTR1 of Belgium and identified areas of improvement relating to consistency with the MPGs, which are described in tables 2–7 of the assessment tables referred to in paragraph 6 above and summarized in table 1.

[6] As per para. 187 of the MPGs.
[7] As per para. 146(a) of the MPGs.
[8] As per para. 150(a) of the MPGs.

Table 1
Information reported in Belgium's national inventory report and review of consistency with the modalities, procedures and guidelines

Element	*Elements of information to be reported*	*Summary of information reported*	*ID#(s) for the area(s) of improvement identified*[a]
Submission type (para. 12 of the MPGs)	Has the national inventory report been submitted as a stand-alone document?	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified
Time series (paras. 57–58 of the MPGs)	What years have been reported and is the time series in accordance with the MPGs?	1990–2022	No areas of improvement were identified
Metrics (para. 37 of the MPGs)	Has the Party used the 100-year global warming potential values from the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC?	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified
	Has the Party used other metrics?	No	No areas of improvement were identified
Gases (paras. 47–49 and 51 of the MPGs)	Which gases have been reported?	CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, PFCs, SF_6, NF_3	No areas of improvement were identified
Indirect emissions (para. 52 of the MPGs)	Has the Party reported indirect CO_2 emissions and national totals with and without indirect CO_2?	No	No areas of improvement were identified
	Has the Party reported indirect N_2O emissions from sources other than those in the agriculture and LULUCF sectors as a memo item?	No	
National circumstances and institutional arrangements (paras. 18–19 of the MPGs)	Has the Party reported information on the functions related to inventory planning, preparation and management?	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified
Methodologies, parameters and data (paras. 20–24 of the MPGs)	Has the Party used the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*?	Yes	3.E.2, 3.E.3, 4.I.1, 6.L.2, 6.L.3, 6.L.4, 6.L.5
	Has the Party used other IPCC methodological guidance?	No	No areas of improvement were identified
Key category analysis (paras. 25 and 41–42 of the MPGs)	Has the Party reported a key category analysis?	Yes, a key category analysis was performed using approach 1 and a 95 per cent threshold for level and trend assessment for the starting year (1990) and the latest reporting year (2022) and with and without LULUCF	No areas of improvement were identified

Element	*Elements of information to be reported*	*Summary of information reported*	*ID#(s) for the area(s) of improvement identified*[a]
Time-series consistency and recalculations (paras. 26–28 and 43 of the MPGs)	Has the Party reported a consistent time series?	Partly	
	Has the Party provided justification and explanatory information for recalculations?	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified
Uncertainty assessment (paras. 29 and 44 of the MPGs)	Has the Party reported the results of the uncertainty analysis and the methods used, underlying assumptions and trends?	Yes, including level and trend uncertainty, reported using approach 1 for the latest reporting year (2022)	2.G.1
QA/QC plan and procedures (paras. 34–36 and 46 of the MPGs)	Has the Party elaborated information on an inventory QA/QC plan, including information on the inventory agency responsible for implementing QA/QC, and current and future QA/QC procedures?	Yes, including information on the inventory agency responsible for implementing QA/QC, an inventory QA/QC plan, general QC procedures and category-specific QC for key categories and for individual categories for which significant methodological changes and/or data revisions have occurred	2.G.2
Assessment of completeness (paras. 30–33, 45 and 50 of the MPGs)	Have any areas of improvement for lack of completeness been identified for the following sectors?		
	Energy	No	No areas of improvement were identified
	IPPU	No	No areas of improvement were identified
	Agriculture	No	No areas of improvement were identified
	LULUCF	No	No areas of improvement were identified
	Waste	No	No areas of improvement were identified
Threshold for reporting significant categories (para. 32 of the MPGs)	For categories reported as “NE” owing to insignificance, has information been reported showing that the likely level of emissions is below the threshold of significance?	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified

Element	*Elements of information to be reported*	*Summary of information reported*	*ID#(s) for the area(s) of improvement identified*[a]
Methodologies, emission factors, parameters and activity data (paras. 39–40 and 53–56 of the MPGs)	Has information been reported on categories, gases, methodologies (including the rationale for selecting them), emission factors and activity data at a disaggregated level for the following sectors?		
	Energy	Partly	3.E.1
	Has information been reported on international aviation and marine bunker fuel emissions as two separate entries and such emissions distinctly reported from national totals?	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified
	Has information been reported indicating how feedstocks and non-energy use of fuels have been accounted for in the inventory, under the energy or IPPU sector?	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified
	IPPU	Partly	4.I.1
	Agriculture	Partly	5.A.3
	LULUCF	Partly	6.L.1, 6.L.6, 6.L.7
	Did the Party provide supplementary information on the approach to reporting emissions and removals from harvested wood products in accordance with IPCC guidance other than the production approach, and provide supplementary information on emissions and removals from harvested wood products estimated using the production approach?	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified
	Waste	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified

[a] See document FCCC/ETF/TERR.1/2024/BEL/Add.1. The areas of improvement referred to in this table comprise only those relating to recommendations in that document.

2. Information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving the nationally determined contribution[9]

9. The TERT assessed the information reported in the BTR1 of Belgium and identified areas of improvement relating to consistency with the MPGs, which are described in tables 8, 11 and 13 of the assessment tables referred to in paragraph 6 above and summarized in table 2.

Table 2
Information reported in Belgium's submission

Topic	*ID#(s) for the area(s) of improvement identified*[a]
National circumstances and institutional arrangements (paras. 59–63 of the MPGs)	8.1
Description of the NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, including updates (para. 64 of the MPGs)	No areas of improvement were identified
Information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving the NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement (paras. 65–79 of the MPGs)	No areas of improvement were identified
Mitigation PaMs, actions and plans related to implementing and achieving the NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement (paras. 80–90 of the MPGs)	11.2
Summary of GHG emissions and removals (para. 91 of the MPGs)	No areas of improvement were identified
Projections of GHG emissions and removals (paras. 92–102 of the MPGs)	No areas of improvement were identified

[a] See document FCCC/ETF/TERR.1/2024/BEL/Add.1. The areas of improvement referred to in this table comprise only those relating to recommendations in that document.

3. Financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support provided[10]

10. Belgium reported information on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support provided under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement.

11. The TERT assessed the information reported in the BTR1 of Belgium and identified areas of improvement relating to consistency with the MPGs, which are described in tables 15, 16, 19 and 20 of the assessment tables referred to in paragraph 6 above and summarized in table 3.

Table 3
Review of the consistency of the information on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support reported in Belgium's submission with the modalities, procedures and guidelines

Topic	*ID#(s) for the area(s) of improvement identified*[a]
National circumstances and institutional arrangements (paras. 119–120 of the MPGs)	15.1
Underlying assumptions, definitions and methodologies (paras. 121–122 of the MPGs)	16.1, 16.2
Information on financial support provided under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement (paras. 123–124 of the MPGs)	No areas of improvement were identified
Information on support for technology development and transfer provided under Article 10 of the Paris Agreement (paras. 126–127 of the MPGs)	19.1, 19.2

[9] As per para. 150(b) of the MPGs.
[10] As per para. 150(c) of the MPGs.

Topic	*ID#(s) for the area(s) of improvement identified*[a]
Information on capacity-building support provided under Article 11 of the Paris Agreement (paras. 128–129 of the MPGs)	20.1, 20.2

[a] See document FCCC/ETF/TERR.1/2024/BEL/Add.1. The areas of improvement referred to in this table comprise only those relating to recommendations in that document.

