

The Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme

Introduction to the Technical Expert Review (TER)

22 April 2025

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- Overview of the ETF process and scope of the TER
- TER for BTR1: review plans and formats
- Roles and expectations for the review process
- Mentimeter and Group Photo
- Becoming eligible experts
- Challenges encountered in recent TERs
- Summary of Today's discussions
- Q&A

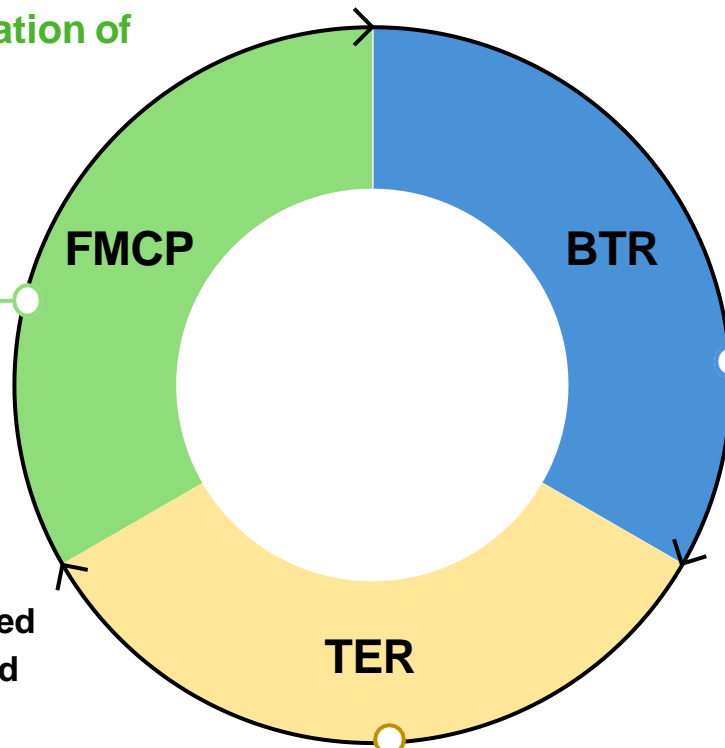


ETF process overview

Reporting, review and multilateral consideration

Facilitative Multilateral Consideration of Progress

- Online Q&A
- In session presentation and Q&A (*all shall*)



Biennial Transparency Report

- GHG inventory (*all shall*)
- Progress in NDCs (*all shall*)
- Support provided / mobilized (*developed shall*)
- Support needed / received (*developing should*)
- Adaptation (*all should*)
- Annex on REDD+ (*some*)

Technical Expert Review

- Consistency of information reported
- Consideration of progress with and achievement of NDC
- Support provided (*developed shall, and other Parties at their discretion*)
- Identification of improvements
- Identification of capacity building needs

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More on the scope of TER

147.

The technical expert review shall pay particular attention to the **respective national capabilities** and **circumstances** of developing country Parties.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR TER



148.

In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement, the technical expert review will be implemented in a **facilitative, non-intrusive, non-punitive manner, respectful of national sovereignty**, and will **avoid placing undue burden on Parties**.

Source: [Decision 18/CMA.1 annex, paras. 147–148](#)



