

BTR Finalization and NDC Alignment Workshop

Saint George's, Grenada | 1st April – 4th April
2025

Day 2



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Agenda Day 2

- Welcome
- Recap of day 1 and today's agenda
- Presentation of CBIT-GSP's Review of BTRs
- Overview TER process

Coffee break

- Practical exercise on TER

Lunch

- Deep Dive into Transparency Topics
- Reflection and feedback of the day

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Participants' Journal

1. What do I hope to take away from today's session?
2. Which challenges or open questions would I like to address?



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Energiser - Acronyms

B

BTR – Biennial Transparency Report

C

CGE – Consultative Group of Experts

C

CRT – Common Reporting Tables/ CTF – Common Tabular Formats

E

ETF – Enhanced Transparency Framework

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Energiser - Acronyms

F

FMCP – Facilitative Multilateral Consideration of Progress

G

GST – Global Stocktake

I

IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

N

NDC – Nationally Determined Contributions

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Energiser - Acronyms

P

PAICC – Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee

Q

QA/QC – Quality Assessment/Quality Control

T

TER – Technical Expert Review

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CBIT-GSP quality reviews

Main findings, best practices
and self-assessment tool



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CBIT-GSP quality check

In 2024 the CBIT-GSP team set up a team of experts to offer countries a preliminary quality check review of the draft BTRs, offering this service for full document/single chapter/CRT/CTF tables assessment before the official submission to UNFCCC.

As of February 2025, 32 parties used this service, of which 27 included their NDC tracking chapter/CTF tables.



Assessment tool

An MPG checklist for assessing level of completeness of the information provided, with indication of where the information should be found (CTF table and/or text).

MPG Provisions	Coverage	included as text in the chapter or in CTF tables/appendix	Comments
B. Description of a Party's nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, including updates			
64. Each Party shall provide a description of its NDC under Article 4, against which progress will be tracked. The information provided shall include the following, as applicable, including any updates to information previously provided:		CTF Appendix	
a) Target(s) and description, including target type(s) (e.g. economy-wide absolute emission reduction, emission intensity reduction, emission reduction below a projected baseline, mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions or economic diversification plans, policies and measures, and other);	Partial	CTF Appendix	Targets are reported but no description or additional information is given regarding some of them. For example, clarifications on the energy efficiency target are necessary, as it is not clear how efficiency is defined (i.e. which indicator), and to which sectors will this target be applied.
b) Target year(s) or period(s), and whether they are single-year or multi-year target(s);	Partial	CTF Appendix	Missing info if the target is a single year or multi-year target
c) Reference point(s), level(s), baseline(s), base year(s) or starting point(s), and their respective value(s);	No	CTF Appendix	Reference point needs to be quantified with real data of 2010 emissions and efficiency indicator
d) Time frame(s) and/or periods for implementation;	Yes	CTF Appendix	
e) Scope and coverage, including, as relevant, sectors, categories, activities, sources and sinks, pools and gases;	Partial	CTF Appendix	The party should specify these information for each single one of the 4 targets.
f) Intention to use cooperative approaches that involve the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes under Article 6 towards NDCs under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement;	Yes	CTF Appendix	
g) Any updates or clarifications of previously reported information (e.g. recalculation of previously reported inventory data, or greater detail on methodologies or use of cooperative approaches).	NA	CTF Appendix	



Assessment tool

Each MPG provision fulfillment gets classified as "Yes", "Partial", "No" and "NA", and the reviewer adds relative comments on how to further improve the reporting.

MPG Provisions	Coverage	Included as text in the chapter or in CTF tables/appendix	Comments
82. Each Party shall provide the following information on its actions, policies and measures, to the extent possible, in a tabular format:		CTF Table 5	
a) Name;	Yes	CTF Table 5	
b) Description;	Yes	CTF Table 5	
c) Objectives;	Yes	CTF Table 5	
d) Type of instrument (regulatory, economic instrument or other);	No	CTF Table 5	Please add a cell for the measure classification
e) Status (planned, adopted or implemented);	Partial	CTF Table 5	"Ongoing" is not the official terminology. Please use "implemented", "adopted" or "planned"
f) Sector(s) affected (energy, transport, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, LULUCF, waste management or other);	Yes	CTF Table 5, Table 7, Table 8, Table 9	
g) Gases affected;	Yes	CTF Table 5	
h) Start year of implementation;	No	CTF Table 5	Please add start year of the implementation
i) Implementing entity or entities.	Yes	CTF Table 5	
83. Each Party may also provide the following information for each action, policy and measure reported:			
a) Costs;	No	CTF Table 5 and Text	may add info
b) Non-GHG mitigation benefits;	No	CTF Table 5 and Text	may add info



