



## Activiteiten van het Roster of Experts

Verslag van het permanent secretariaat van de Nationale Klimaatcommissie

Oktober 2023

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## Context - Waarom dit verslag?

Tijdens de vergadering van de NKC van 22 december 2022 heeft de NKC, als onderdeel van de goedkeuring van haar jaarprogramma en -begroting, het volgende besloten: "Het permanent secretariaat zorgt te gepasten tijde voor terugkoppeling naar de leden van de NKC over de activiteiten van het Roster of Experts." Dit is bijgevolg de doelstelling van dit verslag.

## Historiek

Het Roster of Experts (RoE) van het UNFCCC<sup>1</sup> is een expertgroep waarvan de leden door de regeringen van de Partijen bij het UNFCCC worden aangesteld om een bijdrage te leveren aan een aantal processen die door de hulporganen van het UNFCCC zijn gemandateerd.

In België coördineert en actualiseert het permanent secretariaat (PS) van de NKC de lijst van Belgische experts voor het Roster of Experts (RoE) van het UNFCCC. De coördinatie van de Belgische deelname aan de activiteiten van het UNFCCC Roster of Experts werd aan het PS toevertrouwd door de NKC van 12 januari 2005, die een lijst met de diverse opdrachten van het PS opstelde.

In haar besluit van 11 oktober 2006 heeft de NKC bepaald dat de deelname van experts van ngo's en wetenschappelijke instellingen aan de activiteiten van het RoE vanaf het begrotingsjaar 2007 ten laste komt van de jaarlijkse begroting van het permanent secretariaat. Na de invoering van de thesaurierekening van de NKC werd de praktische regeling herzien en heeft de NKC op 9 november 2010 de [instructies](#) gevalideerd die zijn opgesteld voor verzoeken om buitenlandse opdrachten in het kader van het *UNFCCC Roster of Experts*.

Op de website van de NKC werd voor de Belgische experts een specifieke pagina aangemaakt voor het aanvragen van deze opdrachten bij het permanent secretariaat van de NKC: [Roster of experts - info voor nationale experts \(cnc-nkc.be\)](#)<sup>2</sup>

Elk jaar geeft het activiteitenverslag van de NKC een overzicht van de opdrachten die de Belgische experts van het RoE hebben uitgevoerd. Ook de deelname aan diverse reviews kreeg een specifieke pagina op de website van de NKC: [Zendingen van aangeduide Belgische experts | Nationale Klimaatcommissie \(cnc-nkc.be\)](#).

Hoewel de experts op persoonlijke titel worden benoemd en dus niet namens hun werkgever, hebben zij vaak een akkoord met deze laatste. Onder die voorwaarden komen de door de NKC betaalde vergoedingen toe aan de werkgevers als een vorm van compensatie, aangezien zij hun personeel beschikbaar stellen om de reviews uit te voeren. Hoewel het bedrag van deze vergoeding, dat sinds de invoering ervan niet is veranderd noch geïndexeerd, door hen als vrij laag wordt beschouwd, helpt het hen toch om een gunstige positie te verwerven voor het binnenhalen van bepaalde opdrachten waarbij hun knowhow en expertise goed van pas komen. Bepaalde experts voeren hun taken echter uitsluitend voor eigen rekening uit.

## Benoeming

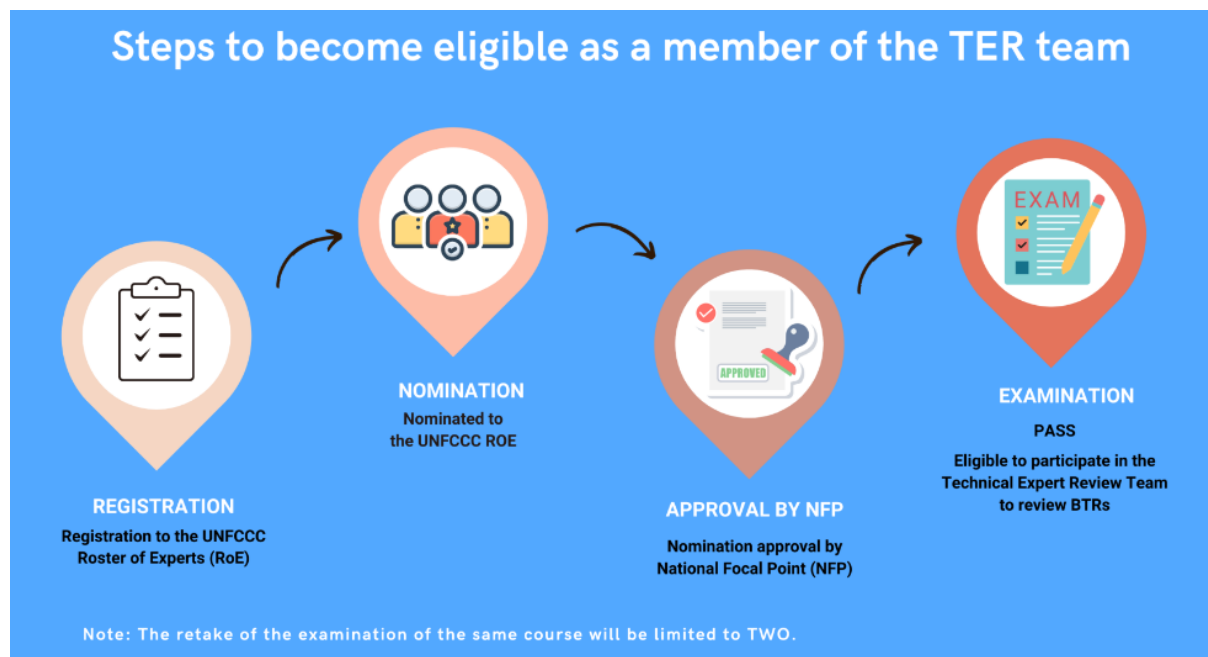
De kandidatuur van nieuwe experts voor het *roster* wordt ter goedkeuring voorgelegd aan de leden van de NKC. Zodra ze werd gevalideerd, deelt het PS dit mee aan het *National Focal Point* of aan de *Roster custodian* voor België die het secretariaat van het UNFCCC op de hoogte brengt. Voordat

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<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC – *United Nations Framework Convention on climate Change* (Raamverdrag van de Verenigde Naties inzake Klimaatverandering)

<sup>2</sup> Deze pagina is niet toegankelijk via het hoofdmenu van de website omdat deze niet bedoeld is voor het algemene publiek.

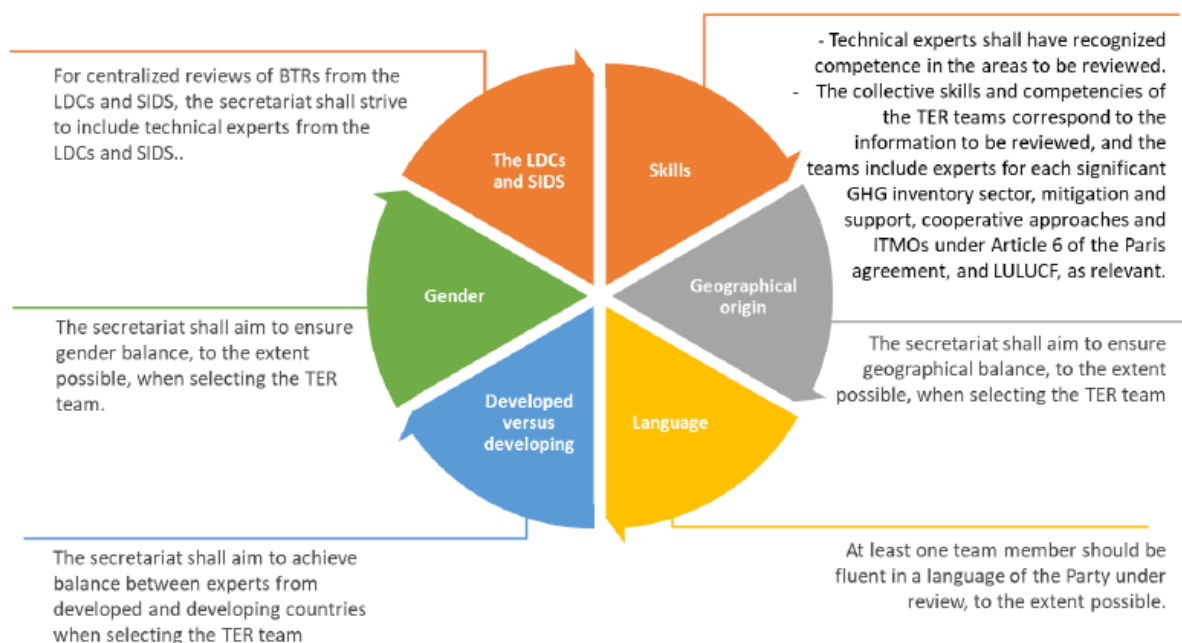
experts kunnen deelnemen aan een review, moeten zij een aantal opleidingsmodules volgen en deelnemen aan de examens ter validatie van deze modules.



Bron: UNFCCC

Het secretariaat van het UNFCCC stelt teams samen voor elke review. Om dit te doen, probeert het rekening te houden met een aantal factoren zoals expertise, de taal van het beoordeelde land, het evenwicht tussen mannen/vrouwen en verschillende geografische criteria: zie onderstaande grafiek.

Figure 3.2 Criteria for composing a TER team



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

Pas na toetsing aan deze criteria is een expert ontvankelijk om formeel te worden uitgenodigd voor een review.

## Opleiding

### Programma t/m 2023

Afhankelijk van het type review en de omvang van het expertisedomein moeten experts een variabel aantal opleidingsmodules volgen. De generieke cursus is voor iedereen verplicht. Sinds 2015 vinden de opleidingsessies online plaats.

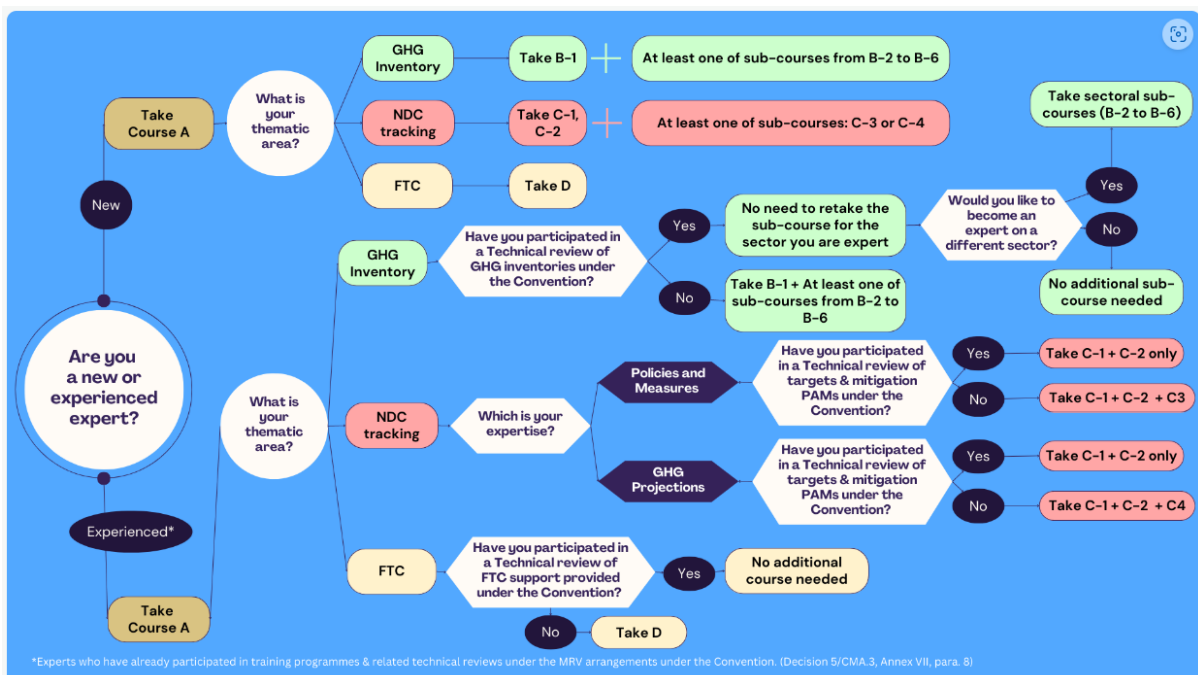
Tot nu toe werden de opleidingsprogramma's verdeeld volgens reviewers voor:

- ingediende info door ontwikkelde landen (*technical review of Biennial Reports and National Communications / technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention/ annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol*): <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/training-of-review-experts/training-programmes-for-the-review-of-information-submitted-by-annex-i-parties>
- ingediende info door ontwikkelingslanden (*technical analysis of Biennial Update Reports*): <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/training-programmes-for-experts/training-programmes-for-experts/training-for-the-technical-analysis-of-biennial-update-reports>

Met de inwerkingtreding van de Overeenkomst van Parijs zijn de voorwaarden enigszins aangepast om aan te sluiten bij het *Enhanced Transparency Framework* of ETF.