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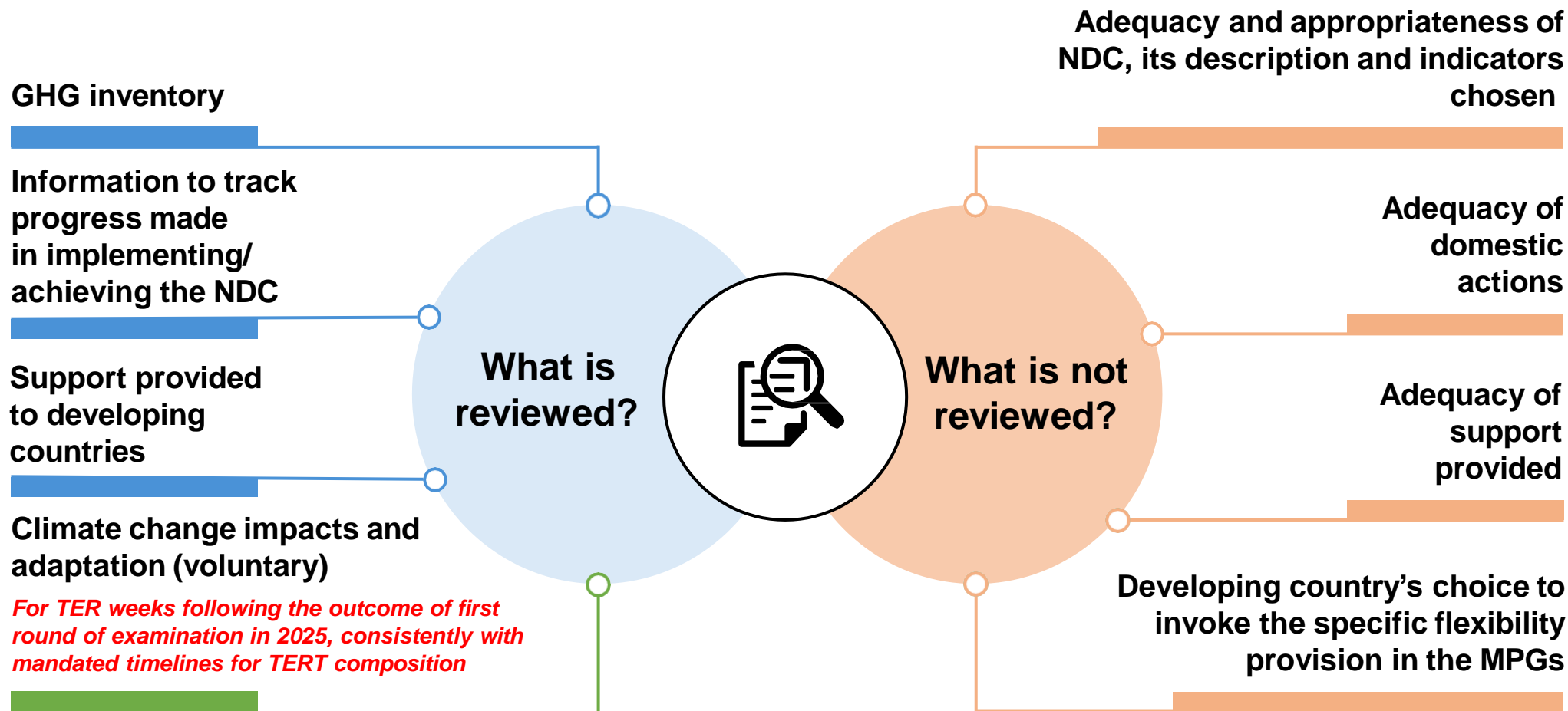
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Information to be reviewed



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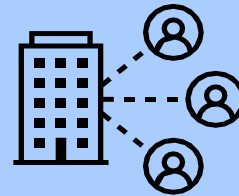
In-country review (ICR)



TERT visits a host country to conduct a review of the Party's submission, **interacts** with Party's experts in person and **observes** institutional arrangements firsthand.

A **Party** shall undergo an **in-country review** for BTR1 *MPGs para. 158(a)*

Centralized review (CR)



TERT **convenes in one location** and reviews the BTRs of **multiple Parties' submissions**, interacts with Party's experts **remotely**. For BTR1, **developing country Parties** that need it in the light of their capacities have the **flexibility** to choose to undergo a CR.

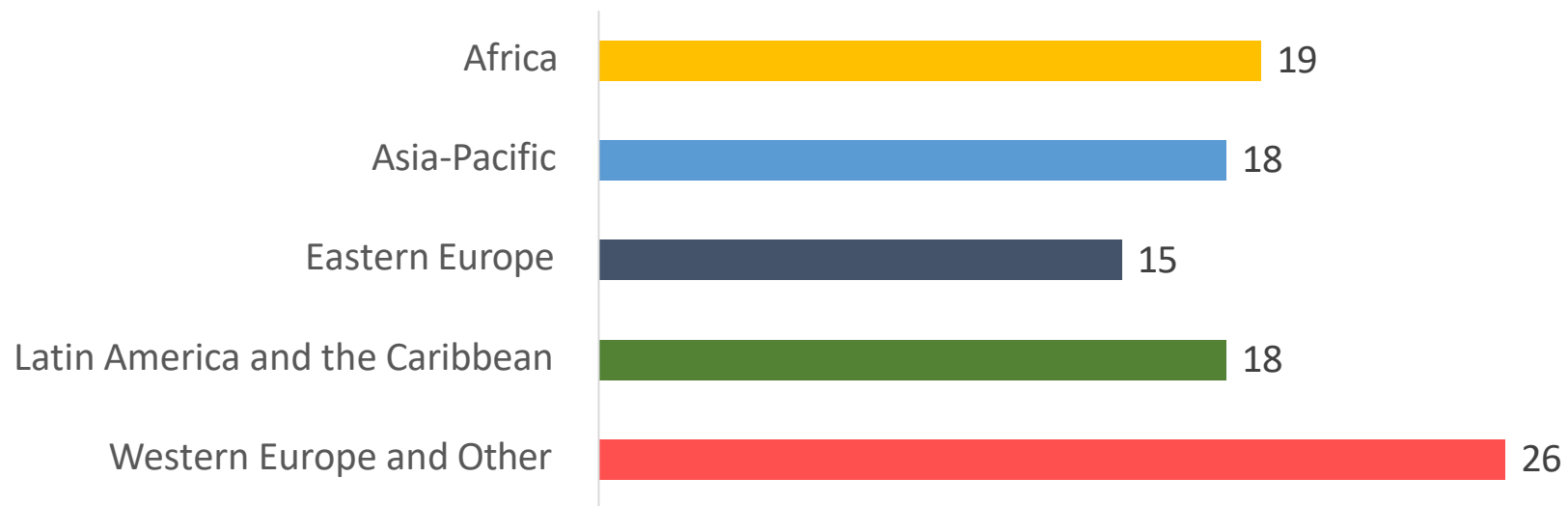
LDCs and SIDS may choose to participate in the same **CR as a group**
MPGs para. 157