Overview feedback

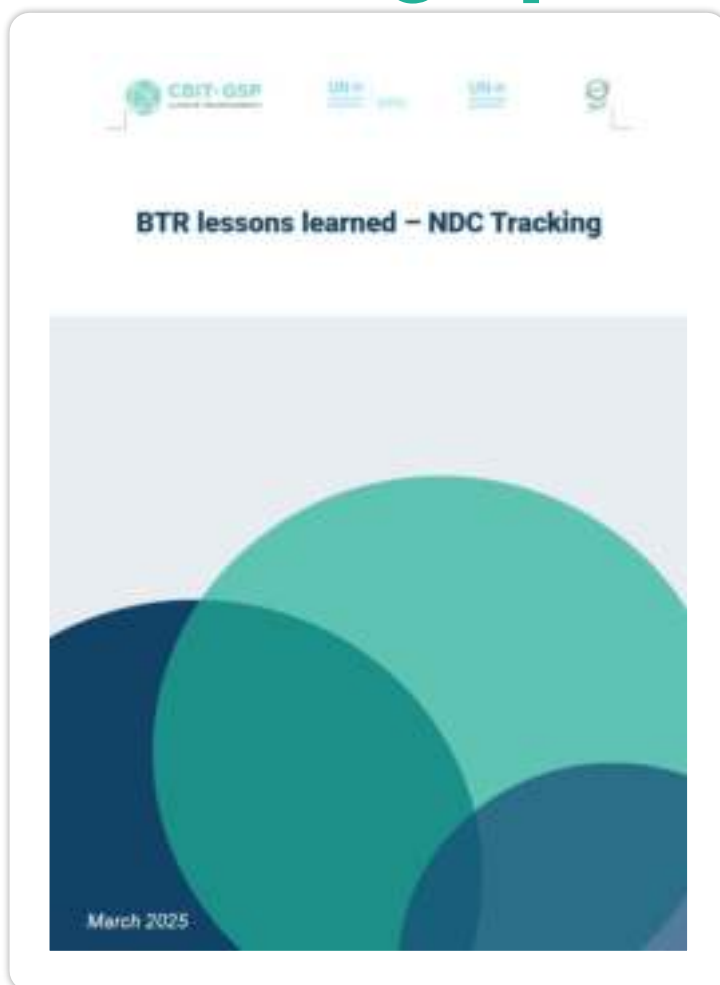
After the quality-check review the country receives back:

- Compiled MPG checklist with comments
- Textual draft with review comments
- Summary of general and technical findings

After analyzing the material received, the country can also ask for a meeting to ask for additional clarifications or, after having improved the report, submit it again for an additional check.

Key	Comment	
G.1.1	There are areas where information has not <u>be</u> provided for the GHGI chapter of the BTR, additionally, the <u>manner in which</u> the chapter is layout does not reflect the NID suggested template, and therefore there are many instances where information is repeated unnecessarily or detailed in sections where it does not make sense.	
T.1.1	There is an overall lack of methodological details provided for the GHGI, this includes information on approach, activity data, emission factors and data calculations for data gaps (interpolation and extrapolation).	
T.1.2	It i	
T.1.3	Tir It i 20 Ad wf lin	
Key	Recommendation	Relevant MPG
G.1.1	The structure and layout of <u>the Chapter 1</u> : GHGI should more closely follow the structure and content as detailed within Decision 5/CMA.3. There are gaps of information in the report, and utilizing the structure detailed in this document could enhance overall reporting. Please also refer to the comments in the body of the text of the BTR, where details of how data and information within the report should be presented.	
T.1.1	should provide more detailed information pertaining to methodology, as well as providing the full time series of information and data for AD and EF. Where data interpolation and extrapolation have been used, should detail in full how this was done, as well as providing reference to assumptions made.	
T.1.2	should include a section within the <u>report</u> which is dedicated to where flexibility has been used, and how this has been used, and how they seek to improve upon this through their BTR improvement plan for the next reporting cycle.	
T.1.3	Timeseries: Please provide clarity on the gaps in the <u>timeseries</u> .	

