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Methodological issues under the Convention

Revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for

Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

Report on the workshop on issues relating to the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides a summary of the fourth workshop under the work programme of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to revise the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories” (UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines). The workshop was held on 8–10 November 2011 in Bonn, Germany. At the workshop, participants continued consideration of the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, prepared by the secretariat based on the recommendations made by the SBSTA at its thirty-fourth session. The workshop participants considered both the text of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines and the common reporting format (CRF) tables contained in the guidelines. The annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.11, will be considered by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirtieth session, agreed to launch a work programme to revise the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories” (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines), including the common reporting format (CRF) tables, with a view to recommending the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines for adoption by the Conference of the Parties (COP), for regular use starting in 2015.¹

2. The SBSTA, at its thirty-second session, agreed on the process and timeline of the work programme mentioned in paragraph 1 above. It requested the secretariat to prepare, taking into account all options included in Parties’ submissions² and further guidance provided by the SBSTA at its thirty-third session, an annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables.³

3. At its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions, the SBSTA requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to organize a fourth workshop under the work programme, to be held in the second half of 2011. It agreed that participants should continue to address the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines.⁴ It further requested the secretariat to prepare a new version of the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, based on the outcomes of its thirty-fourth session, and make it available in due time for the fourth workshop.⁵

B. Scope of the note

4. This document covers the proceedings of and discussions during the workshop. The main outcome of the workshop is the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.11.

II. Proceedings of the workshop

5. The fourth workshop under the work programme was organized by the secretariat and was held in Bonn, Germany, on 8–10 November 2011. Mr. Mama Konaté, the Chair of the SBSTA, opened the workshop. The workshop was chaired by Ms. Helen Plume (New Zealand).

6. The workshop covered the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, which the secretariat had prepared for the fourth workshop on the basis of the recommendations made by the SBSTA at its thirty-fourth session.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, paragraph 101.

² Parties’ submissions are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.7 and Add.1–3.

³ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/6, paragraph 72.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/13, paragraph 76, and FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraph 78.

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraph 79.

7. Ten experts from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), 44 experts from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) and two representatives of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) attended the workshop.

8. The workshop was divided into four parts. In the first part the workshop chair presented the mandate and objectives of the workshop and the secretariat reminded the participants of the SBSTA work programme to revise the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines and its timelines, and also briefly introduced the documents prepared for the workshop. The second part covered the draft text of the guidelines. The third part covered the CRF tables, where the participants split up into two groups. One group addressed the CRF tables for the energy, industrial processes and product use (IPPU), and waste sectors, while a second group addressed the CRF tables for the agriculture and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors. All participants jointly discussed the summary and cross-sectoral tables. In the final part of the workshop the facilitators of the two groups addressing the CRF tables presented the outcome of the work of the respective groups; the agreed changes have been included in the revised CRF tables, together with the discussed changes to the text, in the revised annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.11, which will be considered by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session. The workshop chair emphasized the need to advance work on the text and the CRF tables as much as possible during the workshop, since, in accordance with the SBSTA work programme, the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session should adopt a draft decision for adoption by the COP at its seventeenth session on the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines.

III. Summary of discussions

9. This chapter provides a summary of the main points of the discussions during the workshop. The main outcome of the workshop is the annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.11.

A. Issues related to changes to the text of the guidelines

10. The workshop participants, under the guidance of the chair, considered the text of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines paragraph by paragraph. The chair made it clear that the following accounting issues would not be discussed during the workshop: total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, especially in relation to indirect carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions; global warming potentials; and rules for accounting of LULUCF emissions and removals and related issues. She emphasized that the focus should be on methodological issues, principles and definitions contained in the guidelines and the suggested revisions of the particular paragraphs. The accounting issues will be discussed once decisions have been taken on them in other forums under the Convention. During the discussions, participants agreed on deleting or merging various options for the text.

11. One participant suggested that an additional annex be included in the suggested outline of the national inventory report included in the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines. The annex would cover actions by Annex I Parties to minimize the adverse impacts of response measures on non-Annex I Parties.

12. Some participants opposed the inclusion of the new annex referred to in paragraph 11 above. They stated that the suggested additional annex is outside the scope of the agreed work programme for the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, and expressed the view that, as the work programme concerns the revision of the GHG

inventory reporting requirements for Annex I Parties under the Convention, the issue should be discussed in other processes under the Convention.

B. Issues related to changes to the common reporting format tables

13. Workshop participants discussed the CRF tables in two groups: one group focused on the energy, IPPU and waste sectors, while the other focused on the agriculture and LULUCF sectors. The summary and cross-sectoral tables were covered in a joint meeting.

14. The participants discussed changes to the organization of the CRF tables and each table individually. In some cases where different options were presented for one table, participants expressed their preferences on which option to keep or suggested merging the options. They also discussed the suggested modifications to the tables and disaggregation of categories, subcategories, fuels, animal species and other parameters, and agreed on the level of disaggregation for some tables. Most of the suggestions from the participants have been kept for further discussion and only minor changes to the CRF tables were agreed and introduced in the revised CRF tables. Suggested revisions of the tables are included in the revised tables contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.11.

15. The group discussing the energy, IPPU and waste sectors finalized the structure of the revised CRF tables, incorporating only very minor changes, and focused on the footnotes to the tables. The group considered it important that Annex I Parties use the same units when reporting activity data and other inventory parameters in a specific category. The participants agreed that the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (2006 IPCC Guidelines) should be the reference for deciding which units should be used when reporting a specific category.

16. The SBSTA, at its thirty-third session, concluded⁶ that the current agriculture and LULUCF sectors should continue to be reported separately in the future, as in the current UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines. Therefore, the group focusing on the agriculture and LULUCF sectors continued discussions of earlier workshops on the mapping of the combined agriculture, forestry and other land use sector, as included in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and the agriculture and LULUCF sectors. It agreed that carbon dioxide emissions from liming should be reported under the agriculture sector. Some changes and additions to the proposed category split across the agriculture and LULUCF sectors were suggested. The group also considered the suggested new tables for the agriculture and LULUCF sectors and the suggested modifications to and options for the current CRF tables and agreed on many of them, including some changes in the data to be reported and the footnotes to the tables. The group reaffirmed the conclusion of the second workshop⁷ that changes to the CRF tables and structure should be minimized to the extent possible.

17. Participants agreed that the cross-sectoral and summary tables should be updated by reflecting changes that have been made in the sectoral tables.

IV. Outcome of the workshop

18. The outcome of the workshop is the revised annotated draft of the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the CRF tables, which is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.11.

⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/13, paragraph 74.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.10, paragraph 42.