Technical Expert Review (TER) Planning for 2025

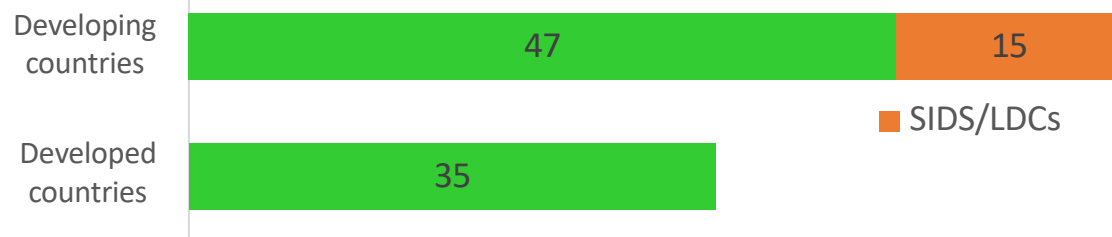
BTR1 submission status

88 Parties submitted by 31 Dec 2024 (97 as of 16 Mar 2025)

UN regions



Status (self defined by Parties)



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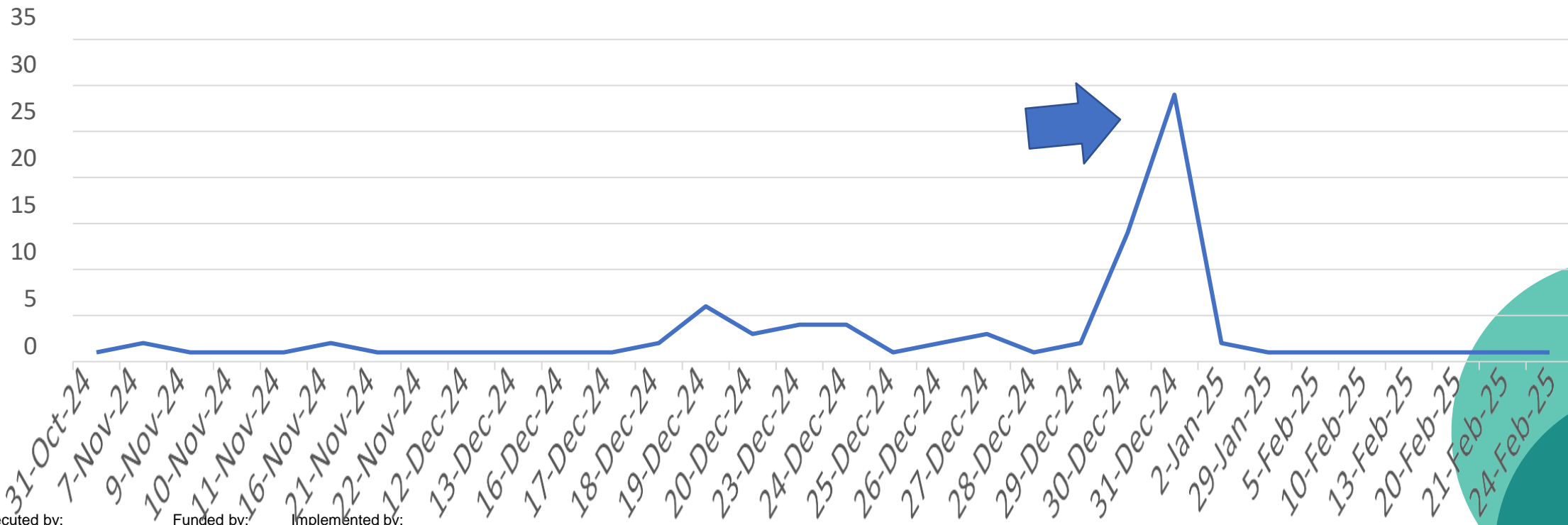
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Scheduling technical expert reviews

Principles for organising reviews

- First submitted, first reviewed basis for 50-60 TERs
- BTR submission surge 30-31 December 2024 (43 BTRs) – warranted additional principles

BTR submission dates (October 2024 - March 2025)



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2025 plan for technical expert reviews of BTR1

50-60 Parties scheduled/planned for review in 2025

Batch 1

February-March
2025

- 9 reviews
scheduled

Batch 2

April-May 2025

- 20 reviews
scheduled

Batch 3

September-
October 2025

- 20-30 reviews (8
scheduled, up to 22
TBC)

Principles for scheduling reviews:

- First submitted, first reviewed;
- Centralized reviews which may change the order of Parties going through reviews;
- BTRs with REDD+ annex.