### Programma voor technische experts voor BTR (*biennial transparency reports*)

Na de invoering van het ETF zijn de verschillende opleidingsmodules herzien. Het is echter de bedoeling om de verplichting om de diverse cursussen te volgen, aan te passen volgens de verworven ervaring van de benoemde experts.

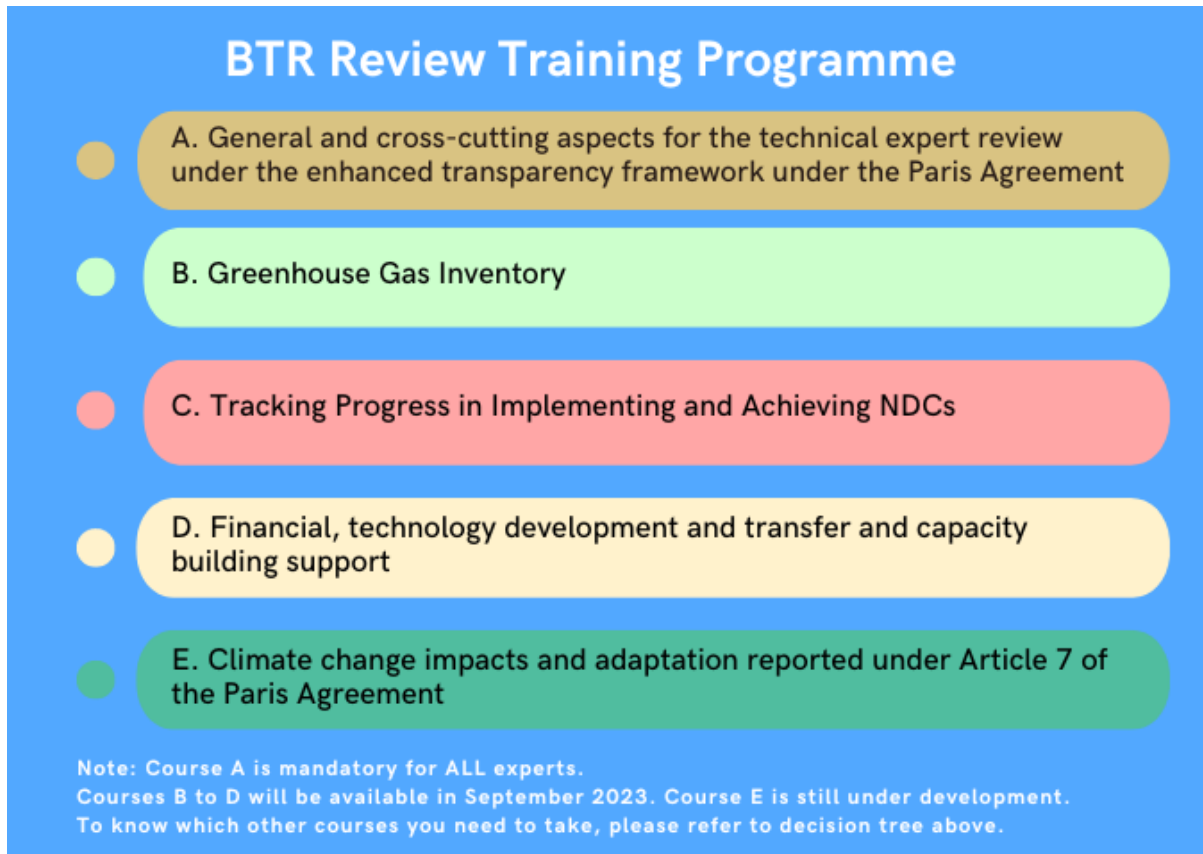


\*Experts who have already participated in training programmes & related technical reviews under the MRV arrangements under the Convention. (Decision 5/CMA.3, Annex VII, para. 6)

Bron: UNFCCC

Nieuw is dat deel A voortaan voor iedereen toegankelijk is (maar dat enkel benoemde experts het examens kunnen afleggen, met een frequentie van 3 sessies per jaar): [Course A: General and cross-cutting aspects for the technical expert review under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement | UNFCCC](#)

Naast cursus A worden de volgende cursussen aangeboden in de [Training programmes for expert reviewers | UNFCCC](#):



The graphic is a blue rectangular box with the title "BTR Review Training Programme" in white text at the top. Below the title are five colored rounded rectangles, each containing a course title. From top to bottom: a yellow rectangle with a yellow circle, a light green rectangle with a light green circle, a pink rectangle with a pink circle, a light yellow rectangle with a light yellow circle, and a green rectangle with a green circle. At the bottom of the box, there is a white note.

**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. Climate change impacts and adaptation reported under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement

Note: Course A is mandatory for ALL experts.  
Courses B to D will be available in September 2023. Course E is still under development.  
To know which other courses you need to take, please refer to decision tree above.

Bron: UNFCCC

- Cursus B: [Course B: Greenhouse Gas Inventory | UNFCCC](#) opgedeeld in 6 submodules van verschillende lessen elk (6 à 9, afhankelijk van het onderwerp).
- Cursus C: [Course C: Tracking Progress in Implementing and Achieving NDCs | UNFCCC](#) opgedeeld in 4 submodules
- Cursus D vier lessen: [Course D: Financial, technology development and transfer and capacity building support | UNFCCC](#)
- Cursus E: nog geen info beschikbaar: wordt nog uitgewerkt

Cursus A is nu al beschikbaar, de andere cursussen pas vanaf september 2023.

👍 Eén van onze lead reviewers (Koen Smekens) heeft actief deelgenomen aan de uitwerking van de nieuwe cursussen.

Per module wordt een attest uitgereikt aan wie het examen met goed gevolg heeft afgelegd.

### Soorten reviews

Tot nu toe zijn er drie soorten reviews:

- *In-country review*: de experts van het RoE gaan op verplaatsing naar het betrokken land om er een grondige review uit te voeren. Ze staan in rechtstreeks contact met nationale experts om hen al hun vragen te kunnen stellen.
- *Centralized review*: er worden meerdere landen tegelijk (3-4) gereviewd. De review is dus oppervlakkig en er is enkel schriftelijk contact met de nationale experts. Dit vindt plaats in Bonn op de campus van het secretariaat van het UNFCCC.
- *Desk review*: hiervoor verplaatsen de experts van het RoE zich niet, ze blijven in hun eigen land. Ook hier verloopt het contact met de nationale experts schriftelijk. Het contact tussen de experts van het RoE gebeurt ook op afstand. Dit is een vrij recente oplossing en ze werd veel gebruikt tijdens de coronacrisis om de reviews te kunnen blijven uitvoeren ondanks de lockdowns. Deze manier van werken maakt het mogelijk om de experts van het RoE vlotter en goedkoper te mobiliseren, maar het is ook een uitdaging voor de junior experts omdat ze minder gelegenheid hebben om ervaringen uit te wisselen met de senior experts. Het betekent ook dat experts moeten beschikken over aangepaste technologie voor videoconferenties en een voldoende stabiel computernetwerk, wat niet altijd gemakkelijk is voor experts uit bepaalde minder bevoorrechte landen.

### Verloop van de reviews

Het reviewwerk is niet beperkt tot de duur van de reviewweek zelf, integendeel. De experts moeten de nationale rapporten van tevoren lezen en hun eerste vragen schriftelijk stellen via een platform waarmee alle uitwisselingen kunnen worden gevolgd. Ze krijgen ook een evaluatieschema om te controleren of alle relevante elementen aan de richtlijnen voldoen. Deze voorbereidingstijd wordt door het secretariaat geschat op 4 tot 7 werkdagen.

Tijdens de reviewweek (5 dagen) wordt er intensief en uitsluitend gewerkt aan het uitdiepen van de verschillende vragen of problemen om een antwoord te vinden. Van nationale experts wordt verwacht dat ze zich beschikbaar stellen om onverwijld alle nodige uitleg te geven en vragen van reviewers te beantwoorden.

Aan het einde van de reviewweek delen de experts hun conclusies en schrijven ze hun rapport. Ze kunnen ook nog enkele vragen om verduidelijking stellen na de review, als dat nodig is. Daarvoor wordt de werktijd geschat op 1 tot 2 dagen.

De beoordeelde landen worden gevraagd om het ontwerp van reviewrapport na te lezen en eventueel te becommentariëren totdat een definitieve versie wordt goedgekeurd.

Het volledige rapport ondergaat een kwaliteitscontrole voorafgaand aan de publicatie.

De review loopt officieel ten einde op het moment van de publicatie van het reviewrapport op de website van het UNFCCC.

Elk reviewteam heeft een vertegenwoordiger van het secretariaat van het UNFCCC als teamlid. Zo kan een bepaalde uniformiteit worden behouden en een gelijke behandeling worden gegarandeerd onder de gereviewde deelnemende landen.

De honorariumaanvragen van Belgische experts weerspiegelen het theoretische aantal werkdagen, maar om zoveel mogelijk opdrachten te kunnen uitvoeren, is dit aantal dagen informeel beperkt tot een maximum van 12 dagen per expert.

De vraag in termen van het aantal jaarlijkse opdrachten zal de komende jaren toenemen in het kader van de ERT's (Expert Review Teams) (zie bijlage 1), waardoor het budget voor de bijbehorende

honoraria waarschijnlijk zal moeten worden verhoogd om de aanwezigheid van experts bij de verschillende review-activiteiten te handhaven.

### Lead reviewers expert meeting

Elk jaar worden vergaderingen van de [lead reviewers](#) georganiseerd ([één](#) voor de communications en tweejaarlijkse rapporten en [één](#) voor de inventarissen). Die vergaderingen bieden de gelegenheid om het verloop van de verschillende reviews, ervaringen van de betrokkenen en terugkerende problemen te bespreken, en die samen te brengen in conclusies en aanbevelingen. Op een van die vergaderingen wordt ook het evolutief document [Review Practice Guidance](#) bijgewerkt. Dit is een gids voor goede praktijken die helpt om de consistentie van reviewrapporten van de ene cyclus naar de volgende te verbeteren.

