

DRAFT TEXT

on

COP 30 agenda item 5
Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention
Version 18/11/2025 21:55

[Draft decision -/CP.30

Term, composition and terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 4, paragraphs 1, 3 and 7, and Article 12, paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 7, of the Convention,

Also recalling Article 13, paragraphs 1, 14 and 15, of the Paris Agreement,

Further recalling decisions 8/CP.5, 3/CP.8, 17/CP.8, 5/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 14/CP.17, 17/CP.18, 18/CP.18, 19/CP.19, 20/CP.19, 1/CP.21, 20/CP.22, 11/CP.24 and 14/CP.26,

Recalling decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 15,

[Recognizing that the Consultative Group of Experts plays an important role in facilitating the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties and in facilitating improved reporting over time, as applicable, in relation to the preparation and submission of national communications, biennial update reports, national greenhouse gas inventories and biennial transparency reports, as relevant,]

Also recognizing the special circumstances of the least developed countries and small island developing States in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement,

1. *Emphasizes* that the Consultative Group of Experts plays a dual role in that it serves both the Convention and the Paris Agreement and that it shall continue to provide technical advice and support to developing country Parties for fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

2. *[TERM]*

[OPTION 1: Decides to extend the term of the Consultative Group of Experts for [three][six][eight] years, from 1 January 2027 to 31 December [2029][2032][2034];]

[OPTION 2: Decides that the term of the Consultative Group of Experts will continue until otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties;]

3. *[COMPOSITION]*

[OPTION 1: Also decides that the composition of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain unchanged from that set out in paragraphs 3–5 of the annex to decision 3/CP.8 and paragraphs 2–3 of decision 14/CP.26;]

[OPTION 2: Also decides that the Consultative Group of Experts shall be composed of XX members as follows:

- (a) four from African States;
- (b) four from Asia-Pacific States;
- (c) four from Eastern European States;
- (d) four from Latin American and Caribbean States;
- (e) four from Western European and other States;
- (f) two from the least developed countries;

(g) two from small island developing States;

(h) one from each of three international organizations with relevant experience in providing technical assistance to [Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention][developing country Parties] in the preparation of national communications[, biennial update reports] and biennial transparency reports;]

4. *Further decides* that the Consultative Group of Experts shall be composed of experts drawn from the UNFCCC roster of experts with expertise in at least one of the sections of national communications, biennial update reports and biennial transparency reports in accordance with the relevant guidelines;¹

5. *Encourages* regional groups, the least developed countries and small island developing States, in nominating their experts to the Consultative Group of Experts, to make every effort to ensure balanced representation in the areas of expertise referred to in paragraph 4 above, and to take into account gender balance in accordance with decisions 36/CP.7 and 23/CP.18;

6. *[Decides* that the members of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain in office until their successors are elected and that, in such cases, the Consultative Group of Experts shall notify, via the secretariat, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation thereof;]

[6 bis. *Decides* that, to operate in an open and inclusive manner, the meetings of the Consultative Group of Experts will be open to Parties and United Nations organizations as observers, unless a member of the Consultative Group of Experts requests the meeting to be closed;]

7. *[OFFICERS]*

[*OPTION 1: Also decides* that the terms of service of the Chair and the Rapporteur of the Consultative Group of Experts shall remain unchanged from the guidance set out in paragraph 6 of the annex to decision 3/CP.8;]

[*OPTION 2: Also decides* that the Consultative Group of Experts shall elect, from among its members, two Co-Chairs, for a term of one year each, taking into account the need to ensure geographical balance;]

8. *Adopts* the revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts contained in the annex;

9. *[FUTURE REVISION]*

[*OPTION 1: Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its [xx] session (month 20xx), to initiate consideration of the extension of the term of the Consultative Group of Experts after 20xx, the composition of the Consultative Group of Experts and its terms of reference, taking into account the needs of developing countries for capacity-building in relation to reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, with a view to recommending draft decisions on these matters for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its [xx] session (month 20xx) [and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its [xx] session (month 20xx)];]

[*OPTION 2: Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to review the terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts at its seventy-eighth session (2033) and every eight years thereafter, taking into account the evolving needs of developing countries for capacity-building in relation to reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, with a view to recommending draft decisions on this matter for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at the session taking place in the year of the review] [and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at the session taking place in the year of the review];]

10. *[Also requests* the Consultative Group of Experts to submit a progress report annually on its work to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation for consideration at the session of the

¹ See the annex to decision 17/CP.8, annex III to decision 2/CP.17, the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, annexes I–VI to decision 5/CMA.3, and decision 9/CMA.4.

Subsidiary Body for Implementation that is held in conjunction with the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;]

11. *Further requests* the secretariat to facilitate the work of the Consultative Group of Experts pursuant to this decision;

12. [*Requests* the secretariat to allocate adequate financial resources from the core budget of the UNFCCC for enabling the full implementation of the revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts and the activities under its work programmes;]

13. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraphs 11–12 above;

14. *Requests* that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.]

[Note from Co-Facilitators on a text that may be reflected in a CMA decision: (CMA) Takes note of decision x/CP.30 and decides that the Consultative Group of Experts shall continue to serve the Paris Agreement.]