Note

- *As of 16 March 2025, 5 developing country Parties used the flexibility provision to request a centralized review format, in the light of their capacities.*

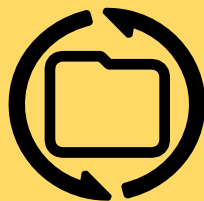
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Resubmission vs Additional information

Resubmission



- BTR/CTF/CRTs may be resubmitted by **8 weeks before the review week**
- Submissions later than 8 weeks before will be treated as **additional information provided during the review**.

The secretariat shall compose a TERT by 10 weeks before the review week

MPGs para. 162(b)

Response to TERT questions



- Party should provide requested information **within 2 to 3 weeks** (if flexibility is applied).
- TERT may make a request to the Party by the end of the review week (Friday).

TERT may request additional information **before/during review week** *MPGs para. 162(c)*

TERT composition process

Approach and principles for each batch

TERT availability

- **Survey issued** to all experts eligible to perform reviews under the ETF
- **Responses recorded and verified integrated** with information from the ROE/Training programme

TERT composition

- **Consideration of experts available for the specific week** of the Party's review
- **Assessment of potential conflicts of interest**
- **Mandated criteria for each TERT**

TERT invitation

- **Email to confirm expert's availability** for the assigned review/dates
- Upon confirmation, **issue of official invitation letter**

Process finalized 10 weeks ahead of TER week start



Roles and responsibilities

Party

- Cooperate and respond to questions of TER team
- Provide comments on the draft TER report

Lead reviewers

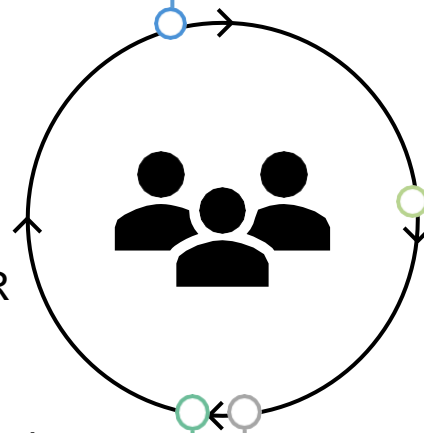
- Oversee the work of the TER team
- Ensure that TER adheres to MPGs
- Ensure the quality and objectivity of the TER and provide for the continuity, consistency across Parties and timeliness of the TER
- Communicate, monitor, coordinate review and preparation of TER report
- Give priority to issues raised in previous TER reports
- Provide technical advice to TER team
- Annually discuss how to improve the quality, efficiency and consistency of TER, and develop conclusions

Experts

- Nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts
- Complete the training programme
- Adhere to MPGs
- Participate in individual capacity
- Pay particular attention to national capabilities and circumstances

Secretariat

- Agree on date and format and logistic and admin arrangements with Party
- Compose TER team
- Facilitate communication
- Provide tools and templates to TER team
- Compile and edit TER report
- Facilitate annual LRs meetings



Expectations from Parties in TER (1/3)

TER phases (pre-review week)

In-country

Centralized

Pre- Agree with the secretariat on the date of the review at least 14 weeks prior to that date

X

X

Pre- Agree on format, as applicable. If in-country, coordinate with the secretariat to identify city/venue, and review admin/logistics and agenda

X

-

Pre- Participate in the preparatory call with the secretariat

X

X

Pre- Coordinate internally to respond to any questions from TERT, from 4 weeks prior to the review week, to answer all questions within 2 weeks or for developing countries that need flexibility in light their capacities within 3 weeks, of the request

X

X

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Expectations from Parties in TER (2/3)

TER phases (during-review week)	In-country	Centralized
During- Present to TERT on thematic areas included in the BTR on day 1 of the review week	X	-
During- Participate in meetings with TERT	In-person	Remote
During- Continue to respond to questions from TERT	X	X
During- Consider recommendations or encouragements received and/or work with TERT to identify capacity-building needs	X	X