Elk jaar stuurt België een van zijn *lead reviewers* naar deze vergaderingen.

### Belgische leden van het RoE

Op 05/09/2023 telde België 15 experts. Hun namen zijn terug te vinden in de lijst die beschikbaar is op [Roster of Experts – Nominated experts \(unfccc.int\)](#). Het betreft zowel junior als senior experts. Sinds kort geeft de website naast het specifieke expertisedomein ook het aantal deelnames aan reviews weer.

Naam	Werkgever	Datum benoeming:	Aantal deelnames
Koen Smekens	Op persoonlijke titel	<2009	24 - Lead reviewer
Pepa Lopez	Gauss	<2009	24 - Lead reviewer
Ils Moorkens	VITO	<2009	5
Yves Marenne	ICEDD	<2009	3
Kaatje Jaspers	VEKA <sup>3</sup>	19/10/2011	6
Inge Jonckheere	FAO of the UN	13/09/2011	9
Esther Mertens	Op persoonlijke titel	31/05/2013	14 - Lead reviewer
Tom Dauwe	VITO	10/2013	4
Marco Orsini	ICEDD	16/02/2016	3 - Lead reviewer
Danae Maniatis	Op persoonlijke titel	01/07/2016	0
Camille Reyniers	FOD VVVL <sup>4</sup>	08/05/2020	1
Carlos Guerrero Lucendo	VITO	10/02/2021	0
Maarten Pelgrims	VITO	10/02/2021	0
Kelsey van Maris	VITO	10/02/2021	0
Annabel Vella	VITO	16/06/2023	0

De inschrijvingen voor opleidingen van junior experts lopen achter, omdat ze wisten dat ze hun examens mogelijk opnieuw zouden moeten afleggen om te kunnen toetreden tot het nieuwe systeem onder de Overeenkomst van Parijs.

Met 4 *lead reviewers* in zijn gelederen is België gerenommeerd om zijn expertise.

Belgische experts zijn vertegenwoordigd in alle soorten reviews. Wat broeikasgasinventarissen betreft, zijn ze over het algemeen ook aanwezig in alle sectoren.

<sup>3</sup> Nu een overheidsexpert, niet langer gesubsidieerd door de NKC (voorheen in dienst van het VITO)

<sup>4</sup> Overheidsexpert, daarom niet gesubsidieerd door de KNC



	Expert is nominated for the following task(s):										Specific areas of expertise in GHG inventory					
	A. Technical review of GHG inventories and other annual information reported by Annex I Parties	B. In-depth review of Annex I Parties national communications	C. Review of biennial reports of developed country Parties	D. Matters related to non-Annex I Parties national communications	E. Technical analysis of biennial update reports from non-Annex I Parties	F. Review of methodologies and tools to assess impacts and adaptation	G. Review of information related to technologies, financial resources, development and transfer of technologies	H. Review of reports on systematic observation	I. Technical assessment of proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels for the implementation of the REDD-plus activities (decision 1/CP.16, para 70)	Technical expert review under the Paris Agreement <sup>5</sup>	Energy	Industrial Processes and Solvents and Other Product Use	Agriculture	Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry	Waste	International Bunker fuels
Kaatje Jaspers	X														X	
Inge GC Jonckheere	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					X		
Maria Jose Lopez	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X		X	X
Yves Marenne	X										X	X				
Esther Mertens	X		X	X	X				X				X	X		
Ils Moorkens	X											X				
Koen EL Smekens	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X				X
Tom Dauwe		X	X	X	X						-	-	-	-	-	-
Marco Orsini	X	X	X		X						X					
Danae Manianis	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X			X			
Camille Reyniers				X	X	X			X		-	-	-	-	-	-
Carlos Guerrero	X			X	X						X		X		X	
Maarten Pelgrims	X			X	X						X		X		X	
Kelsey van Maris		X	X								-	-	-	-	-	-
Annabel Vella		X								X	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>5</sup> De profielen van de experts zijn nog niet aangepast, aangezien deze categorie nieuw is.

## Verzoek om meer RoE-personeel

De implementatie van het ETF leidt tot een grotere vraag naar experts. Het UNFCCC-secretariaat stuurt regelmatig verzoeken (zie bijlage 1).

Op 27/07/2023 maakt de website melding van 3.300 experts, met een gemiddelde van 17 experts per land (voor 191 landen).

Deze cijfers zijn echter zeer relatief. Veel van de aangestelde experts hebben immers nog nooit een review uitgevoerd (hoewel dit natuurlijk normaal is voor experts die net zijn aangesteld in het kader van het ETF). Op dit moment was slechts 808 van hen (een kwart) daadwerkelijk actief, een gemiddelde van 13 experts per land. Daarom is het zo belangrijk dat het secretariaat een betrouwbare lijst heeft. Van de 466 benoemde Europese experts zijn er 214 actief.

Om het werk van de experts te promoten en hen meer zichtbaarheid te geven, heeft het secretariaat een nieuwe pagina op zijn website aan hen gewijd: [Celebrating Technical Experts - UNFCCC](#).

## Middelen: evolutie begroting van de NKC

	Gepland	Uitgevoerd
2012	50.000 €	36.298 €
2013	50.000 €	50.578 €
2014	50.000 €	53.360 €
2015	50.000 €	29.250 €
2016	50.000 €	50.938 €
2017	65.000 € <sup>6</sup>	33.272 €
2018	65.000 €	61.886 €
2019	65.000 €	35.588 €
2020	65.000 €	62.436 €
2021	60.000 €	26.620 €
2022	60.000 €	<i>In afwachting van het jaaroverzicht</i>
2023	75.000 €	<i>Ongoing</i>

Uitnodigingen voor deelname aan reviews komen veelal op specifieke momenten in het jaar:

- Aan het einde van het jaar voor opdrachten aan het begin van het volgende jaar en *lead reviewer meetings*
- Aan het begin van het jaar voor opdrachten halverwege het jaar
- Halverwege het jaar voor opdrachten in september/oktober (altijd voor inventarisaties)

Aangezien de thesaurierekening van de NKC nooit onder nul mag gaan, is het alleen mogelijk om opdrachten te accepteren als er voldoende geld op de rekening staat. In jaren waarin het budget te laat werd gevalideerd, en bijgevolg de betaling van de bijdragen te laat kwam, werden sommige opdrachten geweigerd toen de uitnodigingen werden ontvangen, ook al was het budget uiteindelijk beschikbaar op het moment van de opdracht zelf. Het is ook voorgekomen dat het budget opgebruikt was voor opdrachten aan het einde van het jaar, voornamelijk BKG-inventarissen, met name in reviewjaren van National Communications.

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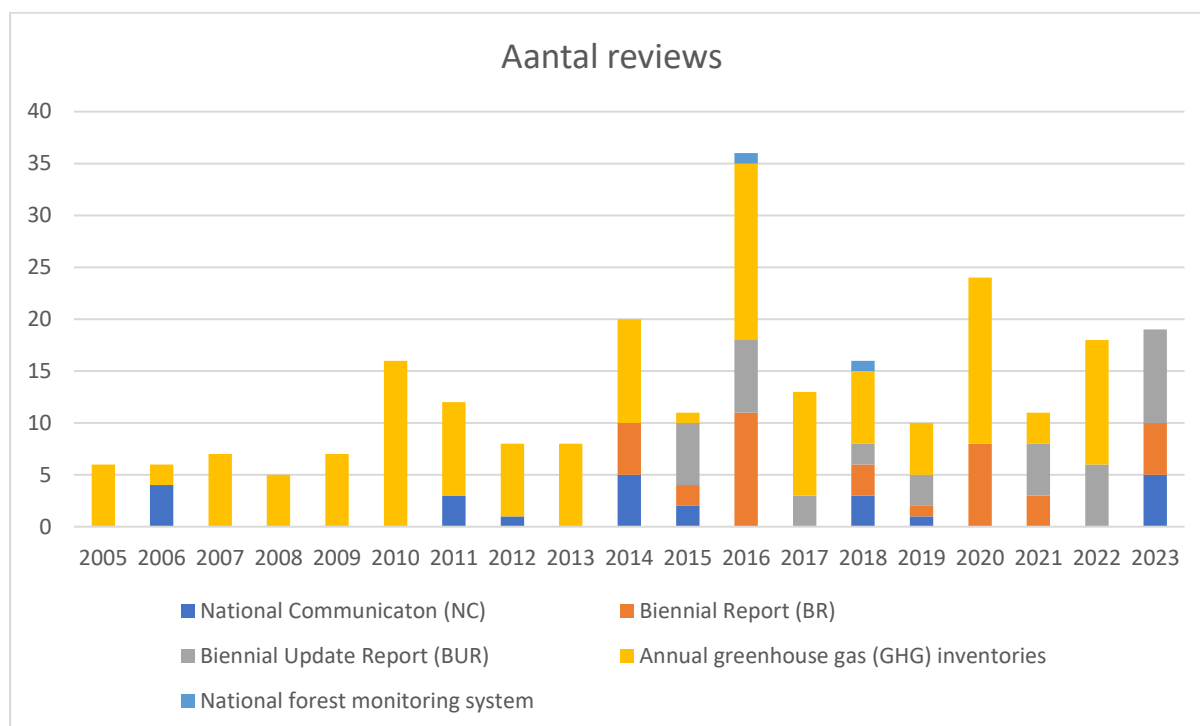
<sup>6</sup> De stijging van het budget is toe te schrijven aan de stijging van de vraag naar reviews na de invoering van de BR's en BUR's.

In 2020 werden alle buitenlandse opdrachten als gevolg van de coronacrisismaatregelen geannuleerd en vervangen door *desk reviews*. Er waren dat jaar dus geen kosten voor buitenlandse opdrachten, enkel honorariumkosten. In 2021 werden ook nog een aantal opdrachten op afstand uitgevoerd.

Zoals hierboven vermeld, zal het budget in de toekomst waarschijnlijk moeten worden verhoogd om meer opdrachten in het kader van het ETF te kunnen uitvoeren.

## Statistieken

Sinds 2005 hebben de Belgische leden van het *roster* bijgedragen aan een groot aantal reviews. In de volgende grafiek komt elke activiteit overeen met de deelname van een Belgische expert aan het reviewrapport van een land (ter herinnering, bij *centralized reviews* zijn meerdere landen betrokken, maar hier beschouwen we elk beoordeeld land als een individuele review).



## Bijlage 1: Brieven van Donald Cooper, directeur van de afdeling Transparency



**United Nations**  
Climate Change Secretariat

**Nations Unies**  
Secrétariat sur les changements climatiques

Date: 8 August 2022  
Reference: DC/XW/VGF

Dear National Focal Point,

The transparency arrangements under the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement play an essential role in informing and ensuring our collective efforts towards achieving the objectives of the Convention. Transparent reporting and analysis ensure that we have accurate, consistent and relevant information in order to review the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Transparency helps Parties make informed decisions, facilitates and garners support for enhanced climate action, and strengthens the capacity of national experts, while building mutual trust and confidence among Parties.

The role of technical experts nominated by Parties and intergovernmental organizations is crucial in the successful operation of these processes. Technical experts assess the latest information submitted by Parties, provide advice on how to improve the reporting, and help developing countries identify areas of country-specific capacity-building needs.