Knowledge products



Two short Knowledge Products, one on the GHG inventory and another on the NDC tracking chapter, are underway for publication. These will collect the main findings, commonalities and gaps found by the review team, and for each one further explanations, recommendations and best practices from other Parties will be presented.

Regarding the Adaptation and Support Needed and Received chapters, we are collecting some more information and reviews before proceeding in the same direction.



Main findings – Cross cutting

Notation:

- The use of Not Applicable (NA), Not Estimated (NE) , Not Occurring (NO) , Included Elsewhere (IE), Confidential © and FX should always be justified/explained
- A measure status can be "Planned/adopted/implemented" (there is no "ongoing" or "under implementation")

Flexibility:

- Each time Flexibility is used, the Party should explain why it was applied and by when it aims to provide the information and stop using flexibility
- As a good practice, a short summary paragraph at the end of the chapter collecting all flexibility provisions and an estimated timeline (e.g. BTR2) for reporting improvement

Main findings – NDC tracking

Three main commonalities have been selected for further analysis:

- Indicator selection and definition for NDC tracking
- Reporting of mitigation measures and adaptation measures with co-mitigation benefits (CTF5)
- GHG projections





NDC tracking indicator selection

- Multiple BTR drafts shared a inconsistent selection of indicators for the NDC tracking purposes:
- Additional and unnecessary indicators (e.g. Transport electrification %, Waste sector emission reduction etc.)
 - Additional burden for data collection, monitoring, historical data requirements
 - More chances of not reaching indicator expectations
- Not clear relation between selected indicators and NDC goals
- Poor definition of indicators (unit, sectors)
 - E.g. "Energy efficiency", is it MWh/GDP or MWh/ppl? What sectors are included in the indicator's goals?



NDC tracking indicator selection

- Recommendations and best practices:
- Select as few indicators as possible, according to the country's NDC (work together with the NDC team)
- When selecting indicators, consider first:
 - How does this indicator relate/contribute to the NDC's progress tracking? (always report that in the BTR!)
 - What is the availability of historical data of the selected indicator? Are there institutional arrangements in place concerning the data acquisition and evaluation?
- Always carefully define indicator and its monitoring/evaluation methodology, i.e unit of measure, sectoral and geographical scope

Measure reporting

Both in the textual format and in CTF table 5, often countries reported broad policies and frameworks consisting of several sub-measures, that were only partially relevant to the chapter, or for which no methodology, goal or monitoring was defined/setup. This translates into the impossibility of consistently evaluating and tracking their progress and contribution to the NDC goals.

The same can be said for Adaptation measures with co-mitigation benefits. Parties often reported broad adaptation and environmental policies without focusing on the actual sub-measures with clear and measurable co-mitigation benefits.

Measure reporting

Recommendations and best practices:

While in the textual report it is useful to also report the overarching framework and policies, it is then a good practice (especially in CTF table 5) to define and only report sectorial and sub-sectoral measures with a clear mitigation impact that can be estimated in terms of equivalent CO₂ emission reductions. For each measure, a clear methodology (including sectoral scope) should be defined and reported in textual format and where relevant in CTF table 3. Expected goals and estimated achieved progresses should be estimated according to the defined methodology.



Measure reporting - example

Name	Description	Objectives	Type of instrument	Status	Sector(s) affected	Sub-sector(s) affected	Gases affected	Start year of implementation	Implementing entity or entities	Estimates of GHG emission reductions (kt CO ₂ e)											
										2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2025	2030
Promotion of the introduction of facilities and equipment with high energy-saving performance (across industries)	Introduction of high-efficiency air conditioning	Introduction of high-efficiency air conditioning	Law / Standard, Taxation, Subsidy, Technology Development	Implemented	Energy	Industry	CO ₂	2008	METI	46	93	147	205	260	306	398	447	504	548	860	690
	Introduction of industrial HP (heat pump)	Introduction of industrial Heat pump	Law / Standard, Taxation, Subsidy, Technology Development	Implemented	Energy	Industry	CO ₂	2008	METI	2	19	36	51	71	92	108	117	137	155	660	1,610
	Introduction of industrial high-efficiency lighting	Introduction of industrial lighting	Law / Standard, Taxation, Subsidy, Technology Development	Implemented	Energy	Industry	CO ₂	2008	METI	670	1,259	1,881	2,552	3,252	3,902	4,532	5,102	5,832	6,402	8,442	2,931

