

Arab Group Submission – Methodological Issues Under the Paris Agreement

In response to SBSTA's invitation to Parties to submit their views on matters related to methodological issues under the Paris Agreement, including on:

(a) Experience with using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, the common reporting format, the transition to the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and countries' experience with that transition, and the development of country-specific tools for facilitating greenhouse gas inventory reporting;

(b) Common tabular format tables for tracking progress in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions;

(c) Tables for reporting on support needed and received, and support mobilized;

(d) Approaches to operationalizing the flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, as defined in decision 18/CMA.1.

Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Arab Group appreciates the opportunity to submit its views and inputs on the elements above. The Arab Group reserves the right to make additional submissions and present further views on the above listed information.

General Considerations:

- Outcomes for the work under Enhanced Transparency Framework should not place undue burden on developing country parties and should respect the balance achieved and flexibility provisions provided in MPGs with no backsliding.
- Information to be included in tables and formats has already been agreed in the MPGs, and therefore there shall not be additional reporting requirements.
- Most developing countries Parties do not have sufficient experience in using common tables and formats. The different starting points, national circumstances and capabilities need to be recognized when developing the tables. The MPGs as they stand already create a burden on developing country Parties.
- Work should also be guided by the principle of no backsliding.
- In accordance with paragraph 89 of 1/CP.21, developing country Parties shall be provided flexibility in the implementation of the provisions of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, including in the scope, frequency and level of detail of reporting.

(a) Experience with using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, the common reporting format, the transition to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and countries' experience with that transition, and the development of country-specific tools for facilitating greenhouse gas inventory reporting;

The common reporting tables should build on existing tables, taking into account modifications necessary as per the MPGs and the flexibilities provided to developing country Parties.

The tables should also take into account the different starting points and experiences of developing country Parties. For many developing country Parties, the background sectoral tables create a significant burden, therefore, the background sectoral tables should not be mandatory and developing country Parties should have the flexibility of filling them out as an encouragement instead. Developing country Parties should only be required to fill out the summary table and overtime transition to filling out the background tables as well.

(b) Common tabular format tables for tracking progress in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions;

For section III.C of the MPGs, careful attention needs to be given to the applicability and availability qualifiers in the guidance.

For the structured summary, this is one of the new areas under which all Parties, with the variety of their NDCs, will be reporting on for the first time. It is therefore of utmost importance that the first and foremost priority is given to ensure that the design of the structured summary takes into account the variety of NDCs and respect their nationally determined nature. The format of the structured summary should not be designed in a way that is suitable or conducive for only certain types of NDCs and excludes others. The design of the structured summary should also not be done in a way that would exclude new types of NDCs that may be communicated in the future. It is also important that qualitative and quantitative information are reported together in the structured summary in order to communicate a coherent and complete structured summary. It should be noted that for several countries in the Arab Group, the NDCs are based on policies and measures, and there this should be taken into account in the structured summary. The approach for the structured summary should be simple, inclusive and conducive for all NDCs. It should also be taken into account that paragraph 77 of the MPGs that references the structured summary also references paragraphs 65-76 of the MPGs, not all elements of paragraphs 65-76 are applicable to all NDCs.

Concerning paragraph 78 of the MPGs, for each Party with an NDC under Article 4 that consists of adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans resulting in mitigation co-benefits consistent with Article 4, Paragraph 7 of the Paris Agreement, the information necessary to track progress on the implementation and achievement of the domestic policies

and measures implemented to address the social and economic consequences of response measures can be communicated using the following table:

Sectors and activities associated with response measures	Social and economic consequences from the response measures actions	Challenges and barriers to address the consequences	Actions to address the consequences
<i>1. In this column, Parties provide a description of specific sectors and activities associated with response measures</i>	<i>2. In this column, Parties report on the social and economic consequences of the specific action identified in column 1, including any information regarding how the consequence has been linked to the action.</i>	<i>3. In this column, Parties report on challenges and barriers to address the consequences identified in column 2.</i>	<i>4. In this column, Parties report on the actions to address the consequences</i>
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This table builds upon the current table that exists in the BUR guidance (from Training Material for the Preparation of Biennial Update Reports: Reporting Mitigation Actions and their Effects).

For section III.D of the MPGs, it is important to include paragraph 84 of the MPGs into the tabular formats, that for each Party with an NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement that consists of mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans consistent with Article 4 paragraph 7, the information to be reported under paragraphs 80, 82 and 83 of the MPGs include relevant information on policies and measures contributing to mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions or economic diversification plans.

(c) Tables for reporting on support needed and received, and support mobilized;

Support provided and mobilized: Our work should be guided by the principles of no backsliding and progression. It should be noted that for developed country Parties, the tables are mandatory and shall contain the information that are currently reported under decision 19/CP.18 and 9/CP.21 in addition to other information required by the MPGs. For other Parties that provide support, the use of tables should be encouraged.

Support needed and received: as this is a should requirement, the use of the tables should be optional for those who choose to report. Developing country Parties have limited experience in reporting on support needed and received, and this needs to be taken into account.

Furthermore, it is important to keep in mind that the needs reported under this section are not exhaustive and national circumstances can change.

(d) Approaches to operationalizing the flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, as defined in decision 18/CMA.1.

Discussion on flexibility operationalization is relevant to all paragraphs where flexibility provisions are provided, and also for the different elements of work under SBSTA 11. Our work should take into account paragraph 89 of 1CP21, which states that flexibility is to be provided to developing country parties in the scope, frequency and level of detail reporting. An example of how we see flexibility to be provided in level of detail is in reporting the background sectoral tables of inventories. The sectoral background tables should not be mandatory for developing country parties. Flexibility is also relevant when discussing the outlines for BTR, for NIR and for the TER report.

Paragraph 6 of the MPGs state that the application of flexibility is self-determined, and that the developing country Party shall clearly indicate the provision to which flexibility is applied. When designing the common reporting formats, developing country Parties should have the ability to adjust and delete rows/columns/elements/sections where flexibility provisions apply. The developing country Party should also be given the choice in how to indicate the provisions to which flexibility is applied, and the Party can use a combination of different methods. This could be done in the form of notation keys, footnotes, adjusting tables, or other methods. There should not be one common tabular format to express the use of flexibility provisions, rather, each developing country Party can indicate its use of flexibility provisions in a manner that the Party finds suitable.