Today, we find ourselves in a critical juncture in the international transparency process, as we transition from the measurement, reporting and verification system under the Convention to the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement. Currently, the secretariat is actively composing the expert review teams that will be charged with reviewing the final annual GHG inventory submissions from Annex I Parties for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. These reviews will start the last week of August. This will be followed by technical analyses of biennial update reports (BURs) from developing countries, and the reviews of the final biennial reports (BR) from developed countries in early 2023. And, before we know it, expert teams will be gathering to review the first biennial transparency reports under the Paris Agreement.

We are reaching out to you now with an immediate request and a longer-term invitation.

In the short term, we urgently need additional qualified technical experts to support the final GHG inventory reviews under the Kyoto Protocol, as well as for the upcoming technical analyses of BURs and BR reviews. At the most recent annual meeting of the lead reviewers for GHG inventories, which took place in March of this year, the lead reviewers highlighted that more experts will be required for the 2022 review cycle than for previous years, in particular because of the conclusion of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. They noted that lack of availability of sufficient experts could risk the timely completion of the review process and the quality of the review reports, and reiterated the need for Parties to continue encouraging, supporting, funding and facilitating the participation of their nominated experts.

In addition, I hope this letter can serve as the start of a longer-term conversation seeking opportunities to increase the number of qualified reviewers available to support the review process. The ability to secure a sufficient number of technical experts is a perennial challenge. We are experiencing it more acutely this year with the increased number of GHG inventories to be reviewed, as compared to recent years. And the



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challenge will only grow under the ETF, where our preliminary estimates suggest we will need more than double the number of qualified review experts by 2024 and triple by the end of the decade.

The secretary has the tools and training programmes to support your efforts to increase the number of qualified reviewers. We encourage you to nominate qualified experts to the UNFCCC roster of experts and enrol them in the necessary training courses to allow participation on a technical expert team.

To nominate an expert, kindly visit the roster of experts (<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/roestaging/>) and approve any pending nominations or send an email to [roster@unfccc.int](mailto:roster@unfccc.int) with the name and email contact of the expert(s) that you would like to nominate. In case you want to delegate the nomination process to a custodian, you may also send an email to [roster@unfccc.int](mailto:roster@unfccc.int), indicating the name and email contact of your representative.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Cooper'.

Donald Cooper  
Director  
Transparency Division



Date: 20 January 2023  
Reference: DC/J/BD/hst

Dear National Focal Point,

Under the UNFCCC, Parties have established various processes to review and analyse information submitted by Parties and to provide a technical assessment to ensure that the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) receive accurate, consistent and relevant information.

The secretariat invites national focal points to nominate new experts, who have the relevant expertise and can actively participate in the reviews. In addition, national focal points are requested to regularly check and, where necessary, update the information on experts already nominated to the roster, and to remove experts from the roster who are no longer available for cooperation with the secretariat.

For more information on the RoE see the below link, which provides detailed instructions on how to access the system, as well the current list of experts:  
<http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/roe/Pages/Home.aspx>

The following existing training programmes for reviewers will be available in 2023 for experts nominated to the RoE.

NCBR Course		Basic GHG Course	
Course launch	20 February 2023	Course launch	20 April 2023
Exam period	17-19 April 2023	Exam period	29-30 June 2023
<b>TTE Course</b>			
Course launch	31 July 2023		
Exam period	4-6 September 2023		

In addition, the CMA, through decision 5/CMA.3, paragraph 30, requested the secretariat, incorporating, as appropriate, technical advice from the Consultative Group of Experts and lead reviewers, to develop the training programme for technical experts participating in the technical expert review of biennial transparency reports, as outlined in decision 5/CMA.3, annex VII, taking into account experience and lessons learned from developing existing training programmes under the Convention. This training programme will be launched in March 2023, and further information will be convened closer to the date.



Page 2

It is of utmost importance to have a sufficient number of available experts nominated by Parties, and that nominations of experts be regularly updated, and readily available on the UNFCCC. Your assistance to increase the pool of experts nominated to the RoE and your support of experts in completing the required trainings and examinations is very much appreciated and will help the secretariat to facilitate the organization of reviews, analysis and assessment activities in a timely and efficient manner.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Best regards,

Donald Cooper  
Director  
Transparency Division

## Bijlage 2: Rapportering Belgische experts 2023

Aan het einde van elke opdracht leveren de Belgische experts een rapport af waarin ze, in de mate van het mogelijke, goede praktijken of aandachtspunten aangeven die de Belgische rapportering zouden kunnen verbeteren. Die rapporten worden aan de betrokken werkgroepen van de NKC bezorgd.

### Februari – LR meeting – Lopez

COMPTE-RENDU
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>The 2023 joint meeting of lead reviewers (LRs) was held in Bonn from 13 to 16 February 2023. The joint meeting combined the 2023 meeting of the LRs in preparation for the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) (13 February); the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory LRs (14 February); and the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of biennial report (BR) and national communication (NC) LRs (15–16 February).</p> <p>A total of 153 experts were invited to the session on the ETF on 13 February. Of the 93 who attended, 42 were from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties). At the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of GHG inventory LRs held on 14 February 2023, a total of 47 experts from non-Annex I Parties and 69 experts from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) were invited to the meeting. Of the 75 experts who registered for the meeting, 70 attended (56 in person and 14 remotely), of whom 33 were from non-Annex I Parties and 37 were from Annex I Parties. In addition, one representative of the European Commission attended the meeting as observer. Finally, at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of LRs for the review of BRs and NCs of developed country Parties held on 15–16 February, a total of 113 experts were invited to the meeting. Of the 78 experts who attended the meeting, 38 were from non-Annex I Parties and 40 from Annex I Parties. A total of 17 co-leads of the technical analysis of BURs of developing country Parties participated in the meeting as observers.</p> <p>The meetings started with a presentation by the UNFCCC Secretariat on the outcome of the discussion on reporting and review matters at the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twenty-seventh session as well as the secretariat’s update on and plans for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and ETF reporting and review work in 2023.</p> <p>The presentations were followed by discussions and recommendations. Main conclusions from the three meetings are presented hereafter.</p> <p><b>Preparing for the enhanced transparency framework (13 February 2023)</b></p> <p>The Secretariat presented its plans and updates to <b>operationalize the guiding principles of the technical reviews</b> of the upcoming biennial transparency report (BTR) according to the paragraphs 146–149 of the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the ETF in the review approach and the review tools (review practice guidance, checklist, technical expert review report template), taking into consideration the experience gained and relevant practices developed during the BR/NC and GHG inventory reviews of developed country Parties and, in particular, the technical analysis of biennial update reports (BURs) submitted by developing country Parties. The secretariat also plans to develop and implement a shared BTR review workspace for the secretariat, the technical expert review team and the Parties, similar to the virtual team room, in time for the review of first BTRs. The review practices and approaches under the ETF will thus build on the existing practice guidance under the MRV system (e.g. GHG inventory review handbook, BR/NC review practice guidance and technical analysis practice guidance), while taking into account flexibility for developing countries that need it in the light of their capacities, but are expected to evolve as additional review experience is gained.</p> <p>The Secretariat presented the <b>increased needs of experts for technical reviews</b> under the ETF and it plans to hold a side event at COP 27 with Parties’ national focal points to raise awareness among Parties of the need</p>



to nominate and facilitate the participation of a larger number of qualified review experts for technical reviews under the ETF. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) at its fifty-seventh session also called for Parties to continue engaging in actions to expand expert resources and finding solutions to ensure the smooth operation of the technical expert review process under the ETF. The Secretariat also presented an assessment of the active and inactive review experts on the UNFCCC roster of experts showing a larger number of inactive experts than active ones and recalled the need to expand the number of active review experts, noting with concern the significant increase in the number of experts required for the technical review of the initial and subsequent BTRs. The LRs emphasized the crucial role that Parties play in nominating and facilitating the active participation of national experts in future reviews of BTRs. The secretariat has also launched a survey for experts and national focal points on priorities for increasing the number of active review experts in the UNFCCC roster and will continue promoting initiatives and organizing events during SBSTA sessions to raise awareness among Parties and intergovernmental organizations of the need to nominate and support review experts and to reach out to potential new experts who have not yet been nominated.

The LRs discussed the implementation of the **simplified review procedures** of the GHG inventory under the ETF and noted that a simplified review of a Party's national inventory report (NIR) involves the secretariat undertaking an initial assessment of completeness and consistency, in accordance with paragraph 155 of the MPGs. They concurred that these procedures should be automated to the extent possible in accordance with the applicable provisions and should draw on experience gained from reviews of GHG inventories under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, specifically the initial assessments. The review of the findings of the initial assessment will then form part of the subsequent technical expert review. The secretariat will develop the necessary review tools and the simplified review report template.

The LRs agreed that the simplified review as an **initial assessment** could cover Completeness and timeliness of the NIR; Identification of recalculations in the latest common year and the base year of the nationally determined contribution between the two most recent NIR submissions, not including recalculations in categories or subcategories that have an impact of less than 2 per cent on emissions or removals for these categories or subcategories and are below the threshold of significance<sup>4</sup> for the Party under review; Changes in notation keys and identification of new key categories in the latest common year and the base year of the nationally determined contribution between the two most recent NIRs; Discrepancies between reference and sectoral approaches higher than 5 per cent in the latest reported year; A comparison between implied emission factors reported for key categories, as relevant, and the range of implied emission factors from NIRs of developed country Parties for the latest reported year; Time-series consistency; Use of higher tiers for key categories; and Status of implementation of previous recommendations, as applicable.

#### **Greenhouse gas inventory reviews under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol (14 February 2023)**

The secretariat presented the plan for organizing the 2023 GHG inventory review cycle. The 2023 review cycle will be particularly challenging for ERTs, the secretariat and Parties owing to the number of changes in reporting and review activities happening simultaneously. Annual submissions will be made outside a commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol for the first time since 2006. At the same time, the review of the additional period for fulfilling commitments for the second commitment period (true-up period) will be conducted by January 2024 at the latest.

According to Decision 1/CMP.17, the date of completion of the expert **review process under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol** for the second commitment period is 1 June 2023 for the final year of the second commitment period and Parties have to submit their reports for assessing compliance with their commitments under the second commitment period by 24 October 2023. The secretariat plans to organize the review of these reports as early as possible and drawing on the experience gained in true-up period reviews of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

**Reviews in 2023** are subject to the "Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention" (UNFCCC review guidelines) and that ERTs conducting reviews of inventory submissions in 2023 will need to carefully consider recommendations made in previous review

cycles to assess whether they are still relevant. ERTs should be reminded that, since Parties do not have a QELRC, there will be no list of potential problems and further questions raised by the ERT (Saturday paper) in 2023, and accordingly Friday will be the last day of the review week. Further, the emphasis will shift from identifying underestimates for categories under Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol and the overestimation of removals in activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3–4, of the Kyoto Protocol, which guided the reviews for Parties with QELRCs in recent years, to verifying the accuracy of estimates and other remaining issues related to transparency, completeness, consistency and comparability. Noting that some Parties may submit their GHG inventory due in 2023 applying one or more elements of the MPGs under the ETF, the LRs concluded that the review approach should take into account the specific circumstances of the Parties' reporting, while ensuring adherence to the UNFCCC review guidelines guiding the review process.