Projections

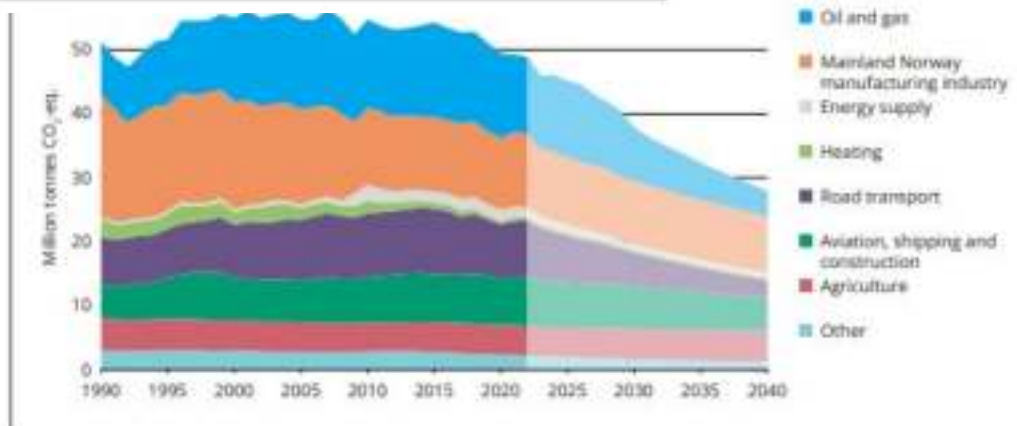
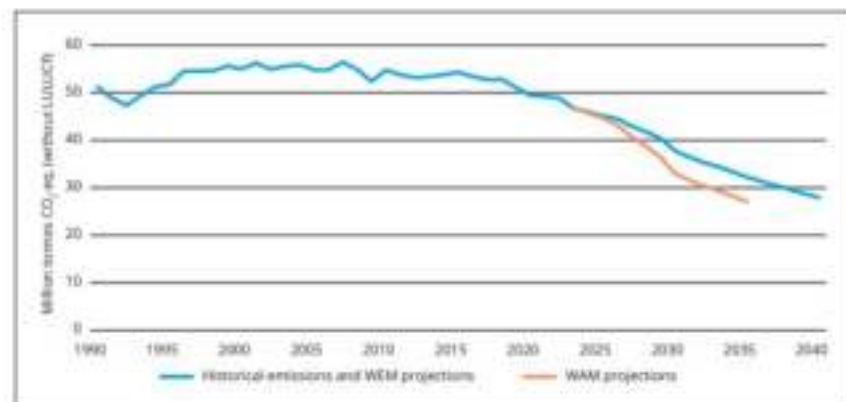
Very few countries included projections in their BTR and applied flexibility. But also those who did, often reported projections that were not aligned with the MPG provisions:

- Projections should be extended 15 years after the next year ending in 5 or 0 after the last NDC (e.g. NDC 2020/2024 -> projections up to 2040)
- Baseline scenarios used for measures/NDC goals is NOT the WEM scenario, but the WOM:
 - WEM = With Measures. Projection including all measures reported in CTF table 5
 - WOM = WithOut Measures. Baseline scenario/Business as Usual
 - WAM = With Additional Measures
- Of the three, only the WIM stands under a "shall" MPG. Good practice is also to break-down projection by sector and gas
- Assumptions and methodology should be reported for each reported projection



Projections - examples

Figure 2.7 Historic emissions and WEM and WAM projections without LULUCF (million tonnes CO₂ equivalents)





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Overview of Technical Expert Review (TER)

Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed
CGE member

2025



Key concepts and guiding principles

- Respecting national sovereignty and avoiding undue burden
- Building on and enhancing the transparency arrangements under the convention
- Providing flexibility to developing country parties that need it
- Promoting transparency, accuracy, completeness, consistency and comparability
- Avoiding double counting and ensuring environmental integrity
- Facilitating improvement over time



Scope of TER

- According to the MPGs, the TER must be implemented in a facilitative, non-intrusive, non-punitive manner, respecting national sovereignty and avoiding undue burden being placed on Parties.
- TER must also pay particular attention to the respective national capabilities and circumstances of developing country Parties.