B. Consideration of the Party's implementation and achievement of its nationally determined contribution[11]

12. In considering Belgium's progress in implementing and achieving its NDC, the TERT noted that the EU and its member States have a joint NDC with a target of an economy-wide net domestic reduction in emissions of at least 55 per cent by 2030 compared with the 1990 level.[12]

13. Belgium reported information on the actions and PaMs that support the implementation and achievement of its NDC. Three overarching EU PaMs – the EU ETS directive, and the ESR and the EU LULUCF regulation – significantly influence Belgium's portfolio of PaMs. The EU ETS covers mainly GHG emission point sources in the energy, industry, maritime shipping and aviation sectors. An EU-wide emission cap was put in place for 2021–2030 for the EU ETS with the goal of reducing emissions by 62 per cent below the 2005 level by 2030. The ESR sets binding annual GHG emission targets for member States covering the transport, buildings, agriculture and waste sectors, as well as industry sectors not covered by the EU ETS. The ESR-covered sectors are required to collectively contribute to a 40 per cent reduction in emissions at the EU level by 2030 compared with the 2005 level, with individual member States' reduction targets ranging from 10 to 50 per cent below the 2005 level. Belgium's ESR target for 2030 is a 47 per cent emission reduction compared with the 2005 level. EU member States must achieve binding national LULUCF targets to contribute to the EU-wide target for 2030. The member States' targets for 2030 are defined as the average of net emissions and removals in 2016–2018 plus an individual binding target, which collectively corresponds to an additional 42 Mt CO_2 eq net removals. The EU LULUCF regulation sets a total net removal target of 310 Mt CO_2 eq for 2030 within the scope of NDCs.

14. Table 4 provides a summary of the reported information on the key national PaMs of Belgium.

Table 4
Summary of information on key national policies and measures reported by Belgium

Sector	*Key PaMs*	*Estimate of mitigation impact in 2025 (kt CO_2 eq)*	*Estimate of mitigation impact in 2030 (kt CO_2 eq)*
Policy framework and cross-sectoral measures	Law on the governance of federal climate policy	–	–
Energy			
Energy efficiency	Tax deduction for energy efficiency investments by companies (federal)	1 146.70	1 393.52
Energy supply and renewables	Energy tax on fossil fuels for energy production (federal)	107.95	107.95
	Promoting offshore wind and strengthening North Sea offshore wind capacity (federal)	–	1 715.00

[11] As per para. 146(b) of the MPGs.

[12] The consideration of the implementation and achievement of the joint EU NDC is in the context of the NDC submitted by the EU on 17 December 2020 and updated on 17 October 2023.

Sector	*Key PaMs*	*Estimate of mitigation impact in 2025 (kt CO_2 eq)*	*Estimate of mitigation impact in 2030 (kt CO_2 eq)*
	Deploying renewable energy technologies (Flemish Region and Walloon Region)	890.57[a]	1 849.88[a]
Transport	Increasing use of renewable energy in the transport sector (federal)	2 103.98	1 759.22
	Low-emission zone (Brussels-Capital Region)	30.00	260.00
	Mobility transformation (Flemish Region and Walloon Region)	496.83[a]	316.16[a]
	Increasing use of low-emission and zero-emission vehicles (Flemish Region)	654.47	2 448.40
Buildings	Reduced value-added tax rate of 6 per cent for the demolition and reconstruction of buildings intended for private housing (federal)	–	–
	Encouraging renovation of residential and non-residential buildings (all regions)	625.00[b]	2 747.23[b]

Sources: Belgium's BTR1 and CTF table 5, and information provided by the Party during the review.
[a] Estimate includes the Flemish Region only.
[b] Estimate includes the Brussels-Capital Region and the Flemish Region.

15. Across the energy, industry, agriculture, LULUCF and waste sectors, Belgium's GHG emissions decreased significantly in 1990–2022, which indicates that economic drivers such as technological improvements, structural shifts and changes in agricultural and waste management practices supplemented the effects of mitigation PaMs in that period. In the energy sector, federal investment in offshore wind infrastructure, tax incentives for energy efficiency investment and fuel switching contributed to a major emission reduction, despite a 12 per cent increase in transport emissions. The decline in industrial emissions was driven by efficiency gains and reduced high-emission activities, particularly in metal industry. In agriculture, shifts in livestock management and reduced fertilizer use are examples of changes in practice that reinforced the impacts of mitigation PaMs. However, net removals from the LULUCF sector have declined over time, suggesting that land management practices and forest dynamics are limiting its mitigation capacity. These national circumstances have collectively shaped Belgium's emissions trajectory and reflect the Party's multifaceted approach to climate mitigation.