The secretariat presented a background paper prepared on the experience gained in 20 years of reviewing Annex I Parties' GHG inventories. This experience could be helpful to LRs and technical expert review teams in **future GHG inventory reviews under the Convention and the ETF**. A small group of LRs will prepare a compilation of conclusions and recommendations from LRs meetings relevant for future technical expert review teams in the form of a background paper to be considered at the next LRs meeting discussing BTR technical review issues and the secretariat will identify the sections of the current review handbook that are still relevant under the ETF.

The secretariat also presented the **low rate of eligible experts** emerging from the training and examination process. Noting the barriers to the participation of experts in the review process, the LRs reiterated the need for Parties to continue encouraging, supporting and facilitating the participation of their nominated experts in GHG inventory reviews to ensure the completeness of ERTs; an appropriate balance of expertise, gender and geographical representation in ERTs; and the high quality of review reports, in particular given the expected significant increase in the number of review experts required under the ETF. The LRs stressed the importance for Parties to nominate experts with GHG inventory experience and robust sectoral technical expertise to the UNFCCC roster of experts, regularly update their nominations and support experts in completing the required training activities and examinations. The secretariat will also organize information sessions with the aim of sharing experience and lessons learned by experienced LRs in participating in GHG inventory reviews under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol with a view to assisting future reviewers, Parties and the secretariat in the efficient transition to the technical expert review process under the ETF.

#### **Reviews of biennial reports and national communications under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol (15-16 February 2023)**

The secretariat presented the approach and planning for the reviews of fifth biennial reports and eighth national communications for 2023–2024. The submissions of 12 developed country Parties were scheduled to be reviewed from February to March 2023 through in-country reviews (5 Parties) or centralized reviews (7 Parties). This schedule will allow the reports on the technical reviews of the BR5s and NC8s to be published in time for those Parties to undergo multilateral assessment at the fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) (November–December 2023). The reviews of another 20 Parties will be conducted from April to November 2023 and the multilateral assessment will be conducted at SBI 60 (June 2024). The remaining Parties will be reviewed from January to April 2024 and subject to multilateral assessment at SBI 61 (November 2024).

The secretariat also presented the **improvements to the BR5/NC8 review process**, namely shifting review efforts to the pre-review week to ensure timely delivery of review reports, using a single integrated review report template for BR5s and NC8s with assessment tables included in annexes, and providing preliminary findings to Parties on Tuesday of the review week. The use of an integrated review report template for the reports on these technical reviews and a review checklist will further improve the consistency and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the reviews. In the integrated review reports for NC8s and final BR5s the ERTs will continue to provide recommendations and encouragements to the Parties. Parties may find these recommendations and encouragements relevant, as appropriate, when preparing their first BTRs under the ETF.

**COMPTE-RENDU**

**Scope and responsibilities of the assignment**

The centralized review of National Communication and Biennial Report (not yet publicly available as the draft report is going for Quality Control and it is planned for publication in June) of Latvia took place from 27 to 31 of March in Bonn at UNFCCC premises.

The review was carried on by the following team of nominated experts from the UNFCCC roster of experts: Bernadett Benkó (Hungary), Marco Orsini (Belgium), Rania Seif (Egypt) and Ngoc Tran Thi Bich (Viet Nam). I acted as the **lead reviewer**. The review was coordinated by Sohel Pasha and Davor Vesligaj from the UNFCCC secretariat. The review was conducted together with the review of Lithuania and Monaco. Latvia's review team carried on the quality review of the Lithuania's review and Monaco's review team performed the quality review of Latvia's.

A part from overall coordination of the review, as lead reviewer I was responsible of the overall coherency of the review. Being the only experienced reviewer of the team (the rest of the team members being at their first review), I also acted as point of collection of all the practical questions of the review team members. Questions for which either I proposed an answer either I proposed to discuss them with the UNFCCC Secretariat.

With regards to the practical work of the review, I was in charge of sections related to Policies and Measures (PaMs) of the review and I drafted the introduction and conclusion of the report.

The main objectives of the review were the following:

- To examine in an objective and transparent manner whether quantitative and qualitative information was submitted by Iceland in accordance with the reporting guidelines
- To promote the provision of consistent, transparent, comparable, accurate and complete information by Latvia
- To assist Latvia in improving their reporting of information and the implementation of their commitments under the Convention
- To ensure that the COP has reliable information on the implementation of commitments under the Convention by each Annex I Party and Annex I Parties as a whole, with a view to promoting comparability and building confidence
- To undertake an examination of the Party's progress in achieving its economy-wide emission reduction target.

The peculiarity of the 2023 centralized review was the fact that it was the last according to the current rules. Parties under the Paris Agreement are now required to submit their first biennial transparency report (BTR1) (and national inventory report, if submitted as a stand-alone report) in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) defined at COP24, at the latest by 31 December 2024. Thus findings related to both mandatory and non-mandatory issues will need to be addressed under the new reporting MPGs.

The review draft conclusions were transmitted to Latvia on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March and Latvia proposed to resubmit its NC and BR in order to solve some of the issues pointed out by the review. This made the review process a bit longer (the review team had to check – in the week after the review) that the resubmitted NC8 and BR5 solved some of the issues raised during the review) but

decreased considerably the number of issues found by the review, in particular for recommendations (mandatory issues).

### Lessons learnt

The main findings (which can be of interest for Belgium) from the review are briefly presented thereafter. They are mainly related to the PAMs, targets and projections part that I worked on.

- The NC8 and BR5 reporting (available at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/78450136\\_Latvia-NC8-BR5-2-LATVIA\\_NC8\\_BR5\\_Resubmission.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/78450136_Latvia-NC8-BR5-2-LATVIA_NC8_BR5_Resubmission.pdf)) was coordinated by the Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia which centralized all the work (and the information) related to the review (as for example national inventories, projections, PaMs etc.). It greatly facilitated and speeded up the exchange of information **to have one point of entry for all the questions of the review.**
- The work of the review team is based on a **checklist** provided by the UNFCCC Secretariat that list all the requirements to be met by NC and BR, illustrates with examples best practices for reporting, and includes findings from the last review. This checklist could also be used by the Parties as a tool to check their reporting before submitting them to the Secretariat.
- With regards to **projections**, it emerged during the review that coherency of the projections is not always ensured. In the case of Latvia, projections (with existing measures and with additional measures) are done using an energy system model (MARKAL, which is the predecessor of the TIMES model). Of course the use of such a model does not allow to single out the effects of single policies (as it is required in the PaMs section of the reporting) and thus can create consistency issues between the modelling approach used for projections and the estimation of the effects of single PaMs. This is not a major problem as long as the two approaches are well explained and differences are acknowledged.
- With regards to PAMs, several points of interests for Belgium can be put forward.
  - **Follow up of PAMs:** it was not always simple to follow up PAMs from one reporting to the subsequent one. A clear description of the evolution of PAMs from one NC/BR to the next is very useful for reviewers and can save a lot of time in questions/answers between the review team and the country. For example the inclusion of a table comparing reported PaMs from one reporting to another (so to highlights changes – in status, name, scope, effects, etc. - in PaMs) would be very useful to clarify the follow up of implemented PaMs..
  - The **evaluation of the impacts** of PAMs is very important. But still, what is more important is a clear description of the way the impacts are evaluated. Latvia presented a very limited amount of information on the way impacts are evaluated. A very simple and effective way to solve this issue would be to provide in the reporting a table illustrating for each PaM (or group of PaMs) the main lines of the method used for estimation.
  - Importance of reporting on the **economic and social consequences of PAMs.** Latvia did not report on the evaluation of socio-economic effects of its PAMs. Although this information is not always available in a common and coherent format across PAMs, socio-economic evaluations are often done for most of the policy and measures. Reporting even though only raw and fragmented information from socio-economic analysis of PaMs would be certainly well regarded from the review teams!

- Importance of reporting on the **interrelations between PaMs**. Latvia did not report on the links between its PAMs. While analyzing the links between PaMs could be very burdensome, indicating very simply the main interrelations in graphical or tabular format would be certainly well regarded from the review teams!
- **Resubmission**. Resubmitting the NC/BR is a very convenient way of dealing with issues spotted by the review team that often lead to recommendations although they are due to minor problems with reporting (missing flags in the CFT tables is a good example). Resubmission in fact could reduce the number of issues to only those that are “structural” (i.e. needing profound changes to the reporting because for example new information should be collected and processed) to the reporting and thus enhance the quality of reporting.

Maart – ICR NC8-BR5 – USA – Smekens

#### VERSLAG

Het verslag is in het engels opgesteld.

The review concerned the submission of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Communication (NC8) in combination with the 5<sup>th</sup> Biannual report (BR5). Both were to be reviewed in one time and reported in one document (TRR).

In the current review cycle this is the last review of the BR under the Convention. Also the USA was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Party to be reviewed in this round , after the EU (the week before). Therefore the Secretariat considered this review to be crucial for the following reviews in this round and wanted to gain best practices how to perform the other reviews.

As a consequence the preparation was much more intense than usual, but we had a quite experienced ERT with a number of LR's.

The ERT had to complete the following tasks way before the review week :

- Complete the checklist – a table by topic (general – GHG inventory – PAMs - projections – FTC – V&A ) and per reporting guideline article for NC and BR. Even if this is the last round of BR reviews the Secretariat insisted in completing the checklist and formulating encouragements/recommendations even if they do not apply for future reporting for BR under the Paris Agreement (BTR/ETF) as soon as possible and well before the review week. Two call were held to keep track of the experts' progress on this.

- Based on the findings of the checklist, the ERT had to complete the tables in Annexes of the review report : table I for the NC and table II for BR, including encouragements/recommendations. These preliminary findings were sent to the Party well before the review week so that they could react and reply.

The review week itself followed the usual structure:

- An introduction by the Party. To illustrate this, Mr John Kerry, who serves as the first United States special presidential envoy for climate under the Biden presidency, made a personal 5 minutes (!) on-line welcoming speech to the ERT emphasising the importance of the ERT work and the importance the USA has for transparency in reporting, also in view of the Paris Agreement.



Further, there was the presence of a special State Department delegation looking into climate issues, which was represented by at least 5 person during the first day.

- The rest of the first day was filled with presentations by the USA experts on the topics of their NC/BR reporting for the review, including their response to the questions raised by the ERT. The USA had a special position since their previous NC/BR submission was submitted too late and had not been reviewed (due to the Trump presidency, and the COVID-pandemic). During the following days further discussions between the ERT and the national team were held. This led to some long discussions among others on reporting on projections (namely effect of policy measures) and financial support. This also led to an intense exchange on the findings as to be reported in the IDR/TRR, namely the annex tables with the encouragements/recommendations of the reporting.
- Thorough peer reviewing took place during the week – on a voluntary basis – e.g PaMs experts reviewing GHG and projections sections in the IDR/TRR and vice versa – but clear agreements within the ERT team who should review what were felt needed.
- The review week was closed on Friday by a presentation by the ERT on their findings of each topic on encouragements/recommendations of the reporting (partially virtual). Especially as NC reporting will have to continue within the Paris Agreement, next to the BTR (ETF). These presentations were briefly discussed within the team for general agreement and the conclusion among the ERT was that preparation should not take too much time as issues should have been discussed and made clear earlier.



As a final note, the ERT and the USA national team enjoyed intense but helpful discussions and the review week was conducted in good spirit. And being prepared well in advance for the review week, the ERT could enjoy some after hours' team building social activities too – which do not always happen alas.

Foto below of the ERT + review officers from the Secretariat is within USFS premises.