Tasks of a TER team

- Review of the consistency of the information submitted by the party under article 13.7 and article 13.9 of the PA, taking into account the flexibility accorded to those developing countries that need it in the light of their capacities
- Consideration of the party's implementation and achievement of its NDCs
- Consideration of the party's support provided, as relevant
- Identification of areas of improvement for the party related to implementation of ETF
- For those developing country parties that need it in the light of their capacities, assistance in identifying capacity building needs





TER team shall not

- Make political judgment
- Review of the adequacy or appropriateness of a party's NDC under article 4 and its associated description and indicators
- Review of the adequacy of a party's domestic action
- Review the adequacy of a party's support provided
- For those developing country parties that needs flexibility in the light of their capacities
- Review the parties determination to apply flexibility that has been provided for in the MPGs, including the self determined estimated timeframes for areas of improvement in relation to capacity constraints



Information to be reviewed

The TER team must review the following information reported in the BTR:

- The NIR of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs;
- The information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving the NDC under Article 4;
- Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity building support provided to developing country Parties under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement.
- Information submitted by other Parties that provide support may undergo a TER at the respective Party's discretion.



Format of the TER

The TER of the BTR may be conducted in one of three different formats:

- a centralized review,
- an in-country review
- a desk review,
- In years in which a BTR is not due, the annual national GHG inventory reports submitted by developed country Parties are subject to a simplified review.





In-country review

- A TER team conducts the review in the country of the Party subject to review. In-country visits are scheduled, planned and conducted with the consent of and in close coordination with the Party.

Applicability

- The first BTR
- At least two BTRs in a 10-year period, one of which contains information on the Party's achievement of its NDC
- If recommended in the TER of the Party's previous BTR
- Upon request by the Party under TER



Centralized review

- A TER team conducts the review from a single, centralized location. A single TER team can review several Parties' BTRs.

Applicability

- A BTR that is not subject to an in-country or desk review
- Those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities with respect to undergoing an in-country review have the flexibility to instead choose to undergo a centralized review, but are encouraged to undergo an in-country review
- The LDCs and SIDS may choose to participate in the same centralized review as a group, where a single TER team will review several BTRs from the LDCs and SIDS



Desk review

- Members of a TER team conduct the review remotely from their respective countries.

Applicability

- Should not be conducted:
 - (1) more than once every five years;
 - (2) for the first BTR communication or update of its NDC; or
 - (3) for a BTR that contains information on submitted following a Party's achievement of its NDC under Article 4



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Key actors and their roles

The TER process involves three key actors:

1. the Party whose BTR is undergoing the TER,
2. the TER team and
3. the secretariat.



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The roles under the TER: The party

- Shall cooperate with the TER team and the secretariat and make every reasonable effort to respond to all questions and provide additional clarifying information and comments to the TER team in a timely manner.



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The roles under the TER: all TER team members

- Shall adhere to the MPGs, including in assessing the Party's submission for consistency with the requirements outlined in the MPGs, raising areas of technical clarification, proposing capacity building needs, engaging in the conference call with the Parties and with the secretariat and contributing to their specific thematic area of the TER report, as per the allocated role;
- Participate in the TER in their individual expert capacity.





The roles under the TER: lead reviewers

- Shall oversee the work of the TER team and ensure that the TER is conducted in accordance with the MPGs;
- Should ensure the quality and objectivity of the TER and provide for the continuity, consistency across Parties and timeliness of the TER;
- Shall communicate necessary information to the TER team and monitor its progress;
- Shall coordinate the submission of queries of the TER team to the Party concerned and the inclusion of the answers in the TER report;
- Shall give priority to issues raised in previous TER reports;
- Shall provide technical advice to the members of the TER team.