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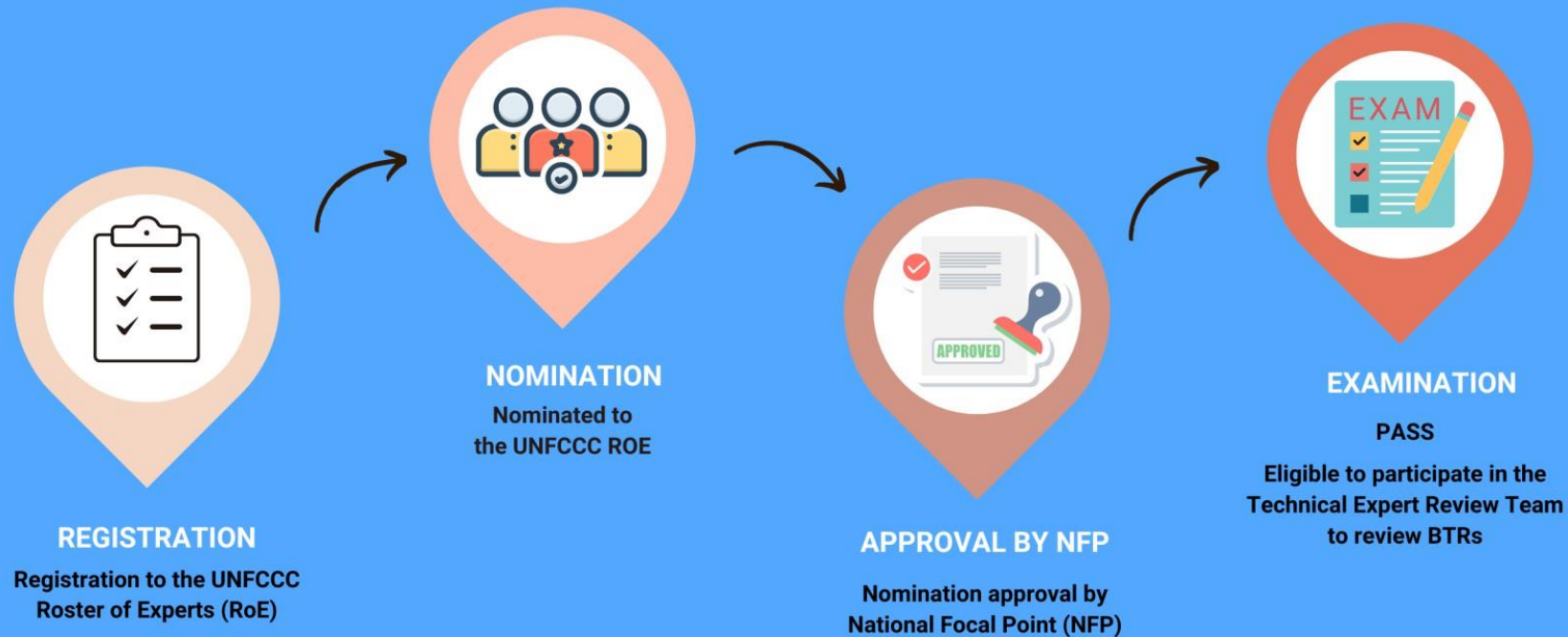
Expectations from Parties in TER (3/3)

TER phase (post-review week)	In-country	Centralized
Post- Answer any remaining questions from the review week within 2 weeks of receipt or 3 weeks for developing countries	X	X
Post- Provide comments within 1 month or for developing countries that need flexibility in light their capacities, within 3 months, from the receipt of the draft report	X	X
Post- Coordinate with the technical expert review team and/or the secretariat to finalize the report, as needed	X	X
Post- Incorporate the findings from the technical expert review report into a plan to be addressed in a future BTR	X	X
Post- Participate in facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress	X	X

Becoming an eligible member to participate in TERs

From registration to examination

Steps to become eligible as a member of the TER team



Note: The retake of the examination of the same course will be limited to TWO.



Structure of Training Programme

BTR Review Training Programme

A. General and cross-cutting aspects for the technical expert review under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement

B. Greenhouse Gas Inventory

C. Tracking Progress in Implementing and Achieving NDCs

D. Financial, technology development and transfer and capacity building support

E. Information on climate change impacts and adaptation reported under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement

All courses are accessible online with open access, downloadable material, self-paced, and include practical exercises



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BTR Training examination dates in 2025: Planned dates

4 periods in 2025

Examination periods (2025)	1st period	2nd period	3rd period	4th period
Registration periods	13–26 Jan	7–20 Apr	23 June–6 July	1–14 Sep
Q&A sessions	6 Feb	2 May	17 July	25 Sept
Examination dates	10–23 Feb	5–18 May	21 Jul–3 Aug	29 Sept–12 Oct