April – ICR NC8-BR5 – UK – Dauwe

#### VERSLAG

**Samenstelling ERT:** Thelma Krug (Brazilië), Niveta Jain (India), Anne Siemons (Duitsland), Arthur Rolle (de Bahama's) en Adrian Schilt (Zwitserland).

**Doel:** Expert review van de 8<sup>ste</sup> National Communication en de 5<sup>de</sup> Biennial Report van het Verenigd Koninkrijk.

**Verslag:** De ERT in-country review had plaats van 24 tot 29 april 2023 in de kantoren van het *Department for Energy Security and Net Zero*.

Maandag 24/4 werden verschillende presentaties gegeven door het VK:

High-level overview of recent developments in climate change policy, mitigation actions and institutional/policy context. Key achievements since previous BR/NC submission and success stories. Q&A  
ICC (Andrew Gilheany)

Quantified economy-wide 2020 emission reduction target: Assessment of GHGI (Jen S) achievement of the target. Medium and long-term targets. Clarification on issues raised by the ERT before review week. Q&A

GHG inventory and projections: changes in methodologies and drivers since previous NC/BR submission, results. Clarification on issues raised by the ERT before the review week. Q&A  
Chair: EEP Team EEP (Sanchia & Ruth) GHGI (Jen S)

Mitigation actions: sectoral PaMs and response measures. Success stories, clarification on issues raised by the ERT before the review week. Q&A  
Chair: Megan Lawler (ICC) 1. Net Zero Strategy: Harry R, George F, Amber W 2. the Transport Decarbonisation Plan: DFT – Jess W 3. the 25 Year Environment Plan: (TBC) 4. Energy Security Strategy: Nick H, Eevan D, Max D 5. the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy: Sam W (present) Graham C (online) 6. the Hydrogen Strategy Hydrogen: Simone CS (presenter), Fintan (online) 7. the North Sea Transition Deal OGEP: Matthew Macnair-Smith (online) 8. the Heat and Buildings Strategy Net Zero Buildings: William Humphreys, Matt Pickering

Vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts and adaptation measures: success stories, clarification on issues raised by the ERT before the review week. Q&A  
DEFRA (Piotr Mahey)

Education, training and public awareness: success stories, clarification on issues raised by the ERT before the review week. Q&A  
Chair: Nicholas DfE (Jon D) Green skills (Jon D) Public Awareness (Nicholas & Mia) DAs (John E NI)

Research and systematic observation: success stories, clarification on issues raised by the ERT before the review week. Q&A  
UK Climate Science Capabilities (Illiana C)

Provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing country Parties: success stories, clarification on issues raised by the ERT before the review week. Q&A  
ICF (Julia E)

Daarnaast waren er ook ad-hoc meetings met het VK, onder andere over response measures en de Brexit, en een overleg met verschillende middenveldorganisaties (veelal milieu NGO's).

Belangrijke bevindingen:

- Rapportering op twee snelheden: projecties in de NC en BR waren van 2019 en dus niet heel recent, daarnaast werden heel veel nieuwe beleidsinitiatieven en plannen gestart in 2021-2023 voorgesteld. Daardoor is er een groot verschil tussen projecties en doelstelling, maar is er ook al een idee over hoe dat verschil overbrugt kan worden.
- Wat betreft de horizontale beleidsmaatregelen blijft de *carbon budget* aanpak belangrijk. Het zesde *carbon budget* werd goedgekeurd dat bepaalt dat de emissies moeten afnemen met ongeveer 77% in 2035 ten opzichte van 1990. Opvallend is dat de 2030 NDC doelstelling ambitieuzer is en dat het carbon budget hogere emissies toelaat. Daarnaast heeft de UK ook een eigen UK ETS opgezet, dat nog sterk gelijkaardig is aan het EU ETS.



- Tijdens de ERT en in het NC heeft het VK ook veel aandacht voor recente strategieën en beleidsplannen. De *net zero strategy* legt de algemene strategie vast voor het behalen van de klimaat neutraliteitsdoelstelling en wordt ondersteund door vele sectorale plannen waaronder het *Powering up Britain* plan. Het gaat hier veelal om recente documenten waarbij het nog niet heel duidelijk is hoe dit vertaald zal worden in concrete beleidsinstrumenten. Een punt dat ook aangehaald werd door verschillende NGO's.
- Wat uit de presentaties naar voren kwam is de focus op offshore wind, nucleaire energie en CCUS in de energie sector. Ambitie voor de uitrol van PV en onshore wind lijkt heel beperkt.
- Het VK voorziet in 2040 een verbod op de verkoop van alle benzine en diesel voertuigen. Voor auto's zou dat al 2035 zijn.
- Voor het reduceren van industriële emissies kijkt men vooral naar waterstof en CCUS. Wat betreft waterstofproductie is het de ambitie om 10 GW *low carbon* productiecapaciteit te hebben in 2030. Dit wordt gekoppeld aan het uitbouwen van een markt voor waterstof (incl. mogelijke toepassingen in transport en gebouwen).
- In gebouwen beoogt het VK om de finale energieconsumptie te reduceren met 15% in 2030 ten opzicht van 2021. Verschillende beleidsinstrumenten zijn specifiek gericht op huishoudens met laag inkomen. Daarnaast zet het VK vooral in op warmtepompen, warmtenetten en waterstof voor gebouwverwarming.
- De guidelines voor de NC en BR, en dus de checks die de ERT moet doen, zijn relatief eenvoudig. Veel van de bevindingen zouden gemakkelijk kunnen vermeden worden indien de structuur van de NC de guidelines zou weerspiegelen. Het VK heeft dit niet gedaan waardoor soms informatie ontbrak.

#### Verloop van de meeting:

- De review week was goed georganiseerd ondanks een staking op de laatste dag.
- Het VK hechtte duidelijk veel belang aan de review, illustratief is dat de bevoegde minister even de meeting bijwoonde.
- Het is belangrijk om de juiste mensen in de meeting te hebben. Bv. in het bilaterale overleg over de Brexit, konden relevante vragen niet beantwoord worden omdat de juiste experts niet aanwezig waren.
- Het nam veel tijd in beslag om antwoorden te krijgen op relatief eenvoudige vragen. Dat maakt de review moeilijker.



**Graham Stuart MP** @grahamstuart · 14 u

Grateful for the hard work of @UNFCCC experts reviewing the UK's 8th National Communication and 5th Biennial Report which detail progress towards our climate commitments. Thanks to their efforts – clean data will lead to clean growth.



Source : UNFCCC

Mei – ICR NC8-BR5 – Griekenland – Lopez

#### COMPTE-RENDU

##### **In-country Review of 5<sup>th</sup> biennial report and 8<sup>th</sup> national communication under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol of Greece (15-19 May 2023)**

Maria José López participated in the in-country review as Lead Reviewer and generalist expert as Belgian representative. The main tasks consisted in providing support to the UNFCCC Secretariat Review Officers and the Expert Review Team during the whole process.

The review started one month previous to the review week. During this period, three remote meetings were held with the Secretariat and the ERT, preliminary questions were sent to the Party and answered by the Party and a checklist with the findings, a first draft of a single integrated review report template with assessment tables included in annexes were prepared.

The preliminary findings were provided to Greece on Tuesday of the review week and different meetings were held for discussion of the findings from Monday to Thursday. They were presented on Thursday to the Party. On Friday the ERT finalised the draft review report which was quality checked by the Lead Reviewer on Monday and Tuesday and then sent to the Secretariat for editing and quality assurance. This tight schedule will allow the report on the technical review of the BR5s and NC8 of Greece to be published in time to undergo multilateral assessment at the 60 session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) in June 2024.

During the review week the Party presented the approach and objectives of the NC8 and BR5 and plans to the BTR preparation, a high-level overview of recent developments in climate change policy, mitigation actions and institutional/policy context, the key achievements since previous BR/NC submission and success stories, the National Climate Law, the update of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), the modelling of the GHG emissions for the update of the NECP, the assessment of achievement of the quantified economy-wide 2020 emission reduction target, the medium and long-term targets, the results of the GHG inventory and projections, the trends and projections by sector, the sectoral PaMs and response measures including the assessment of the mitigation effect of PaMs, the vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts and adaptation measures, the implementation of adaptation policy in Greece, education, training and public awareness including climate change educational programmes, research and systematic observation, climate

projections for Greece, the tools in support of the national adaptation strategy, the provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing country Parties, the initiatives targeting enhancement of capacities and technologies in non-Annex I Parties, the role of the environmental NGOs and business NGOs in the climate change policy.

The Party met its 2020 target under both the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

As lessons learned for Belgium it is worth mentioning the innovative and ambitious instrument the Party has recently adopted. A new law called “National Climate Law - Transition to Climate Neutrality and Adaptation to Climate Change” (Climate Law) has come into force (Law 4936 / GG 105 / 27-5-2022) in Greece. This law was voted by the Hellenic Parliament on May 2022 and marks a kick start towards setting up the necessary robust national policy framework enabling the transition to zero GHG emissions by 2050, which is in line with the climate goals of the EU for becoming the first climate neutral continent. The legislation sets interim targets to cut GHG emissions at least 55 per cent by 2030 and 80 per cent by 2040, compared to 1990. The Climate Law sets a final goal of zero net emissions by 2050. In addition, the Climate Law requires to cut dependency of fossil fuels, such as lignite in electricity production, by 2028. However, this target might be reconsidered to 2025, depending on energy security. The Law also includes provisions about electric mobility: from 1st January 2024 at least a quarter of new private car leases acquired through leasing or purchase will be purely electric or hybrid electric vehicles and, from 2026 all new taxis as well as one third of the new rental vehicles will be zero emission vehicles. Furthermore, from 1st January 2030 new passenger and light commercial vehicles registered will be only zero emission vehicles. New provisions for buildings are also introduced, such as the prohibition of installation of heating oil boilers from 1st of January 2025 and from the 1st January 2030, only the sale of heating oil mixed with at least 30 per cent by volume of renewable liquid fuels will be allowed. From 2023, specific corporations, such as banks, telecoms, power suppliers, water and waste utilities, logistics companies and retail businesses with over 500 employees, will need to submit annual reports for their carbon footprint in the previous year. The Climate Law includes the creation, in 2023, of a five-year budget for the sectors of power production, industry, transportation, agriculture, buildings, forestry and waste and land use. It is planned that more than 10 billion euros will be invested in expanding the country’s power grid by 2030 and in parallel accelerate the development of the sector of renewable energy. The government, due to the energy crisis, has decided to release to vulnerable citizens a one-off grant for power and gas bills with a total cost of EUR 4 billion. The new law indicates that the country will cover the increases in power bills of the households. The Climate Law sets a more ambitious target for 2030 compared to the 2019 NECP and the amended ESR. The target is set to a total 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions in 2030, compared to 1990. Overall, the new legal framework is very ambitious and is expected to bring a major shift in Greece’s power production and overall economy in the years to come, designating environmental considerations as one of the key drivers for sustainable growth and development. In 2023, the Greek Government is preparing a revised NECP to include more ambitious targets for 2030, compared to both the 2019 NECP and the 2023 amended ESR target as well as the entire pathway towards climate neutrality by 2050.

Finally, it was also interesting the simplified approach followed by the Party to estimate the effects on PAMs. A publication explaining this approach is attached to this report and can be found in the following link: <https://doi.org/10.13052/spee1048-4236.391411>

Mei – ICR NC8-BR5 – Cyprus – Mertens

#### VERSLAG

Mijn taak tijdens de review:

- Lead Reviewer
- Verantwoordelijke voor het deel Policies and Measures, and national targets

Ik heb de review taken in drie stappen aangepakt.