16. The national law on the governance of federal climate policy, adopted on 15 January 2024, established the legal foundation for federal climate governance with the aim of enhancing the coordination, monitoring and transparency of climate policy, including through the independent Scientific Climate Council created to advise the Government. Notably, the law introduced a mechanism for tracking use of federal EU ETS auction revenues, thereby supporting the development of a green federal budget. For example, in 2023 EUR 1.4 million in surplus revenue was used to fund targeted PaMs, including energy monitoring in buildings, improved product recoverability, integrated ticketing for youth transport and enhanced energy system modelling. These measures reflect how improved governance is directly linked to the practical implementation and effectiveness of Belgium's climate policy.

17. The TERT noted that PaMs are expected to contribute to GHG emission reductions, particularly in the energy sector, where policies on energy efficiency, energy supply, renewables, transport and buildings are aimed at driving substantial emission reductions, as illustrated by the expected impacts estimated for 2025 and 2030. Several PaMs are being developed and implemented at the regional level, including regional mobility plans that

promote modal shift through investment in public transport and cycling infrastructure; financial incentives to stimulate the uptake of zero-emission vehicles and charging infrastructure; renovation obligations and subsidies to accelerate action to improve the energy efficiency of buildings; and targeted support for the implementation of sustainable practices in agriculture through investment funds and sectoral agreements. The promotion of low-emission and zero-emission vehicles in the Flemish Region stands out as one of the most impactful regional measures, with projected emission reductions of 654.47 and 2,448.40 kt CO_2 eq in 2025 and 2030 respectively. This underscores Belgium's commitment to decarbonizing its transport system through vehicle electrification and technological transformation.

18. The TERT noted that Belgium's key national circumstances include steady population growth – driven by net international migration, notably due to the conflict in Ukraine, and accompanied by a declining birth rate and ageing population – as well as significant urbanization, economic restructuring and evolving climate and energy policies. The trends show that urban expansion has led to an increase in settlement areas and land-use change, resulting in the release of carbon stocks from soils and contributing to rising GHG emissions independent of direct economic activity. Belgium's GHG emission intensity stood at 233.1 t CO_2 eq/EUR million (2015 prices) in 2022 (excluding LULUCF), reflecting a continued link between economic growth and emissions despite efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon intensity. On a per capita basis, GHG emissions decreased from 14.7 t CO_2 eq in 1990 to 9.3 t CO_2 eq in 2022 (including international aviation), although this is still above the average for the 27 EU member States. Economic trends, such as the decline of the steel industry and the closure of coke plants, have led to a significant reduction in manufacturing emissions since 1990, while climatic conditions have influenced annual variation in heating-related emissions. Additionally, waste management policies, including the 2006 ban on landfilling municipal solid waste and the adoption of biogas recovery, have resulted in an 83 per cent reduction in emissions from waste disposal since 1990.

19. Belgium's AEAs, which correspond to its national emission reduction target for ESR sectors, decrease from 2021 to 2030. Belgium reported information on its ESR emissions as a way to track its contribution to the joint NDC target. The level of emissions in 2021 and 2022 was 3.3 and 7.6 per cent respectively below the AEAs for those years. The TERT noted that the Party's cumulative surplus of AEAs through 2022 is 7,623.59 kt CO_2 eq, which suggests that Belgium is contributing to the joint EU target.

20. Belgium reported projections for 2030–2050 under the WM scenario.[13] The WM scenario reported by the Party includes PaMs implemented and adopted. In addition to the WM scenario, Belgium reported the WAM scenario. The projected emission levels are presented in table 5. The TERT noted that information on GHG emission projections was not used in considering Belgium's progress in implementing its NDC.

