CBIT-GSP quality reviews

Self assessment, main findings and best practices

CBIT-GSP quality check opportunity

In 2024 the CBIT-GSP project set up a team of experts to offer countries a preliminary quality check review of the draft BTRs, in order to increase quality vefore the official submission to the UNFCCC:

- Full BTR draft document
- Single chapter draft (Invenotry, NDC tracking, Adaptation, Support Needed and received)
- CRT/CTF tables

Beside improving the quality of submission, it is important to notice that this quality check reviews are also a first simulation of a Technical Expert Review (TER), a process all Partys will undergo within few months from their submission.

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

Assessment tool – NDC tracking sample

Each MPG provision fulfillment gets classified as ”Yes”, ”Partial”, ”No” and ”NA”, and the reviewer adds relative comments and recommendations 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

Assessment tool – Inventory sample

An MPG checklist for assessing level of completeness of the information provided, with a column for recommedations.

27. Each Party **should** use surrogate data, extrapolation, interpolation and other methods consistent with splicing techniques contained in the IPCC guidelines referred to in paragraph 20 above to estimate missing emission values resulting from lack of activity data, emission factors or other parameters in order to ensure a consistent time series.	No	For the energy sector, data interpolation has been used to address data gaps. No information on how this data interpolation was carried out has been provided.
47. Each Party **shall** report estimates of emissions and removals for all categories, gases and carbon pools considered in the GHG inventory throughout the reported period on a gasby-gas basis in units of mass at the most disaggregated level, in accordance with the IPCC guidelines referred to in paragraph 20 above, using the common reporting tables, including a descriptive summary and figures underlying emission trends, with emissions by sources listed separately from removals by sinks, except in cases where it may be technically impossible to separate information on emissions and removals in the LULUCF sector, and noting that a minimum level of aggregation is needed to protect confidential business and military information.	Partial	There is limited sectoral discussion of results from the inventory. Only summary CRTs have been checked for 2022, as additional tables for the time series have not been provided.
21. Each Party **shall** use methods from the IPCC guidelines referred to in paragraph 20 above. Each Party **should** make every effort to use a recommended method (tier level) for key categories in accordance with those IPCC guidelines.	No	The country need to use higher tier for key categories.

Overview feedback

After the quality-check review the country receives back:

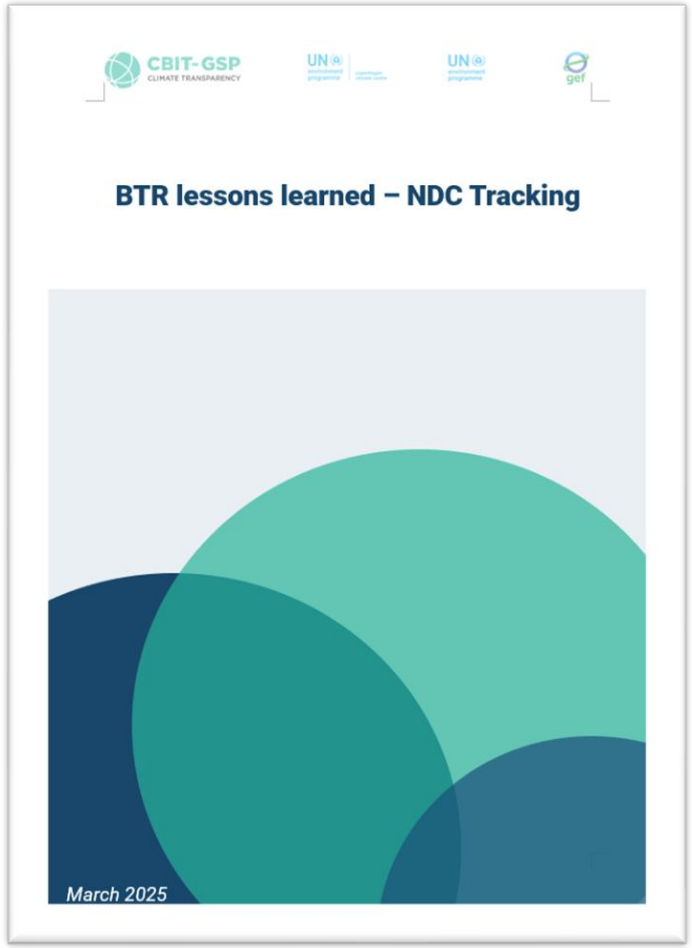
- Compiled MPG checklist with comments
- Textual draft with review comments
- Summary of general and technical findings