- Voorbereidend werk in de weken naar aanloop van de review week, inhoud hier voorbereiding van 2 remote conference calls. Voorbereidingen van het invullen van de checklist en schrijven van preliminaire issues, vragen naar de partij, en het uitwerken van een draft review report.

- Gedurende de review week: het verder uitwerken van issues en het afwerken van het rapport. Interactie met het lokale team, en het modereren van sessies met de Cypriotische overheid. Andere experts helpen met hun review, en vragen naar de overheid. Discussie met het ministerie omtrent compleetheid en transparantie van hun rapporteren.
- Na de review week: verder afwerken van het rapport.

Info Nationale Communication and Biennial Report van Cyprus:

Nationale PaMs/targets focussen op energie en transport transitie, met duidelijke focus op natuurlijke bronnen, zoals zonne-energie, maar ook natural gas als interim oplossing. Cyprus evalueert innovatieve oplossingen zoals waste to energy solutions (e.g. biogas op lokale schaal en biofuel voor aircraft transport), en CCS op lange termijn. Cyprus heeft moeite met het combineren van een duidelijke groeiende trend in economische activiteiten (transport, energie en toerisme) en duurzame plannen in het landgebruik (LULUCF). Cyprus heeft maar een kleine landbouw activiteit, hier zet Cyprus in op biogas en anaerobische digestie en gebruik van biogas voor lokale verwarming en elektriciteit. In specifiek voor land planning en LULUCF activiteiten is er een betere samenwerking nodig om bebouwde gebieden drastisch te vergroenen. PaMs op lokale schaal zijn moeilijk implementeerbaar door a.o. capaciteit tekorten in municipaliteiten. Cyprus heeft geen klimaatwet en daardoor is het voor het departement van milieu moeilijk om tijdig beleidsplannen op te stellen en uit te voeren. De vooruitgang van deze plannen en werken is ook niet voldoende transparant gerapporteerd in hun communicatie. Cyprus werkt aan een klimaatwet die nationale procedures duidelijker zal moeten vastleggen.

Take-aways handig voor België:

- Belang om goede QA/QC procedures uit te werken die inhouden dat het NC/BR rapport wordt nagekeken en gecheckt op het nakomen van alle meest recente NC/BR vereisten.
- Belang van het duidelijk toelichten van de institutionele arrangementen tussen verschillende gewesten: hier kunnen aantonen hoe gewesten samenwerken om nationale targets te halen, en hoe het monitor en evaluatie systeem hierbij werkt om de effectiviteit van beleidsinstrumenten te evalueren. Duidelijk aantonen hoe gewestelijke plannen samen een duidelijke nationale strategie vormen om nationale doeleinden te halen.
- Duidelijke definities voor huidige en geplande PaMs voor alle gewesten.
- Projecties: voldoende informatie rapporteren over modellen en data die gebruikt worden voor projecties per sector, en voor alle gewesten individueel en hoe het wordt opgeteld voor het nationale niveau.
- Eenduidige informatie over vooruitgang sinds de voorgaande communicaties en informatie over geboekte successen voor het behalen van interim targets.
- Het rapporteren van innovatieve en repliceerbare PaMs die kenmerkend en vooruitstrevend zijn in België relatief naar andere landen toe, en als voorbeeld kunnen dienen voor andere landen
- Het belang van impact assessment voor geplande PaMs, en de kwaliteit van een evaluatie systeem om de effectiviteit van geïmplementeerde PaMs teneinde de WOM/WEM/WAM projecties voor lange termijn doeleinden 2040/2050 realistisch onderbouwen.

Juni – TA BUR – Bonn – Reyniers

#### COMPTE-RENDU

La Mission consistait à participer à une revue d'un document technique REDD+, soumis au Secrétariat de la CCNUCC en annexe du rapport Biennial d'Avancement. La revue s'effectue par deux experts LULUCF, un expert non-Annex I et un expert Annex I, et est supportée par un programme manager du Secrétariat. Les experts sont aussi en contact avec l'équipe en charge de la revue

Lundi : Introduction de l'équipe chargée de la revue, analyse des réponses écrites fournies par la party

Mardi : Call 1avec la partie + identification follow-up questions

Mercredi : Analyse des données fournies par la partie, analyse si les principes TACC (Transparency, Accuracy, Coherency and Completeness) sont respectés dans l'Annexe technique. / Call sur la soumission du BUR / échange avec expert en charge de l'inventaire AFOLU  
 Jeudi : Call 2 avec le pays / identification follow-up questions. rédaction V1 du rapport : Preliminary Main Finding et soumission au programme manager  
 Vendredi : révision du Preliminary Main findings report après commentaires du programme manager du Secrétariat UNFCCC, analyse des documents soumis par le pays, définition next-step.

**Oktober - Technical Analysis Biennial Update Report (TA BUR) - Bonn - Smekens**

**VERSLAG**

Het verslag is in het engels opgesteld.

This Technical Analysis (TA), TA number 29 by now, covered the Biannual Update Reports (BUR) of quite a variety of non-Annex I Parties :

- A country with EU accession ambitions, Bosnia Herzegovina (3rd BUR);
- A former Soviet state, Kyrgyzstan (1st BUR);
- A least developed country in central Africa, Somalia (1st BUR).

I acted as expert in the TTE (Technical Team of Experts) covering the analysis of the mitigation actions and their effects for Bosnia Herzegovina and Kyrgyzstan. The team further consisted of two experts for the GHG inventory per Party, one for AFOLU and one for the non-AFOLU sectors. Kyrgyzstan also submitted a National Inventory Report (NIR) that was part of this TA.

Further there were two experts for Financial and Technical support and Capacity Building (FTC) and cross-cutting issues. Two of the experts acted as co-lead, the name used for lead reviewers when conducting a TA. The total team consisted of 10 experts. We also had support from two officers form the UNFCCC Secretariat.

The preparation of this TA followed the standard way according to this preliminary and optimistic schedule provided by the Secretariat:

Task	Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TTE completes thematic checklist (using Word file); GHG section table 1 and 2 and mitigation actions (using excel file) and raises technical clarification question for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan and Somalia.</li> <li>• GHG experts for Kyrgyzstan also complete GHG inventory tool for NIR</li> </ul>	<p>For Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan and Somalia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed checklist, GHG table 1 and 2 and mitigation actions in sharepoint</li> <li>• Submitted technical clarification questions in BUR-VTR</li> </ul> <p>For Kyrgyzstan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed GHG inventory tool for NIR</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Co-leads, supported by the secretariat will review and prepare the final versions of thematic checklist, GHG inventory tool and questions for circulation to the Parties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions to the Parties sent through BUR-VTR</li> <li>• Final thematic checklist and GHG inventory tools are shared with the Parties</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parties provide responses to the questions in the BUR-VTR</li> <li>Kyrgyzstan provides responses to GHG inventory tool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses to the questions received in the BUR-VTR</li> <li>Responses to the GHG inventory tool by Kyrgyzstan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The TTE works on respective chapters in technical analysis summary report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Zero Order Draft of respective chapters in technical analysis summary report (with placeholders for responses from the Parties) is completed before the start of technical analysis week.</li> </ul>

The checklist consisted of two formats: one in excel and one in Word, the Word version was to be send to the party once completed. In these checklists, the experts had to indicated if – or not - the Party has provided information according to the reporting guidelines of each topic, and if the provided information was transparent. So both a completeness as well as a transparency judgment. For those Parties that had a previous BUR analysed, the experts should also check if and how the findings of the previous TA were incorporated in the latest submission. This was only applicable for Bosnia Herzegovina.

If a guideline was not or partly reported, experts should raise questions to the Party why this was the case and if they face difficulties. A BUR TA is much less strictly guided than an Annex I review, so questions have to be more diplomatically phrased.

Due to a slow start, the TTE was only able to send questions a few weeks before the analysis week, something that proved to be a challenge later in the TA process.

A challenge as such that by the start of the analysis week in Bonn, no responses from the 3 Parties were received in the iVTR (the virtual work room for the TTE), only Bosnia managed to send some responses by email in a Word document the Friday before the analysis week.

The TA week started with a welcome by Xuehong Wang, Manager of the Reporting and Review Subivision at the Secretariat. She emphasized the importance of our work, even though this TA would be almost certain the last one performed under the Convention. With the BTR framework becoming in force for all parties from 1-1-2025 onwards under the Paris Agreement reporting guidelines, the team should also look forward and support Parties to identify gaps, challenges and needs towards this new reporting framework. She also highlighted that the courses for experts to become eligible for a BTR review are now available on-line at : [Training programmes for expert reviewers | UNFCCC](#).

After the introduction, we had a group picture taken.



*The TTE team and secretariat staff for this TA29.*

The first day we concentrated in filling the annex tables in the technical analysis summary report (TASR, the official outcome of the TA). These tables are actually a recapitulation of the expert's findings in checklist filled in before the TA week : indicating if elements were, were partly or were not reported in BUR with a short indication what was not reported.

Extensive back-ground analysis and how the Party responded to the raised findings was to be reported in the body text of the TASR in which the text paragraphs followed the reporting guidelines paragraph numbers. Starting with cross-cutting, followed by national circumstances, GHG inventory, mitigation actions, financial and technical support.

The second day the team concentrated on checking the raised capacity building needs (CBN) by the Party itself in its BUR, complemented with proposed CBN's by the TTE based on their findings, questions raised and response received. As the team did not receive further responses (two Parties without any reaction so far), it was very much up to the interpretation of the experts what and how to raise as possible CBN.

Raised CBN's should relate to reporting issue and to questions raised before by the TTE. The CBN's are sent to the Parties at the end of second day so that they are not surprised when a call is organized.

On the third day, normally the calls with the Party are organised to share the findings of the TA so far and to get agreement on the proposed CBNs. In our case, one Party declined explicitly to have a call, posing the TTE and the secretariat for problems as the CBN's are also a mandatory reporting output of the TASR. And without Party agreement the TA would end open ended and the process could take much longer time.

But two calls could be held, in which it was also stressed that Parties concerned should do their best to respond to questions from the TTE. For one Party, staff shortages prevented this, for the other we didn't know as they declined. Only Bosnia sent in some more responses so that the TTE could take them into account in drafting the TASR.

