

Arab Group Submission on Methodological Issues Under the Paris Agreement

April 2021

The Arab Group is providing this submission on voluntary basis to help in exchanging views and enhancing understanding on Methodological Issues under the Paris Agreement. This submission is made with due consideration of Rule 16 on this agenda item in COP25. Therefore, knowledge exchanged using this submission and other similar submissions by Parties should neither intend to be a source of advice or recommendation nor lead to any decision. Further, all voluntary submissions made on this agenda item cannot be used as references in the ordinary session in consistence with UNFCCC Rule 16. The views exchanged using these submissions and other views expressed in the planned informal technical dialogues have neither a legal status nor formal or informal outcomes, and do not set a legal precedent.

The Arab Group voluntarily submits its views on methodological issues under the Paris Agreement in response to SBSTA's encouragement to Parties to submit their views on:

(a) The Common reporting tables for the electronic reporting of the information in the national inventory reports, including examples and options for the formats and contents of tables, in particular sectorial report and background table, and options for implementation of the flexibility provisions;

(b) The structured summary, including examples to demonstrate how the proposed format could encompass different types of indicators (both quantitative and qualitative) and facilitate tracking progress;

(c) The common tabular formats on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support, including examples and options for the summary tables, the structure and content of the tables, and how to improve comparability and ensure consistency across specific tables.

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 (ETF) should not place undue burden on developing country parties and should respect the balance achieved and the flexibility provision as a reflection of CBDR and as provided in the MPGs.
- Information to be included under the ETF has already been agreed in the MPGs, therefore there shall not be additional reporting requirements
- Most developing country 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 and formats. The MPGs as they stand already create a burden on developing country Parties, which require time for intensive capacity-building for the implementation of the ETF.
- Work should also be guided by the principles of no backsliding, and the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities as overarching principles.
- 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) The Common reporting tables for the electronic reporting of the information in the national inventory reports, including examples and options for the formats and contents of tables, in particular sectorial report and background table, and options for implementation of the flexibility provisions;

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 consider 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.

This is consistent with decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 89: *"...developing country Parties shall be provided flexibility in the implementation of the provisions of that Article, including in the scope, frequency and level of detail of reporting, and in the scope of review..."*

Developing country Parties should only be required to fill out the summary table, reflecting flexibility, and respecting the national capacity with due consideration of confidential business and military information.

Paragraph 6 of the MPGs states 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.

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework has to be taken into consideration to accelerate operationalizing the tables in the next ordinary session.

For GHG inventory, the below table is a proposed format as a starting point for developing countries to report under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. Noting that developing country parties can hide/delete/shade/use notation keys or other methods to adjust rows or columns where flexibility provision is applied.

With regard to other information to be reported under the GHG inventory such as on the methods used, key category analysis, recalculations, uncertainty assessment, etc... more discussions are needed in the upcoming ordinary session on what is needed in a tabular

format, taking into consideration the time constraint of the ETF implementation and the delays stemmed from COVID-19.

Since our work is guided by the principle of ‘no backsliding’, Developed countries should continue to use the CRF tables that they have been using in reporting under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol while also providing the necessary support and exchange knowledge with developing countries to transition to increased level of reporting over time.

Table 1. Proposed table for developing country Parties reporting of GHG sources and sinks

Source and Sink Categories	CO2 (Gg)	CH4 (Gg)	N2O (Gg)	...	Total
Total National Emissions					
Net National Emissions					
1. Energy					
A. Fuel Combustion Activities					
⋮					
B. Fugitive Emissions from Fuels					
⋮					
C. Carbon Dioxide Transport and Storage					
⋮					
2. Industrial Processes and Product Use					
⋮					
3. Agriculture					
⋮					
4. Land-use change and forestry					
⋮					
5. Waste					
⋮					
6. Other					
Memo items					

(b) The structured summary, including examples to demonstrate how the proposed format could encompass different types of indicators (both quantitative and qualitative) and facilitate tracking progress;

For section III.C of the MPGs, careful attention needs to be given to the applicability and availability of qualifiers in the guidance. Moreover, careful attention must be given to paragraph 79 of the MPGs, which provides a qualifier for using narrative and common tabular format for 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.

The structured summary 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 that should be taken into account in the structured summary. For such types of NDCs, the Party needs to display in the structured summary the necessary information to track progress of implementing and achieving policies and measures taken to implement and achieve its NDC. According to paragraph 79 of the MPGs, the Party can choose to report such information in a narrative and common tabular format, as applicable.

Thus, the structured summary format is decided by the Party, and it could be either a tabular or narrative format. This includes using graphs, charts, tables, bullet points, referring to parts of the BTR, or any other self-determined format that can effectively show progress of self-determined indicators in implementing/achieving the NDC.

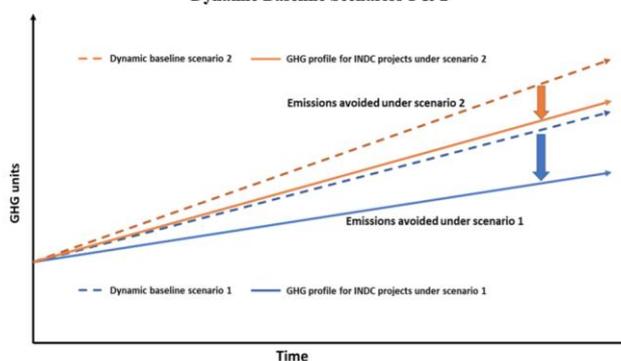
Limitation to a specific common format that suits some NDCs and excludes others will reduce the effectiveness of showing progress for these parties as opposed to a self-determined format that the Party can effectively use to achieve a high level of transparency in reporting.

Below is an example of a self-determined format for the structured summary:

The example shown here is for NDC that consists of adaptation and economic diversification plans with mitigation co-benefits, however, similar format could also be applied to other NDC types as decided by the Party.

In this example, the party could select to effectively show progress of implementing and achieving its NDC in a narrative format combined by the graph shown. Further details could be elaborated in the narrative description, while the graph includes information on the selected indicator (GHG emission units), information on previous reporting years for this indicator, most recent information, and information on GHG emissions and removals consistent with the coverage.

Figure 5.2: Emission Profile of INDC projects Implementation under the basis of Dynamic Baseline Scenarios 1 & 2



The format shown in this example allowed the Party to compare its progress and achievement against a dynamic baseline.

The Party could also choose to show progress of other indicators in a different format depending on the selected indicator. Most importantly, the format of the Structured Summary must not put restrictions on the Party's ability to effectively show progress, and the format of display should be suitable to the selected type of indicator.

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>
...
...

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.