After analizing 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.I.1	There are areas where information has not be provided for the GHGI chapter of the BTR, additionally, the manner in which 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.I.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.I.2	It i by
T.I.3	Tir It i 20 Ad wh lin

Key	Recommendation	Relevant MPG
G.I.1	The structure and layout of the Chapter I: 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.I.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.I.2	should include a section within the report 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.I.3	Timeseries: Please provide clarity on the gaps in the timeseries.	

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 NA, NE, NO, IE, C and FX should always be justified/explained
- A measure status can be ”Planned/adopted/implemented” (there is no ”ongoing” or ”under implmentation”)

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 – GHG Inventory & NDC Tracking

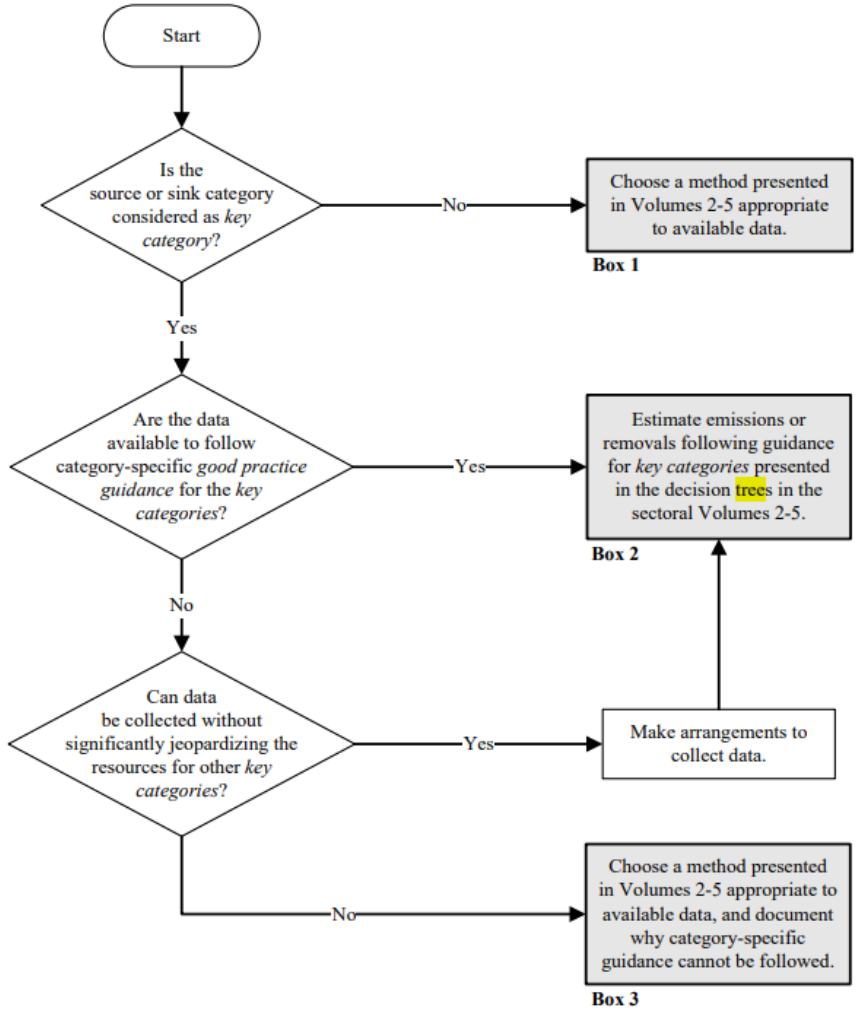
Some of the commonalities that have been selected for further analysis:

- Level of Tier approach used for identified Key Categories
- Time Series and Time Series consistency
- Indicator selection and definition for NDC tracking
- Reporting of mitigation measures and adaptation meaasures with co-mitigation benefits (CTF5)
- GHG projections

Level of Tier approach - Key Categories

While almost all countries conducted the key category analysis (for the categories that contributed 85% or 95% of total national emissions), Tier 1 approach was still largely used instead of the espected approaches Tier 2 and Tier 3, with brief or no detail on the Tier approach reasons and contraint.

When unable to use a higher Tier approach, the Party shall provide information on the capacity constraint or gap, and detail why the methodological choice was not in line with the IPCC decision tree. Additionally, plan and timeline to address the gap should also be provided.



Time Series consistency

Ideally reporting GHGI from 1990 to 2021, but flexibility can be applied.

Minimum requirements under flexibility:

- Reference year/period of the NDC
- Consistent annual time series from at least 2020 onwards
- Lastest inventory year can be 3 years prior to NIR submission

Example from submitted BTR

Sector	2018	2019	2020
Energy, Mt CO_2eq	266.5	241.4	271.9
IPPU, Mt CO_2eq	25.4	-	27.0
LULUCF, Mt CO_2eq	10.6	16.1	4.1
Agriculture, Mt CO_2eq	29.8	33.5	33.0
Waste, Mt CO_2eq	5.3	5.7	6.9

- The country NDC base year is 2015 -> missing information
- IPPU sector not reported for 2019 -> consistency issue
- The NIR was submitted 2024, which is more than 3 years from the last reported year -> 2021 should be reported

NDC tracking indicator selection

Multiple BTR drafts shared a incosistent selection of indicators ofr 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, sectorial and geographycal 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. policies

The same can be said for Adaptation measures with co-mitigation benefits. Parties often reported braod 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-sectorial measures with a clear mitigation impact that can be estimated in terms of equivalent CO2 emission reductions. For each measure, a clear methodology (including sectorial scope) should be defined and reported in textual format and where relevant in CTF table 3. Expected goals and estimated achieved progresses shuold 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 ($kt\ CO_2\ eq$)											
										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

