

Decision -/CP.20

Training programme for review experts for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Articles 4, 7 and 12 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 19/CP.8, 12/CP.9 and 10/CP.15,

Further recalling decisions 1/CP.16 and 2/CP.17, which established a work programme under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice for the revision of the guidelines for the review of biennial reports and national communications, including national inventory reviews,

Recalling decision 24/CP.19, by which the revised “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories” were adopted and decision -/CP.20,¹ by which 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” were adopted,

Having considered the relevant recommendations of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice,

Recognizing the importance of the training programme for review experts for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to implement the training programme for review experts for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, as outlined in the annex, including the examination of experts, and to give priority to organizing an annual training seminar for the basic course;
2. *Encourages* Parties included in Annex I to the Convention in a position to do so to provide financial support for the implementation of the training programme;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to include, in its annual report to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the composition of expert review teams, information on the training programme, in particular on examination procedures and the selection of trainees and instructors, in order for Parties to assess the effectiveness of the programme.

¹ Draft decision proposed for adoption under agenda item 3(a) of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

Training programme for review experts for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

A. Details of the training programme

1. The courses are intended to train review experts for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. All training courses will be available online. For trainees without easy access to the Internet, courses will be distributed electronically; for courses facilitated by instructors, trainees will communicate electronically with the instructor during the training period. At the request of any Party, the training courses will also be made available to other experts interested in the technical review of GHG inventories, provided that this does not require additional resources. All courses will be available upon request to trainees all year round, without facilitation by instructors.
2. A closing seminar for the basic course of the training programme will be offered annually for around 30 participants (new review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories).
3. Additional regional training seminars for new review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories and a refresher seminar for experienced review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories may be offered annually, depending on the availability of resources. The refresher seminars may be offered in conjunction with meetings of lead reviewers, in order to enhance their knowledge and that of other experienced review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories.
4. All training courses will include an examination. Examination procedures will be standardized, objective and transparent.
5. When participants attend a training seminar, the examination will generally take place during that seminar. In all other circumstances, other arrangements for examinations will be made, provided that the examinations take place under the supervision of the secretariat and that no additional resources are required. For courses without a training seminar, the examination will take place online.
6. New review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories who successfully complete the relevant requirements of the training programme and pass the examinations will be invited to participate in centralized or in-country reviews, working alongside experienced review experts.
7. New review experts who do not pass a course examination at the first attempt may retake the examination once only, provided that the expert has fulfilled all of the tasks assigned during the training course in a timely manner and that the retake does not require the secretariat to incur additional costs.
8. Experienced review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories will be invited to take the online training courses. Examinations are not mandatory for experienced review experts but are encouraged, and may take place in conjunction with meetings of lead reviewers.

9. Experienced review experts with relevant GHG inventory reporting and review expertise will be invited to act as instructors for relevant courses of the training programme, ensuring that their collective skills cover the subjects addressed in each course. The secretariat will seek to achieve a geographical balance among the instructors participating in the training programme.

10. When selecting new review experts to attend training courses facilitated by instructors, the secretariat will give priority to review experts with relevant GHG inventory reporting expertise, nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts, from Parties that do not have review experts who have previously participated in review activities.

B. Courses of the training programme

1. Basic course for the review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

Description: This course covers a comprehensive introduction 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”, an overview of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories”, guidance on procedures and approaches for the technical review of GHG inventories and general Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) inventory guidance (*2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*), as well as specific aspects of the review of the following IPCC sectors: energy; industrial processes and product use; agriculture; land use, land-use change and forestry; and waste. This course also provides guidance on drafting substantive review reports that are consistent among review teams and reader friendly.

Preparation: 2015

Implementation: 2015–2016

Target audience: New and experienced review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories

Type of course: E-learning, facilitated by instructors, with a closing seminar

Examination requirements and format: New review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories must pass the general examination as well as a sectoral examination before participating in expert review teams. Lead reviewers and experienced review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories are encouraged to take the examinations. The examinations will be conducted in person.

2. Review of complex models and higher-tier methods

Description: This course provides general guidance and procedures, as well as guidance on specific aspects of the review of emission estimations performed using complex models and higher-tier methods (tier 3 methods).

Preparation: 2010

Implementation: 2014–2016

Target audience: Lead reviewers and review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories

Type of course: E-learning, without an instructor

Examination requirements and format: Optional; self-check electronic examination

3. Improving communication and facilitating consensus in expert review teams

Description: This course provides guidance and tools to improve the work of expert review teams and to facilitate teamwork

Preparation: 2003

Implementation: 2014–2016

Target audience: Lead reviewers and review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories

Type of course: E-learning, without an instructor

Examination requirements and format: Optional; self-check electronic examination

C. Refresher seminar for experienced greenhouse gas inventory review experts

Description: This annual seminar provides general guidance on specific and complex aspects of the technical review of GHG emission estimates. It enables experienced review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories to strengthen and refresh their knowledge, in relation to both cross-cutting aspects and sector-specific issues.

Implementation: 2014–2016, subject to the availability of resources

Target audience: Lead reviewers and experienced review experts for the technical review of GHG inventories