The roles under the TER: The secretariat

- Shall organize TERs;
- Shall develop and provide review tools, templates and materials to support the TER team;
- Shall, together with the lead reviewers, facilitate communication between the Party and the TER team;
- Shall, under the guidance of the lead reviewers, compile and edit the final TER reports.





TER team composition

- In order to be part of a TER team, an expert must be nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts by a Party or an intergovernmental organization.
- Each BTR submitted will be assigned to a single TER team of experts selected from the UNFCCC roster of experts.





Criteria for composing a TER team

- For centralized review of BTRs from the LDCs and SIDs, the secretariat shall strive to include technical experts from the LDCs and SIDs.
- The secretariat shall aim to ensure gender balance, to the extent possible, when selecting the TER team.
- The secretariat shall aim to achieve balance between experts from developed and developing countries when selecting the TER team
- Technical experts shall have recognized competence in the areas to be reviewed
- The collective skills and competencies of the TER team correspond to the information to be reviewed, and the teams include experts for each significant GHG inventory sector, mitigation and support, cooperative approaches and ITMOs under article 6 of the PA and LULUCF as relevant.



Criteria for composing a TER team

- The secretariat shall aim to ensure geographical balance, to the extent possible, when selecting the TER team.
- At least one team member should be fluent in a language of the party under review, to the extent possible
- The TER team shall include two lead reviewers, one from a developing country party and another from a developed country party
- The same TER team cannot perform two successive reviews of a party's submission





Outline of the TER report

- Introduction and summary
 - Introduction
 - Scope
 - Summary
 - Information provided by the party in regard to decision 18/CMA.1, annex, paragraphs 143-145
- Technical review of the information reported (para 187 of the MPG)
 - A review of the consistency of the information with the MPGs
 - Consideration of the party's implementation and achievement of its NDC
 - Consideration of the party's support provided, as relevant
 - Identification of areas of improvement
 - Assistance in identifying capacity building needs , when needed

- Conclusion and recommendation



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Approach to conduct a review

- Prepare: familiarization of the review materials
- Assess: assess the consistency of the party's submission with the MPGs
- Draft: draft the review report to capture the review findings



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Tools and templates

The secretariat develops and makes available to the TER team a set of tools to support the TER. These include:

- **The BTR-VTR:** This online platform is used by the TER team, the Party and the secretariat throughout the review process.
- **TER practice guidance:** This document, which is prepared by the secretariat with input from the lead reviewers, is aimed at facilitating the review process and enhancing consistency across reviews..
- **The thematic checklist:** This tool, which is designed to support the initial desk analysis by the TER team before the review week, helps the TER team to assess how the Party has fulfilled the reporting provisions of the MPGs in the BTR.
- **TER report template:** The TER report captures the outcomes of the TER and is prepared using a standard template.
- **Tools for LULUCF experts:** Separate tools to assist LULUCF experts in preparing the technical report on the technical analysis of the REDD+ technical annex are also provided.

- **Other tools:** The secretariat develops additional tools and templates to support the TER.

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TER process Perspective from Dominican Republic

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Be prepared in advance

- Set a coordinating team, the same coordinating team of the BTR project, to manage all the communications with the Secretariat, the definition of dates and the different activities to be carried out within the BTR process.
- Convene the sector experts, primarily those who provide data for the inventory, and inform them what will happen during the review week so they can see firsthand the usefulness and reason for the request, as well as its importance.
- Answer preliminary questions that are submitted by TERT in advance, prior to the review week.
- Questions are based on MPG requirements and may require further details, especially for inventory.
- Prepare presentations for the review week based on previous questions from TERT.
- Be 100% dedicated during the review week.





Differences between ICA to the BURs versus TERs to the BTRs

- The integration of all the MPG represents a substantial methodological change, especially the entire NDC tracking progress, which did not previously exist.
- Projections and PAMs can be challenging.
- What the BTR seeks to some extent for all countries is to have a similar level of information to report, but the national circumstances of our countries are very different.
- The importance of the in-country review lies in its direct communication with the TERT and the willingness to go to the countries to help, improve, and identify needs for improvement in the quality of the reports.