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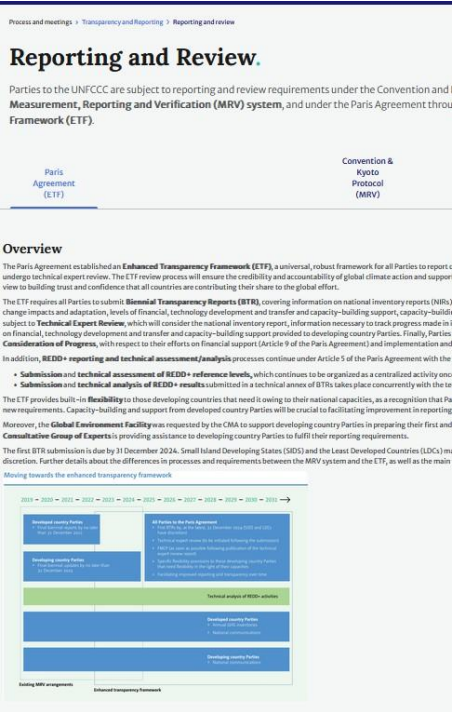
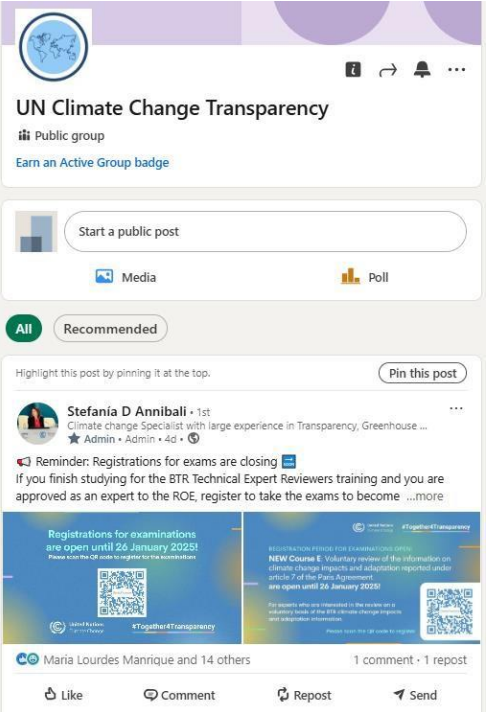
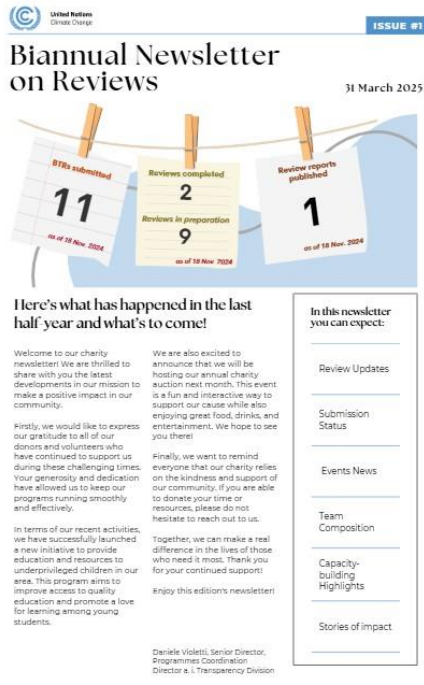
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- Uncertainty on availability of supplementary resources to perform additional reviews.
- Increasingly high rate of rejection from experts invited for review, especially by developed country Party experts (nearly 50% in some periods).
- Challenge in fulfilling mandated criteria for TERT composition balance (*language, gender, and geographical balance*).
- Uncertainty of (re) submissions-impacts the planning process
- Some submissions are not in CRT and CTF formats (electronic) – in particular, support received and needed.



BTR reviews - Communication and outreach



Biannual Newsletter –
Coming soon!

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13910606/>

<https://unfccc.int/reporting-and-review>

Webinars and events during SBs and COPs

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Guiding Questions for Lead Reviewer

- As Lead Reviewers who have overseen multiple BUR/NC/BTR reviews, what are the most **significant improvements** you've observed in country reporting compared to the previous reporting, and what areas still consistently require more attention?
- What are the **key strategies** you employ as Lead Reviewers to ensure **consistency** and coherence in findings and recommendations across a diverse TERT?
- From your vantage point, what are some of the most **effective approaches** countries have taken in responding to review questions and providing clarifications during the review week? What distinguishes a highly prepared country in this regard?
- Based on your cumulative experience reviewing BURs/NCs/BTRs from various countries and regions, what are the **1-2 overarching pieces of advice** you would give to all countries, regardless of their specific circumstances, to enhance their readiness for the technical expert review?
- How do you see the TER process contributing to the identification of **systemic capacity-building needs** at a regional or global level, beyond the specific recommendations for an individual country?

- Could you describe your country's **overall experience** preparing for the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) Technical Expert Review (TER)? What were the initial steps you took?
- How did your country **manage and respond to the questions** and findings raised by the Technical Expert Review Team?
- Could you share an example of a **specific technical area or issue** that was a significant focus during your review, and how your country addressed it?
- What were the **most valuable lessons learned** by your country from participating in the BTR Technical Expert Review?
- Based on your experience, what **key advice** would you offer to other countries in the Asia-Pacific region who are currently preparing for their first BTR technical expert review?