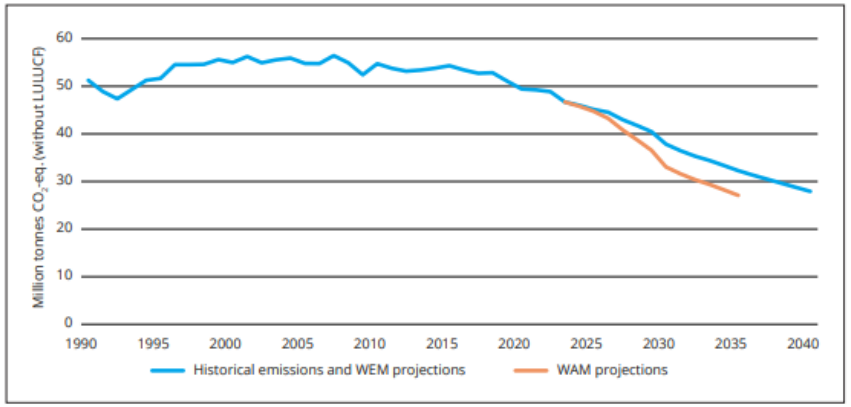
Projections

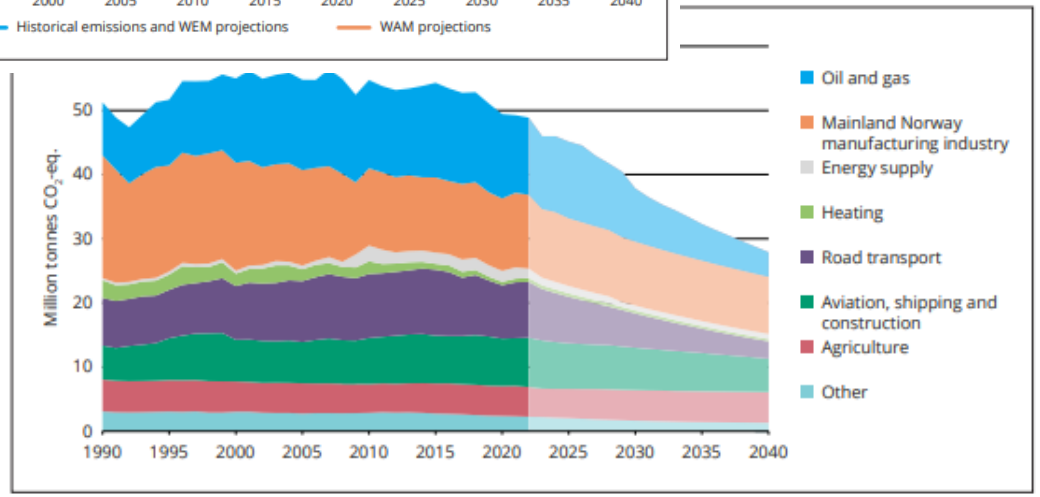
Very few countries included projections in their BTR and applied flexibility. But also those who did, often reported projections that were not aligned with the MPG provisions:

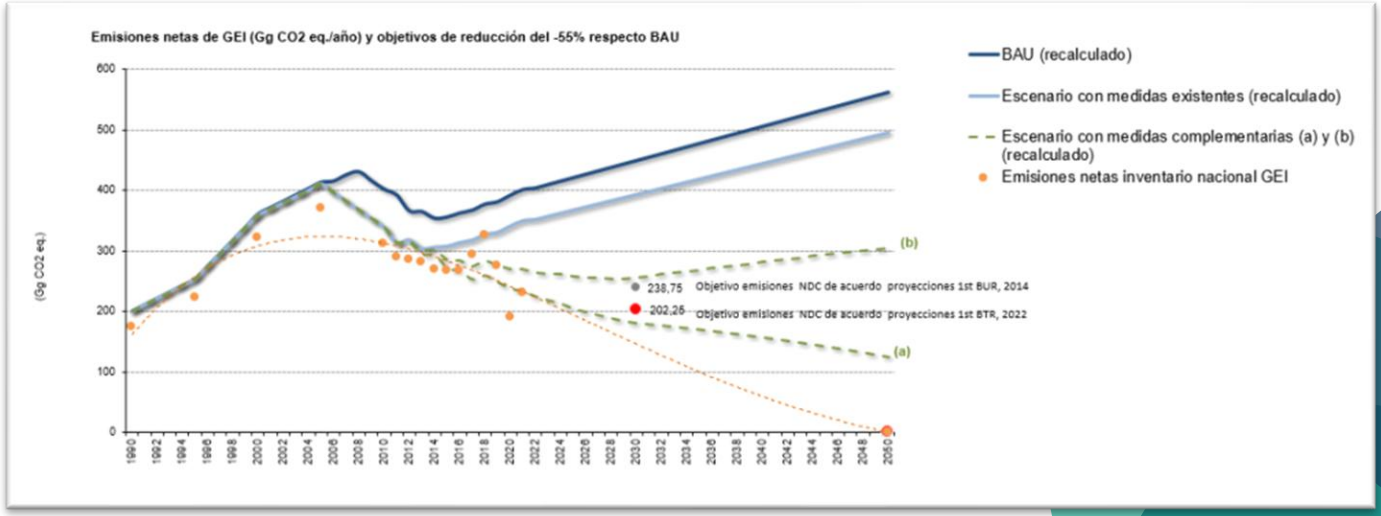
- Projections should be extended 15 years aftern the next year ending in 5 or 0 after the last NDC (e.g. NDC 2020/2024 -> projections up to 2040)
- Baseline scenarios used for measures/NDC goals is NOT the WEM scenario, but the WOM:
  - WEM = With Measures. Projection including all measures reported 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 CO_2 equivalents)







Thank you!