Challenges

- **Limited resources at the technical staff level:** the same team usually prepares the inventory and drafts the documents for both the BRT and the NDC.
- **Language gaps:** the importance of having experts within the TERT who speak the local language to be able to translate in the best way, let's say to the other experts.
- **During the review week:** block the agenda so that sectoral experts or contributors of information and data are available when required, especially for the GHG inventory, so that they can provide timely information and can explain in more detail the most technical matters.
- **Being a small team:** the workload involved, receiving all the questions a month in advance, being dedicated solely to answering all those questions and delve into the details, it's a technical challenge, and it requires almost exclusive dedication to do this.
- **Logistical and planning challenges:** have TERT in the country for a week (venue for consultations, transportation, etc.).



Opportunities

- Understanding that this is an improvement process, that funding can certainly be obtained for relevant issues that have not been funded and visualizing them opens the country needs.
- To be able to identify what are the key information to prepare better reports, and how these reports can help to develop better policies.
- It's very enriching to have a team of expert reviewers focused on different topics and sectors, and to be able to interact directly with local experts. Unlike previous interviews, which were conducted exclusively virtually, this will certainly improve the quality of the interactions.
- It will serve to enhance the national technical capacity of the experts who make the reports.
- This process will help to recognize that calculations of emissions are validated by a team of experts, it gives credibility and adds value to the information and that the country is basing its climate change policies on this data.



Thank you!

2025

Coffee Break



Practical Exercise on TER

- Please open Excel sheet exercise (Brittany's email)



Instructions

Objective

- To simulate the Technical Expert Review process after the submission of your country's first BTR focusing **on responding to preliminary questions raised by the TER team.**

1. **Get in Groups of 6 (3 tables)**
2. **Open Exercise in Excel “TER Hands on Exercise”**
3. **Review Materials:**

- ✓ The **chapter of the BTR** report for Saint Jahanas
- ✓ **CTF tables** relevant to the BTR chapter.
- ✓ A set of preliminary **questions** drafted by the simulated TER team.

4. **Discuss and** collaborate within your group to analyze the questions and craft appropriate responses.

5. **Draft Responses and Debrief to the Room**

Draft formal responses to each question on behalf of your "country."

6. **Bonus:** Identify at least 3 potential **Capacity Building Needs (CBNs)** as a result of the review.



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Questions:

Question 1 - Can the Party clarify the definition of "sales" of electric and hybrid vehicles? Does this entail number of vehicles entering the country for the first time (for dealership and individual owners), or does this represent the electric and hybrid vehicles on the road per year. Kindly clarify.

Question 2- The country noted in CTF 4 the progress made up to 2030 for all NDC indicators. Can the country confirm that the progress indicated for indicators 1 -3 for 2021, 2022, and 2023 were actual progress achieved, or are these projected values?

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Question 3 - The country reports the use of flexibility for estimating projections in CTF tables 7, 8, 9 and 10 however does not indicate the associated capacity constraint. Could the Party kindly clarify the associated capacity constraint?

Question 4 - Can the Party clarify if the reporting of NDC progress for the target year 2030 for all 3 indicators for the year 2030 in CTF 4 was done by means of projections? Kindly provide some clarification on how the to the values provided "target year 2030 " were estimated (noting that the year 2030 is in the future).

Lunch Break





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Energiser - Stand up if...

- You have ever been to a UNFCCC COP.
- Your home country has the same time zone as Grenada.
- You have already learned something new/useful at this workshop.
- You have tried Oil Down, Grenada's national dish.

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Energiser - Stand up if...

- You after today you are considering doing the Expert Reviewer Training.
- Your flight to Grenada has been delayed.
- You have already participated in the preparation of a national climate report to submit to the UNFCCC/PA.
- You already smiled today! 😊

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Partnership on Transparency
in the Paris Agreement



CBIT-GSP
CLIMATE TRANSPARENCY



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



Deep Dive into Transparency Topics (3 rounds)

- ETF Reporting Tools
- NDC Tracking of Progress
- GHG Inventory
- Adaptation
- Support (Fin/CB/TEC)
- NDC / BTR Linkages

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

United Kingdom



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Coffee Break



Participants' Journal

Reflection and planning for the day:

- What do I hope to take away from today's session?
- Which challenges or open questions would I like to address?

End of Day 2

See you tomorrow morning at 9am

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