Guiding Questions for Reviewer - Singapore

- Could you share an overview of **your experience** during a typical BTR technical expert review cycle, from the initial assignment to the finalization of the review report?
- What were some of the most **common technical or methodological areas** where you found yourself requesting clarification or suggesting potential improvements during the reviews you participated in?
- What **strategies or approaches** did you find most effective in engaging with reviewed countries to ensure a constructive and facilitative review process, in line with the nature of the ETF? As a reviewer, what were some of the **key challenges** you faced?
- What have been your **most significant learnings** from reviewing BTRs from different countries, particularly in terms of diverse national circumstances, challenges, and innovative solutions in transparency?
- Based on your experience as a reviewer and potentially from your country's own experience with reporting, what is the **one key piece of advice** you would give to countries currently preparing for their first BTR technical expert review?

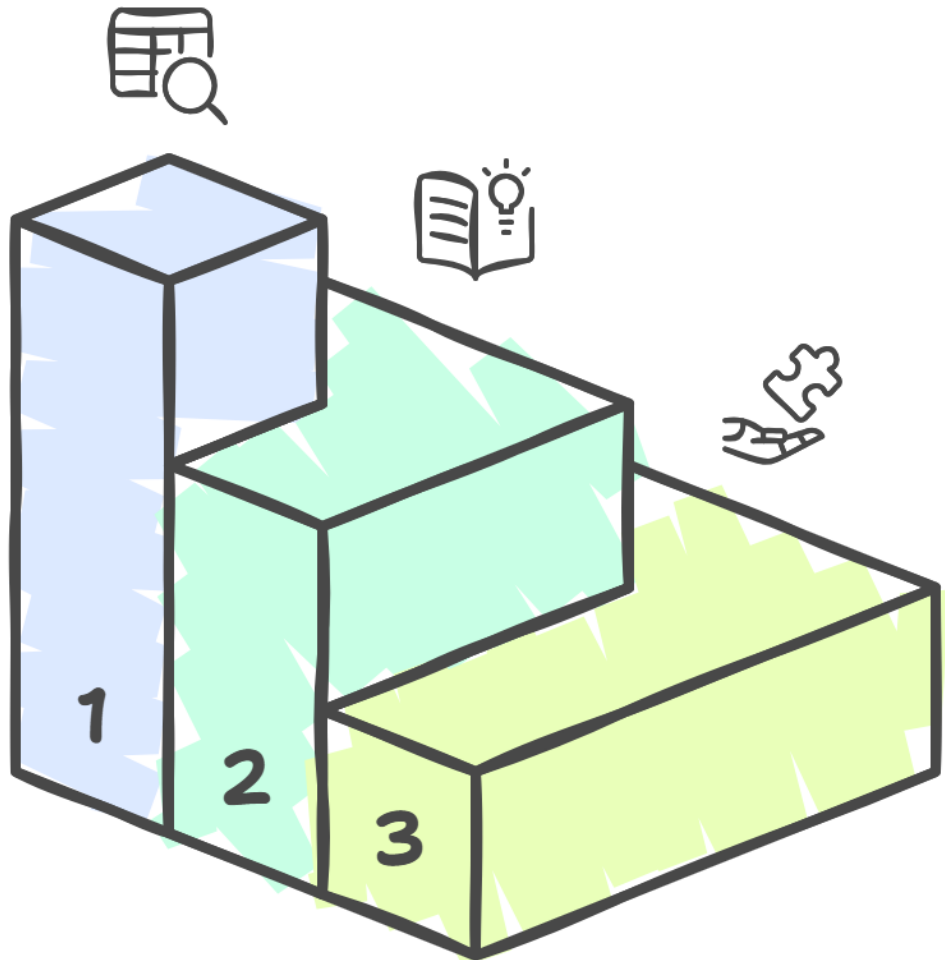
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Significant Improvements in Country Reporting

Achieving Enhanced Country Reporting



Enhanced Data Quality

Countries improve data accuracy and reliability.

Increased Transparency

Greater emphasis on transparency in reporting methodologies.

Alignment with Guidelines

Reports align with international standards for standardization.