Table 5
Summary of greenhouse gas emission projections for Belgium

	GHG emissions (kt CO_2 eq/year)	*Change in relation to 2022 level (%)*	*Change in relation to 2020 level (%)*
Inventory data 2020	107 420.53	3.7	NA
Inventory data 2022	103 576.13	NA	–3.6
WM projections for 2030	106 580.59	2.9	–0.8
WAM projections for 2030	83 301.89	–19.6	–22.5
WM projections for 2050	103 458.37	–0.1	–3.7
WAM projections for 2050	40 556.39	–60.8	–62.2

Sources: Belgium's BTR1 and CTF tables 6–8.
Note: The projections are for GHG emissions without LULUCF and excluding indirect CO_2 emissions.

[13] Note that, as per para. 93 of the MPGs, projections shall not be used to assess progress towards the implementation and achievement of an NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement unless the Party has identified a reported projection as its baseline.

21. The TERT recognizes the challenges and limitations of Belgium's approach of using a bottom-up approach of aggregating projections developed by the different regions with varying assumptions, modelling approaches and availability of data for some subsectors, while using a national-level approach to modelling for other subsectors (i.e. electricity production). Given that the understanding of the TERT of and its ability to assess the projections information reported by Belgium was hampered by the different data and methods used across the three regions, the TERT suggests that Belgium report information on projections at the level at which the projections were developed (i.e. by region and subsector, as applicable).

22. In its BTR1 and during the review, Belgium described the progress towards the joint EU NDC target. The TERT noted that the consideration of progress by the EU and its member States towards the joint EU NDC is contained in the report on the technical expert review of the BTR1 of the EU,[14] which states that the EU and its member States are on track to achieving the joint 2030 NDC target by implementing mitigation actions; however, maintaining this pace of emission reductions will require full implementation of the EU 2030 legal framework and supporting investment flows.

C. Consideration of the Party's support provided[15]

23. In its BTR1 Belgium reported information on national circumstances and institutional arrangements relevant to reporting on the provision and mobilization of support. The Party also reported information on the systems and processes used to identify, track and report on support provided; challenges and limitations; experience and good practices relating to public policy and regulatory frameworks for private climate financing and investment; and efforts to enhance the comparability and accuracy of the information reported on financial support provided.

24. Belgium's BTR1 contains key information on underlying assumptions, methodologies and definitions used by the Party to identify and report information on financial support provided.

1. Financial support provided under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement

(a) Bilateral, regional and other channels

25. Belgium provided financial support through bilateral, regional and other channels, focusing mainly on the least developed countries. The Africa region had the most projects and received some 74 per cent of total funds, accounting for the highest share, followed by the Asia region, which received some 10 per cent of funds. The projects, programmes or activities that received financial support related to adaptation (54.4 per cent) and cross-cutting activities (27.9 per cent), with projects on, inter alia, improving food security, agricultural production and development, hydropower, renewable energy for rural development, economic development and management of natural resources. The majority of financial support provided through bilateral, regional and other channels was allocated to the following sectors: agriculture, forestry, fishing, water and sanitation, energy and environment.

26. Table 6 summarizes information on financial support provided by the Party through bilateral, regional and other channels by type of support.

Table 6
Summary of financial support provided through bilateral, regional and other channels in 2021–2022 by Belgium

	Amount (climate-specific) (face value – USD million)				*Share of total for bilateral, regional and other channels (%)*
Type of financial instrument	*Adaptation*	*Mitigation*	*Cross-cutting*	*Total*	
Grant	77.95	14.10	42.33	134.34	88.5

[14] FCCC/ETF/TERR.1/2024/EU.
[15] As per para. 146(c) of the MPGs.

Type of financial instrument	*Amount (climate-specific) (face value – USD million)*				*Share of total for bilateral, regional and other channels (%)*
	Adaptation	*Mitigation*	*Cross-cutting*	*Total*	
Concessional loan	4.63	0.95	–	5.58	3.7
Non-concessional loan	–	11.80	–	11.80	7.8
Total	**82.58**	**26.86**	**42.33**	**151.77**	**100.0**
Share of total for bilateral, regional and other channels (%)	**54.4**	**17.7**	**27.9**	**100.0**	**–**

Sources: Belgium's BTR1 and CTF table III.1, and information provided by the Party during the review.

