

Draft guidelines for technical expert review (TER) for Article 6

A. Scope

1. An Article 6 TER consists of:
 - (a) A review of the consistency of the information submitted by the Party under chapter IV. A. (Initial report) and C. (regular information) of the Annex to Decision 2/CMA.3 with the guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement and in Decision 2/CMA.3.;
 - (b) A review of information submitted by all the participating Parties on a cooperative approach as part of the review to the extent possible.
 - (c) Identification of areas of improvement for the Party related to consistency with the guidance.
2. The Article 6 TER shall pay particular attention to the special circumstances of the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).
3. In accordance with Chapter V. (Review) of the Annex to Decision 2/CMA.3., the Article 6 TER will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes burden on Parties and the secretariat.
4. Article 6 TER teams shall not make political judgments.

B. Information to be reviewed

5. Information submitted under Chapter IV A (Initial report) and C (regular information) of the Annex to Decision 2/CMA.3. shall undergo an Article 6 TER consistent with these guidelines.

C. Format of an Article 6 TER

1. Definition

6. An Article 6 TER consists of a desk or centralized review of the consistency of the information submitted by the Party under Chapter IV.A and C of the Annex to Decision 2/CMA.3..
7. A desk review is when the members of an Article 6 TER team conduct the review remotely from their respective countries.
8. A centralized review is when the members of an Article 6 TER team conduct the review from a single, centralized location. During a centralized review, a single

Article 6 TER team could review several Parties.

2. Applicability

9. The LDCs and SIDS may choose to participate in the same centralized review as a group. During a centralized group review, a single Article 6 expert review team will review several submissions of initial reports or regular information from the LDCs and SIDS.
10. Centralized reviews should be used for Article 6 TER for the review of initial reports and regular information when centralized or in-country review is applied for Article 13 TER. Desk reviews may be used for the review of initial reports and regular information when desk review is applied for Article 13 TER. Article 6 TER may be exempt from when simplified review is conducted for Article 13 TER.

D. Procedures

11. For centralized and desk reviews:
 - (a) The secretariat shall commence the preparation of the Article 6 TER process immediately following the submission of the information specified in Chapter B. above and agree with the Party the dates of the Article 6 TER week at least 8 weeks prior to the Article 6 TER week. The secretariat may organize reviews of regular information as an annex to the Party's biennial transparency reports in a staggered manner between two consecutive reports;
 - (b) The secretariat shall compose an Article 6 TER team at least 6 weeks prior to the Article 6 TER week;
 - (c) The Article 6 TER team should communicate any preliminary questions to the Party at least 3 weeks prior to the Article 6 TER week. The Article 6 TER team may request additional information before or during the Article 6 TER week. The Party concerned should make every reasonable effort to provide the requested information within 3 weeks of the request;
 - (d) The Article 6 TER team shall communicate to the Party concerned draft areas of improvement, constituting preliminary "recommendations", at the end of the Article 6 TER week;
 - (e) The Article 6 TER team shall, under its collective responsibility, prepare a draft Article 6 TER report and, if applicable, include recommendations to the participating Party on how to improve consistency with these guidance and relevant decisions of the CMA, including on how to address inconsistencies in

quantified information that is reported under chapter IV B (Annual information) and C (Regular information) of the Annex to Decision 2/CMA.3 and/or identified by the secretariat as a part of the consistency check;

- (f) The Article 6 TER team shall prepare the final version of the Article 6 TER report within 2 weeks after the review week;
- (g) Taking into account the procedures in the preceding paragraphs, the Article 6 TER team shall make every effort to complete the Article 6 TER report as early as possible, but in two weeks before the Article 13 TER week for the Party under review at the latest.

E. Confidentiality

- 12. A Party may designate information provided to the Article 6 TER teams during the review as confidential. In such a case, the Party should provide the basis for protecting such information. In this case, Article 6 TER teams and the secretariat shall not make the information publicly available. The obligation of the members of the Article 6 TER team to maintain confidentiality continues after the completion of the Article 6 TER.

F. Role of the Party

- 13. The Party concerned and other Party(ies) participating in the cooperative approach concerned shall cooperate with the Article 6 TER team and the secretariat and make every reasonable effort to respond to all questions and provide additional clarifying information and comments to the Article 6 TER report in a timely manner.

G. Role of the Article 6 TER team

- 14. Article 6 technical experts, in conducting reviews, shall adhere to these guidelines.
- 15. Article 6 technical experts shall participate in the Article 6 TER in their individual expert capacity.

H. Role of the secretariat

- 16. The secretariat shall organize Article 6 TER, including the coordination of a schedule, logistical and administrative arrangements of the review and provision of review tools and materials to the Article 6 TER team.
- 17. The secretariat, together with the lead reviewers referred to in chapter I.3. below, shall facilitate communication between the Party, the Article 6 TER team and the Article 13 TER team.

18. The secretariat, under the guidance of the lead reviewers, shall compile and edit the final Article 6 TER reports.

I. Article 6 TER team and institutional arrangement

1. General

19. Article 6 technical experts shall be nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts by Parties and, as appropriate, by intergovernmental organizations.
20. The secretariat will develop a reference manual for the Article 6 TER for clarifying the requirements related to the reporting and review of information contained in Chapter IV of the annex to Decision.2/CMA.3.
21. Article 6 technical experts shall have recognized competence in the areas to be reviewed.
22. The secretariat shall compose an Article 6 technical review team in such a way that the collective skills and competencies of the Article 6 TER teams correspond to the information to be reviewed, as specified in chapter B. above, and that the teams include experts for each significant cooperative approaches and ITMOs of Article 6, and LULUCF, as relevant.
23. The secretariat shall select the members of the Article 6 TER team. The secretariat shall ensure geographical and gender balance among the Article 6 technical review experts, to the extent possible. When selecting members of the Article 6 TER team for centralized group reviews of initial reports and regular information from the LDCs and SIDS, the secretariat shall strive to include technical experts from the LDCs and SIDS.
24. Two successive reviews of a Party's submission cannot be performed by the same Article 6 TER team.
25. Every effort should be made to select lead reviewers who have participated in reviews under the Convention or Article 13 or Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
26. The Article 6 TER team shall include two lead reviewers.
27. Experts from developing country Parties participating in the Article 6 TER team shall be funded according to the existing procedures for participation in UNFCCC activities.

2. Lead reviewers

28. Lead reviewers shall oversee the work of the Article 6 TER team and act as co-lead reviewers, in accordance with these guidelines.
29. Lead reviewers should ensure that the Article 6 TERs in which they participate are

conducted in accordance with these guidelines. The lead reviewers should also ensure the quality and objectivity of the Article 6 TER and provide for the continuity, consistency across Parties and timeliness of the Article 6 TERs.

30. Lead reviewers shall communicate necessary information to the Article 6 TER team; monitor the progress of the Article 6 TER; coordinate the submission of queries of the Article 6 TER team to the Party concerned and coordinate the inclusion of the answers in the Article 6 TER report; give priority to issues raised in previous Article 6 TER reports; and provide technical advice to the members of the Article 6 TER team.

J. Article 6 TER report

31. An Article 6 TER report shall contain the results of an Article 6 TER in accordance with the scope identified in chapter A above.
32. Article 6 TER reports shall be forwarded for consideration by the TER referred to in chapter VII of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1 at least two weeks before the Article 13 TER week for the Party under review.
33. Article 6 TER reports shall be made publicly available on the centralized accounting and recording platform.
34. Article 6 TER team shall cooperate to Article 13 TER team with regard to the comments raised from of the Party related to Article 6 issues, during the Article 13 TER process.