Areas Requiring More Attention

Country Reporting
Challenges



Technical Difficulties



Stakeholder Engagement



Long-Term Planning



Systemic Issues

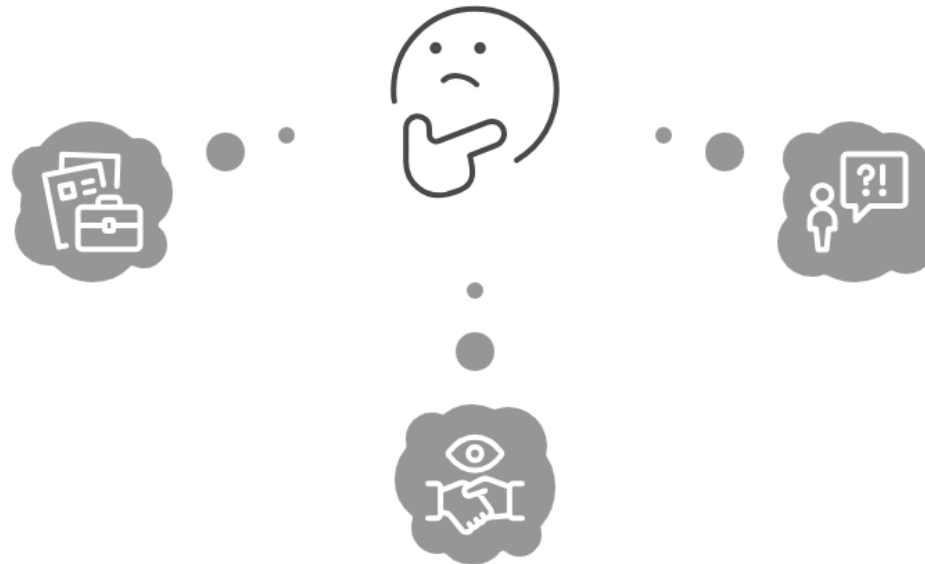


Key Strategies for Consistency

How to enhance country reporting
during review week?

Preparedness

Comprehensive documentation and clear responses lead to smoother reviews.



Proactive Clarifications

Providing additional context facilitates better understanding.

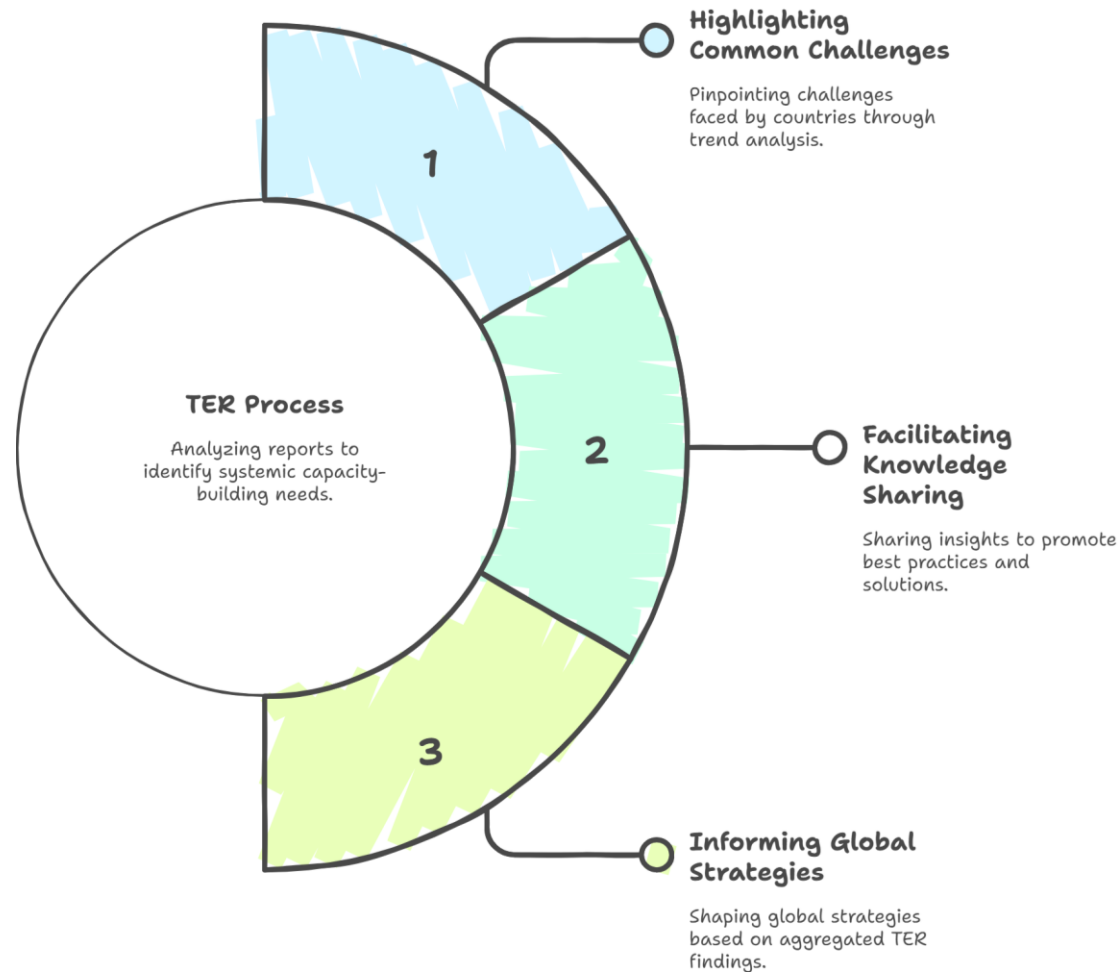
Engagement with Reviewers

Open dialogue improves the review experience and outcomes.



Contribution of the TER Process to Systemic Capacity-Building Needs

Unveiling the Impact of TER Process



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Please reach out to us for any question, comments or suggestions!



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