(b) Multilateral channels

27. Belgium provided financial support through multilateral channels, focusing mainly on contributions to the Green Climate Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility. Projects, programmes or activities, which received financial support mostly through contributions to institutions like the Central African Forest Initiative, CGIAR, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the NDC Partnership, were related to, for example, reducing food and income insecurity among vulnerable households through integrated risk management, mangrove restoration as a nature-based solution and enhancing climate transparency in developing countries. Most of the financial support provided through multilateral channels was allocated to multisectoral (79.4 per cent) and other (13.3 per cent) projects.

28. Table 7 summarizes information on financial support provided by the Party through multilateral channels by type of support.

Table 7
Summary of financial support provided through multilateral channels in 2021–2022 by Belgium
(USD million)

Institution	*Climate-specific inflows (face value)*			
	Adaptation	*Mitigation*	*Cross-cutting*	*Total*
Adaptation Fund	15.92	–	–	15.92
Central African Forest Initiative	–	–	6.60	6.60
CGIAR	–	–	4.40	4.40
Global Environment Facility	–	–	13.31	13.31
Green Climate Fund	–	–	44.88	44.88
Least Developed Countries Fund	38.94	–	–	38.94
NDC Partnership	–	–	4.40	4.40
UNFCCC	–	0.86	7.53	8.38
United Nations Development Programme	–	1.42	1.86	3.28
United Nations Environment Programme	–	–	6.60	6.60
Other[a]	4.92	2.82	1.07	8.81
Total	**59.78**	**5.10**	**84.15**	**149.03**
Share of total (%)	**40.1**	**3.4**	**56.5**	**–**

Sources: Belgium's BTR1 and CTF table III.2, and information provided by the Party during the review.
[a] Includes the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Climate Group, the International Renewable Energy Agency and the Mekong River Commission.

2. Technology development and transfer support provided under Article 10 of the Paris Agreement

29. Belgium implemented measures or activities related to technology development and transfer, including activities undertaken by both the public and the private sector, that

benefited developing country Parties. The Party's support for technology development and transfer is embedded primarily within international cooperation programmes focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Technology choices are guided by suitability assessments, which take the local context of each intervention into consideration. Furthermore, the Party provided support at different stages of the technology cycle. A technology transfer project in Rwanda supported by the Brussels-Capital Region through a bilateral agreement with its implementing partner, Enabel, the Belgian development agency, is one example provided by Belgium. The project is focused on constructing bridges using stone arches rather than concrete, a method that reduces GHG emissions by 70 per cent. This technique was not previously used in Rwanda and the aim is to expand its use throughout the region.

30. Belgium provided support for the deployment and enhancement of the endogenous capacities and technologies of developing country Parties; for example, for indigenous housing technologies to be adapted to local conditions in Burkina Faso and Benin. In Burkina Faso, the Nubian vault technique, an ancient earthen construction method using materials like mud bricks and straw instead of wood and steel, is being revived by the Nubian Vault Association for building durable and low-emission housing suited to hot climates. This has helped not only to reduce deforestation and reliance on imported materials but also to build local expertise by training over 80 artisan masons. In the Atacora region of Benin, similar raw earth construction methods were promoted using ancestral knowledge and locally available materials for building energy-efficient houses. Further, professionals and technicians trained in these methods have passed on their acquired skills to other individuals and local authorities, thereby continuing to promote earthen housing in the Atacora region.

31. Belgium encouraged private sector activities aimed at supporting developing country Parties with technology development and transfer. The Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries provides loans and equity to foster private sector development in the global South. Its strategy prioritizes climate and ecological sustainability, helping partner countries to leapfrog towards clean and green development of businesses. Such support for technology development and transfer includes providing funding to candi, a solar company, for supporting the development of an innovative power purchase agreement to serve small and medium-sized enterprises that need clean, reliable and affordable energy; the Omnivore Agritech & Climate Sustainability Fund III for supporting investment in innovative technology companies that deliver products and services that address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the lives of farmers and rural communities in India; and Inka's Berries for supporting the development of climate adaptation technologies.