[Annex

Revised terms of reference of the Consultative Group of Experts

1. The objective of the Consultative Group of Experts shall be to provide technical advice and support to developing country Parties for enhancing their institutional and technical capacity to fulfil their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, with a particular emphasis on the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement, with a view to facilitating improvements in their reporting over time. Taking into account paragraph 98 of decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 38 and 43(a–b) of decision 1/CP.24, paragraphs 3–4 of decision 18/CMA.1 and paragraph 1 of decision 5/CMA.3, the Consultative Group of Experts shall ensure that it prioritizes its work in a manner that addresses the challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties, recognizing the special circumstances of the least developed countries and small island developing States, as recognized in Article 13, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement.

2. In fulfilling its mandate² to support implementation of the existing measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), the Consultative Group of Experts shall, as appropriate:

(a) Provide, taking into account paragraphs 38 and 43(a–b) of decision 1/CP.24, technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the process of and the preparation of their national communications³ and biennial update reports, as applicable, in accordance with the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, contained in the annex to decision 17/CP.8, and the “UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, contained in annex III to decision 2/CP.17;

(b) Provide recommendations, as appropriate, on elements to be considered in a future revision of the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from

² Decision 11/CP.24.

³ In accordance with decision 1/CP.24, para. 43(a), Parties may submit their national communication and biennial transparency report as a single report in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, as contained in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, for information also covered by the national communication reporting guidelines contained in, as applicable, decisions 4/CP.5 and 17/CP.8.

Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention”, taking into account the experience of non-Annex I Parties in preparing their national communications;

(c) Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, on the provision of the information to be reported on steps taken to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention;

(d) Provide guidance and periodic advice to the secretariat, as applicable, to assist it in fulfilling the selection criteria for the composition of teams of technical experts, in accordance with paragraphs 3–5 of the annex to decision 20/CP.19, taking into account the reports provided by the secretariat in this regard on a semi-annual basis;

(e) Continue updating and organizing, as needed, with the assistance of the secretariat, the training programmes for nominated technical experts for the technical analysis of biennial update reports, on the basis of the most up-to-date training materials of the Consultative Group of Experts, with a view to improving the technical analysis, taking into account the experience of non-Annex I Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in preparing their biennial update reports, and increasing the representation of the least developed countries and small island developing States in teams of technical experts.

3. In fulfilling its mandate^[4] to support implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, the Consultative Group of Experts shall:

(a) Facilitate the provision of technical advice and support to developing country Parties, including for the preparation and submission of their biennial transparency reports, and facilitate improved reporting over time in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement,⁵ as applicable;

(b) Provide technical advice to the secretariat on the implementation of the training programme for technical expert review teams referred to in paragraph 12(c) of decision 18/CMA.1;

(c) With the assistance of the secretariat, support developing country Parties, including through national focal points, in providing additional support to experts to complete the training programmes and increase participation in the technical expert review, to assist the secretariat in meeting its obligations under paragraph 178 in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1;

4. The Consultative Group of Experts, in providing technical advice and support, should, to the extent possible:

(a) Give special consideration to the least developed countries and small island developing States, including in the context of the need to improve the ability of experts to participate in technical expert reviews;

(b) Identify and take into account, as appropriate, lessons learned and best practices, and the challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties pertaining to preparing, as appropriate, the reports referred to in paragraph x above, including in relation to financial and other support available, as well as the areas for improvement and capacity-building needs identified in biennial transparency reports, technical analyses of biennial update reports and technical expert reviews of biennial transparency reports;

(c) Seek to promote sectoral, gender and geographical balance among experts from developing country Parties eligible to participate in technical expert reviews;

(d) Facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of the processes for preparing, as appropriate and relevant, the reports referred to in paragraph x above, including by providing technical advice and support on elaborating appropriate institutional

^[4] Decisions 11/CP.24, para. 4, and 18/CMA.1, para. 15.]

⁵ Decision 18/CMA.1, annex.

arrangements, facilitating long-term planning with regard to implementing the enhanced transparency framework and establishing and maintaining national technical teams;

(e) Provide information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation, as appropriate, of the reports referred to in paragraph x above;

(f) Seek to increase, including through the national focal points, the pool of qualified technical experts through targeted outreach and training initiatives, focusing on building and maintaining a sustainable pool of reviewers;

(g) Provide technical advice and support to developing country Parties in their efforts to establish, develop and enhance robust and sustainable reporting systems, as applicable, with a view to preserving institutional memory and ensuring continuity in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

5. The Consultative Group of Experts should collaborate, to the extent possible, with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as with representatives of relevant multilateral programmes and organizations, while avoiding duplication of work.

6. The Consultative Group of Experts shall develop, at its first meeting in 20xx, a work programme [every four years][covering the duration of its term] and include information on its progress in implementing the work programme in its annual report prepared for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

7. The Consultative Group of Experts shall also develop an annual workplan, in line with its work programme, at its first meeting each year.

8. The Consultative Group of Experts shall include information in its annual report to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on any resource constraints identified in implementing the work programme referred to in paragraph 6 above.

9. The Consultative Group of Experts shall forward recommendations on the matters referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 above for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, as appropriate.]