The two calls that were held were very clarifying for the Party concerned, they understood what is the role of the TTE and what is the role of the Party during a TA. They also smoothly agreed with all

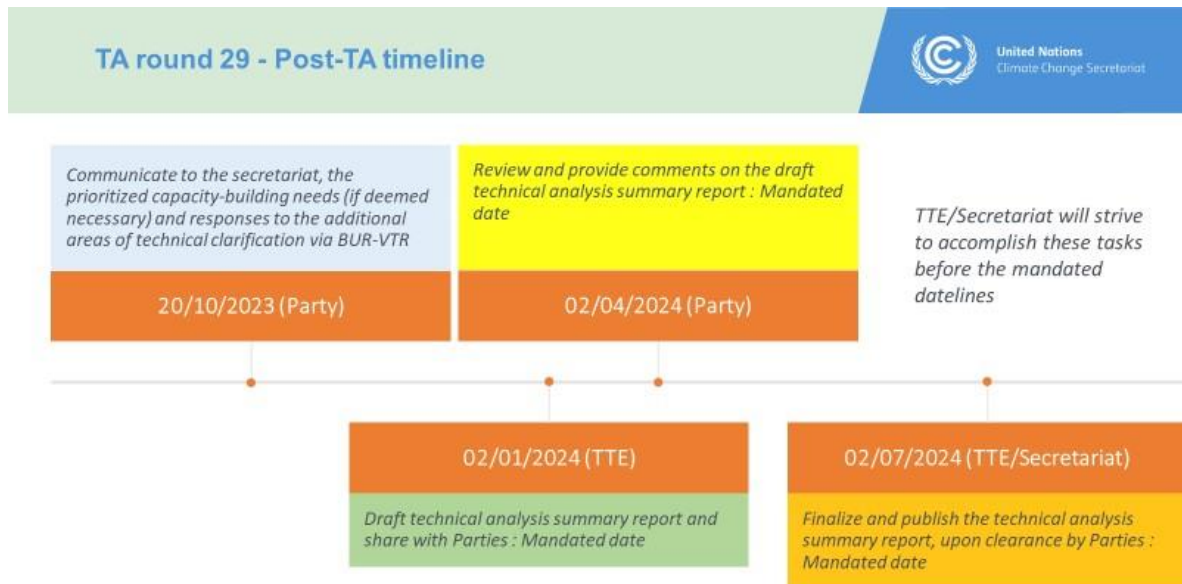
the proposed CBN's by the TTE, some which were also forward looking to enhance capacity for the future ETF and its requirements.

Finally, the secretariat succeed in convincing the third Party also to have a call on Thursday, although they did not respond to any of the questions by then. They explained that they faced institutional difficulties, their focal point for the UNFCCC changed several times in the recent years, even the secretariat was not aware of that. And the local team consisted of new people with no experience and knowledge in reporting to the UNFCCC. They admitted that their institutional memory for UNFCCC and its reporting duties was lost. A foreign consultant did most of the work. Moreover, this small team had an internal deadline of the same Friday of the TA week, so unfortunately they could not commit to any timeline for responding to TTE questions.

By the afternoon of the fourth day, all annex tables (checklists) were done and some experts also made good progress in writing their assigned text parts. Other experts still needed follow-up questions to be sent the Parties. Some experts and the secretariat, from who one of the officers fell out with COVID-19 earlier in the week, could make a start with the peer review, i.e. one expert provides comments on the text written by another expert.

By Friday, the last day of the TA, the writing ended in the morning and the same time the peer reviews were done and the conclusions in the report agreed upon by the team as a whole, so that by late afternoon, all 3 TASRs were as good as they could get, but still with a lot of open ends where the TTE was still expecting responses from the Parties, that were not provided for during the whole week.

The follow-up time line looks as follows, with the team hoping that we won't have to work during the end-of-year period.



Finally, as the secretariat is always keen receiving feed-back, we had a joint session to discuss:

The efficiency and effectiveness of the technical analysis process, in particular:

- What worked well
- What can be improved



- Process
- Tools
- Training

Oktober – TA BUR – Panama – Lopez

**COMPTE-RENDU**

**1. Introduction to the missions undertaken by the expert annually**

Maria José López was nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts by Belgium in 2004. After passing the exams for the expert reviewers, she started GHG inventory reviews in 2005, reviews of national communications (NC) and biennial reports (BR) in 2014 and technical analysis of biennial update reports (BURs) in 2015. This experience allowed her to become a lead reviewer (LR) since 2014. A summary of existing UNFCCC reviews and analysis processes in which she participates annually and reviews performed by the UNFCCC Secretariat to date is presented hereafter.

**GHG  
inventories,  
supplementary  
info under KP**

Since the submission of GHG inventories in April each year, the UNFCCC Secretariat starts the planning and preparation of the reviews including the organisation of the expert review teams (ERT) and the preparation of preliminary questions to Parties. The reviews start within 25 weeks/6 months from submission. Parties receive the assessment review report 6 weeks after the review week and have 4 weeks to provide comments. The Assessment Review Report (ARR) is published within 1 year after submission.

Within the new Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement, GHG inventories will be reviewed together with the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR). They will be subject to a simplified review (by a group of Lead Reviewers) in the years in which BTR are not submitted.

**BR/NC**

The Review Cycle of NCs and BRs takes 20 weeks. Under current review process, the ERT has 6 weeks to draft the review report. Then the UNFCCC Secretariat undertakes the quality control and quality assurance of the draft report within 4 weeks. The Party receives the draft review report 10 weeks after the review week and has 4 weeks to provide comments. Once the comments have been received the ERT finalizes the report within one month, with two more weeks for publication.

**BUR**

**The International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process**

COP 17 adopted the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, (hereinafter referred to as BUR guidelines) as well as modalities and guidelines for international consultation and analysis (ICA).

In adopting the decisions, the COP decided that developing country Parties should, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting, submit their first BUR by December 2014.

After the submission of the first one, subsequent BURs are to be submitted every two years on a mandatory basis.

The first rounds of ICA started within six months of the submission of the first round of BURs by developing country Parties. The frequency of the subsequent rounds of ICA is determined by the frequency of the submissions of BURs, which is every two years, with special flexibility for small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed country Parties (LDCs), which may undergo ICA at their discretion.

ICA consists of two steps:

- the technical analysis of BURs by a team of technical experts (TTE) and
- a facilitative sharing of views, in the form of a workshop convened at regular intervals under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

The ICA process will be superseded by the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, with the submission of the last BURs no later than December 2024.

The elements of BURs are GHG inventory; Mitigation actions; Financial and Technology and Capacity (FTC) needs and support received (REDD plus activities for some Parties).

While the national communication is not in itself subjected to ICA, there are many areas of overlap between the national communication and the BUR. The scope of BURs is to provide an update to the most recently submitted national communications focusing on information on mitigation (GHG inventory, Mitigation actions and Support needed and received). Thus BURs provide updates on actions undertaken by a Party to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the status of its GHG emissions and removals by sinks, as well as on the actions to reduce emissions or enhance sinks.

Technical analysis cycle of BURs takes 15 months and starts within 6 months of submission of the BURs. After the technical analysis week the TTE has three months to finalise the preparation of the summary report than it is sent to the Party who has 3 months to provide comments and the TTE has another 3 months to finalise the summary report.

## **2. Technical Analysis of BURs undertaken by the expert during the LACCW 23-27 October 2023**

This mission consisted in the participation of Maria Jose Lopez as co-lead and member of the Technical Team of Experts (TTE) to undertake the technical analysis of the first BUR submitted by Guatemala and The Bahamas and the second BUR submitted by Ecuador.

The technical analysis took place from 23 to 27 October 2023 in Panama City.

The TTE was composed of a team of eight experts.

The TTE produced three draft reports (for Guatemala, The Bahamas and Ecuador) containing the results of the identification of capacity building needs as well as the analysis of completeness and transparency of the following information:

- Information on national circumstances (in particular related to mitigation and needs),

- Institutional arrangements relevant to the preparation of the national communications and MRV on a continuous basis,
- An updated national inventory (no more than four years prior to the date of the submission, or more recent, if available, in most cases) including a national inventory report,
- Mitigation actions and their effects (including description of actions, methodologies, assumptions, steps, coverage, quantitative goals, progress indicators, the progress made in their implementation and their impacts),
- Constraints and gaps (financial, technical and capacity building barriers, challenges and bottlenecks),
- Financial, technical and capacity needs, support received (financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and technical support),
- Level of support received to enable the preparation and submission of the BUR,
- Support needed including capacity-building needs in order to facilitate reporting (in consultation with the Party) at institutional (enhancing cooperation, creating structures, competencies and resources), systemic (policies) and individual (educational, training and awareness raising activities) levels,
- Domestic MRV and any other information relevant to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.

In addition, at the request of two out of the three the Parties, a quality assurance exercise to provide findings for improvement of their GHG inventory was undertaken by the GHG inventory experts of the TTE using a GHG tool developed by the Secretariat.

During the review week the TTE produced a first draft version of the summary report for each one of the countries under analysis and identified, in consultation with the three Parties through teleconferences held second and third days of the review week, capacity-building needs in order to facilitate reporting.

The technical analysis of the BURs will result in an individual summary report for each BUR submitted and analysed. The TTE shall complete a draft of the summary report no later than three months after the start of the technical analysis. The draft summary report will be shared with the Party for review and comments (to be sent within three months of its receipt). The TTE shall respond to and incorporate the comments from the Party and finalize the summary report within three months of the receipt of the comments.

### **3. Conclusions relevant for Belgium from the TA of BURs**

During the Q&A phase previous to the TA week, one out of the three countries was answering to the questions in a defensive way, mostly not straight to the point and indicating that the Party did not have capacity building needs in the area addressed by the question.

During the call with the Party, an external international consultant was present in the meeting and advising the Party not to accept the capacity building needs identified by the TTE based on the lack of completeness or clarity of the information reported. The TTE could then conclude from the call the lack of understanding of the Party about the ICA process with one of its main aims is to identify capacity building needs in order to improve the reporting of future submissions. The summary reports of the TA are a powerful tool to document needs for the Party for potential donors. My conclusion was then that the international consultants made the BUR and were advising wrongly to the Party on their real capacity building needs despite the fact that the UNFCCC Officers and Co-leads were explaining that ICA is not an exam and is not any judgement on the Party's reporting

but rather a process to allow Parties to identify barriers and constraints with the aim of implementing a continuous improvement.

Consequently, main conclusion and advice for Belgium is to ensure that the national capacity is enough involved in the projects Belgium is providing financial support to avoid dependence on international expertise and increase the ownership.

#### **4. Participation in the UNFCCC LACW event “Showcasing the new ETF reporting tools and training the Parties on using them Live Demo Session”, 23 October 2023**

This mission consisted in the participation of Maria Jose Lopez in the UNFCCC event “Showcasing the new ETF reporting tools and training the Parties on using them Live Demo Session” on 23 October 2023.

The ppt presentation is attached to this mission report in a separate file.



ETF\_Live demo  
session\_LAC.pdf

Main reporting tools developed by the UNFCCC Secretariat were presented at the event. They concern mainly developing country Parties because the reporting under the ETF is new for them.

#### **5. Conclusions relevant for Belgium from the participation in the event**

Based on the tables that were presented during the event and taking into account that the reporting tools are very similar to the current Biennial reports and annual GHG inventories reporting, it is concluded that Belgium is not likely to have any constraints, gaps and barriers to report the BTR under the ETF.

Oktober – TA BUR – Panama – Jonckheere

### **VERSLAG**

Review GHG Bahamas, Guatemala en Ecuador.

De desk review van de BUR submissions 2024 bestond uit een voorbereidingsperiode, de review week zelf tijdens de LAC Climate week in Panama en het rapporteren erna. Voor de gedetailleerde planning verwijs ik naar het officiële schema.

Het review material werd ter voorbereiding vooraf aan de reviewexperts bezorgd en onderzocht (augustus/ september).

De review zelf vond plaats van maandag 23 tot 27 oktober 2023 op de premises van de LAC Climate week georganiseerd door UNFCCC en UNEP. Ik was verantwoordelijk voor de MIT (mitigation actions), in eerste instantie van Ecuador, maar ook voor Guatemala en Bahamas met de andere MIT collega. In parallel met de events van de UNFCCC, namen we als experts ook deel aan de trainingen over de nieuwe tools voor het ETF.

In de periode Oktober-November 2024 worden de review rapporten met het betrokken land en het UNFCCC secretariaat afgerond en beschikbaar gemaakt voor de Facilitative View. Het wordt gepubliceerd na finalisatie op de UNFCCC website.