32. Belgium engaged in measures and activities related to technology innovation, including research, development and deployment, using a collaborative approach.

33. Most of the technology development and transfer support provided by Belgium related to adaptation in Africa and Asia. The technologies that received support were aimed at improving agricultural productivity, reducing water stress, building resilient infrastructure and providing access to clean energy. Examples include a establishing a pilot system for integrated fish production, implementing technologies such as the Nubian vault technique for building sustainable housing, monitoring and co-managing water resources using decision-support tools, using smart farming technologies for climate-resilient food production, and installing solar photovoltaic systems and developing innovative power purchase agreements for ensuring clean and affordable electricity. For the reporting period 2021–2022, most of the activities aimed at supporting technology development and transfer were reported as ongoing. The recipient entities for Belgium's technology development and transfer support were operating at the national, regional or global level in Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, United Republic of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Senegal, Benin and Burkina Faso) and Asia (India and Viet Nam).

3. Capacity-building support provided under Article 11 of the Paris Agreement

34. Belgium provided capacity-building support to developing country Parties for mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting needs. Belgium's capacity-building support responded to the existing and emerging capacity-building needs, priorities and gaps of developing country Parties by following the principles of stakeholder participation and

country-driven demand. Capacity-building is an essential element of all programmes and projects that are part of Belgium's climate action.

35. The enhancement of capacities in recipient countries is often included as a prerequisite in projects to ensure full project implementation. Some of the planned projects specifically target capacity-building. A good example of effective capacity-building support is Belgium's support for the NDC Partnership and the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, which help to strengthen national climate institutions in partner countries and enhance the capacity of countries to mobilize actors and resources for implementing NDCs and to improve the transparency of and reporting in the NDCs. The regional governments provide training to local stakeholders on various aspects of climate mitigation and adaptation in sectors like water management, construction, agriculture and agroforestry, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity, as well as energy access. Projects integrate gender and socioeconomic considerations into capacity-building efforts to enhance inclusivity and local relevance. Through stakeholder engagement, expertise across different sectors is leveraged; for example, universities in partner countries play a key role in enhancing climate education and research.

36. Sharing of lessons learned and best practices is an integral part of Belgium's international cooperation, including on climate. The Party evaluates projects to improve effectiveness and shares findings with stakeholders. Sustainable development and climate action is supported through collaboration with research institutions and international partners. Belgian embassies also host workshops and seminars to facilitate knowledge exchange. In addition, the NDC Partnership promotes the sharing of best practice among members.

37. Belgium supported capacity-building measures or activities that focused mainly on providing technical support to countries for implementing their NDCs, and on supporting education, research and skills development. Most of the capacity-building measures or activities related to adaptation, followed by cross-cutting. For the reporting period 2021–2022, most of the capacity-building measures or activities were reported as ongoing. The recipient entities for Belgium's capacity-building support were operating at the national, regional or global level.

D. Identification of areas of improvement[16]

38. During the technical expert review, the TERT identified areas of improvement in relation to Belgium's implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, which are summarized in chapter II.A above and included in the assessment tables referred to in paragraph 6 above.

39. In addition, the TERT notes that it was not able to retrieve some of the information referred to in the BTR1, either because the link provided was broken or because the information has been updated and is no longer consistent with the information in the BTR1. The TERT suggests that Belgium ensure, when providing in its BTR references to additional information, that the information is easily accessible and consistent with the information included in the BTR.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

40. The TERT conducted a technical expert review of the information reported in the BTR1, NID, CRTs and CTF tables of Belgium in accordance with the MPGs.

41. The areas of improvement identified by the TERT on the basis of the review of the consistency of the information reported by Belgium with the MPGs are summarized in chapter II.A above and included in the assessment tables referred to in paragraph 6 above.

42. The EU and its member States have a joint NDC with a target of an economy-wide net domestic reduction in emissions of at least 55 per cent by 2030 compared with the 1990 level. In its BTR1 Belgium described its contributions towards the joint EU NDC target. The

[16] As per para. 146(d) of the MPGs.

TERT noted that the consideration of progress by the EU and its member States towards the joint EU NDC is contained in the report on the technical expert review of the BTR1 of the EU, which states that the EU and its member States are on track to achieve the joint 2030 NDC target by implementing mitigation actions; however, maintaining this pace of emission reductions will require full implementation of the EU 2030 legal framework and supporting investment flows.

43. The TERT notes that PaMs, actions and plans are expected to contribute further to GHG emission reductions, particularly in the energy sector. PaMs on energy efficiency, renewable energy deployment, transport and buildings are aimed at driving significant emission reductions, with notable impacts anticipated by 2025 and 2030. A number of interconnected factors – economic transitions, climatic variability, urbanization and waste management policies – have played a role in shaping Belgium's emission trends over time, as well as its emissions trajectory and its contribution to the progress towards achieving the joint EU NDC.

44. Belgium continued to provide financial support through bilateral, regional and other channels and through multilateral channels to developing countries. The financial support through bilateral, regional and other channels in 2021–2022 totalled USD 151.77 million. Similarly, financial support through multilateral channels in 2021–2022 amounted to USD 149.03 million (inflows).

45. Belgium continued to provide support for technology development and transfer, and capacity-building. Priority for technological support was given to projects and programmes for adaptation. Priority for capacity-building support was given to projects, programmes and activities related to adaptation, followed by cross-cutting issues. Capacity-building support was provided to developing countries through the NDC Partnership and Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement programmes in the areas of water management, environment and biodiversity, agroecology and sustainable land use. Capacity-building and training provided to local stakeholders such as farmers, engineers, women and youth was aimed at helping them to integrate climate considerations into local-level practices and decision-making.

Annex

Documents and information used during the review

A. Reference documents

BTR1 of Belgium. Available at https://unfccc.int/first-biennial-transparency-reports.

BTR1 CTF tables of Belgium. Available at https://unfccc.int/first-biennial-transparency-reports.

BTR1 of the EU. Available at https://unfccc.int/first-biennial-transparency-reports.

BTR1 CTF tables of the EU. Available at https://unfccc.int/first-biennial-transparency-reports.

CRTs of Belgium. Available at https://unfccc.int/first-biennial-transparency-reports.

"Guidance for operationalizing the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the enhanced transparency framework referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement". Decision 5/CMA.3. FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/10/Add.2. Available at https://unfccc.int/documents/460951.

IPCC. 2006. *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. S Eggleston, L Buendia, K Miwa, et al. (eds.). Hayama, Japan: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies. Available at http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl.

"Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement". Annex to decision 18/CMA.1. FCCC/PA/CMA/2018/3/Add.2. Available at https://unfccc.int/documents/193408.

Official Journal of the European Union. 2020. Commission implementing decision (EU) 2020/2126 of 16 December 2020. Available at eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020D2126.

B. Additional information provided by the Party

Responses to questions during the review were received from Laurence de Clock (Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment of Belgium), Luca Schollaert (Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment of Belgium) and Annemarie Van der Avort (Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium), including additional material. The following references were provided by Belgium and may not conform to UNFCCC editorial style as some have been reproduced as received:

Accord de Coalition Fédérale 2025-2029. Available at https://www.belgium.be/sites/default/files/resources/publication/files/Accord_gouvernemental-Bart_De_Wever_fr.pdf.

Annex IX to the national energy and climate plan progress report. Available at https://reportnet.europa.eu/public/dataflow/900.

Inventaire sur l'affectation des terres et du changement d'affectation des terres et de la foresterie (LULUCF) de la Belgique. Rapport final. Gembloux Agro Biotech. 2011.

Suivi de la mise en oeuvre des politiques climatiques fédérales 2021-2030. Available at https://climat.be/doc/rapport-de-synthese-gouvernance-2024.pdf.