

Climate Change Expert Group (CCXG) Workshop

Understanding opportunities and challenges of the CRF system:
Capacity-building to support CRT discussions.

2-4 February 2021
Virtual Workshop
(Extra session)

Overview

The Climate Change Expert Group (CCXG) is a forum for promoting dialogue and enhancing understanding between a wide range of countries on technical issues in the international climate change negotiations. The CCXG has provided impartial and rigorous analysis of climate change issues since its foundation in 1993. The secretariat for this group is jointly provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).¹ This special workshop is being held in addition to the Global Forums organised by the CCXG twice a year. Similar to the Global Forums, this workshop will enable participants to develop a shared understanding of issues relevant to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Participants include practitioners and negotiators from governments as well as delegates from inter-governmental organisations, the private sector, research organisations, and other relevant institutions. Discussions take place under Chatham House rules; that is, remarks are not to be attributed to individual speakers.

Under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement, starting in 2024, all Parties will be required to regularly report information on national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories using a set of Common Reporting Tables (CRTs). Such tables are to be developed by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and are to be adopted by COP26 in 2021. While Parties have been negotiating CRTs since 2018, an agreement on a final set of tables has not yet been reached. The CRTs can usefully build upon Parties' current experience in reporting national GHG inventories under the Convention, and the Common Reporting Formats (CRFs) currently in use by Annex I Parties for their GHG-inventory reporting will likely serve as a starting point for the development of CRTs. During this workshop, participants will have an opportunity to enhance their understanding of the current CRFs and related reporting tools, with the aim of supporting and facilitating ongoing CRT discussions. Furthermore, participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and views on the challenges and opportunities that the current reporting system offers so as to provide further inputs into the CRT discussions.

¹ The Secretariat would like to thank Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), the European Commission, Finland (Ministry of the Environment), Germany (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety), Japan (Ministry of the Environment), Italy (Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea), the Netherlands (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy), New Zealand (Ministry for the Environment), Norway (Ministry of Climate and Environment), Sweden (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency) Switzerland (Federal Office for the Environment) and the United Kingdom (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy) for their direct funding of the CCXG in 2020, and the OECD and IEA for their in-kind support.

Outline Agenda

02 February 2021	
12:00 – 13:15 CET	Session 1 The Common Reporting Format (CRF) system: CRFs and the CRF Reporter
13:15 - 13:30 CET	Break
13:30 – 15:00 CET	Session 2 Sharing experience: Challenges and solutions in using CRFs and the CRF Reporter (Part I)
15:00 – 15:30 CET	Break
15:30 – 17:00 CET	Session 3 Sharing experience: Challenges and solutions in using CRFs and the CRF Reporter (Part II) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16:15 – 16:45 discussions in small breakout groups
03 February 2021	
11:00 – 17:00 CET	Training Session Hands-on: Understanding the CRF Reporter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:00 – 13:00: First training slot • <i>Either/or</i> • 15:00 – 17:00: Second training slot
04 February 2021	
11:30 – 13:00 CET	Session 4 Tools and software that can support and facilitate CRT reporting
13:00 – 13:30 CET	Break
13:30 – 15:30 CET	Session 5 Looking ahead: Opportunities in developing CRTs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14:30 – 15:00 discussions in small breakout groups

Annotated agenda

Tuesday 2 February 2021

Relevant documents for the workshop:

- “Towards Common Reporting Tables for Biennial Transparency Reports: Experiences with tools for generating and using reporting tables under the UNFCCC”, C. Falduto and S. Wartmann (2021, draft)
- [“Reporting national GHG inventories through Common Reporting Tables \(CRTs\): An assessment of CRT reporting options through worked examples”](#), C. Falduto, S. Wartmann and Rocha, M. (2020)
- [“Reporting Tables – potential areas of work under SBSTA and options - Part I”](#), M. Rocha (2019)

12:00 – 13:15 CET	Session 1 - The Common Reporting Format system: CRFs and the CRF Reporter
Focus	Under current reporting guidelines, Annex I Parties are required to report information on national GHG inventories using a set of <i>Common Reporting Formats (CRFs)</i> . The CRFs are based on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and are automatically generated by the CRF Reporter software. During this first introductory session, participants will learn about the key characteristics of the CRFs and the key functions of the CRF Reporter. Concepts introduced in this session will serve as a basis for the discussions in the following sessions.
Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Plume, CCXG Chair
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiara Falduto, OECD/CCXG • Tomoyuki Aizawa and Nashib Kafle, UNFCCC

13:15 – 13:30 CET	Break
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13:30 – 15:00 CET	Session 2: Sharing experience: Challenges and solutions in using CRFs and the CRF Reporter (Part I)
Focus	The reporting guidelines currently in place mean that Annex I Parties have considerable experience in reporting inventory information using CRFs and the CRF Reporter. In contrast, Non-Annex I Parties’ experience in reporting national GHG inventories is more limited – reflecting the different reporting requirements. In particular, Non-Annex I Parties are not currently required to use a common set of tables or to submit information to the UNFCCC through a common software. During this session, speakers and participants will be able to share their experience in reporting national GHG inventories. Annex I Parties will discuss their key challenges and potential solutions in using CRFs and the CRF Reporter, and Non-Annex I Parties will highlight potential challenges and solutions in transitioning to the Common Reporting Tables (CRT) system.
Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ricardo Fernandez, European Environment Agency
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elsa Hatanaka, Japan • Yamikani Iddris, Malawi and LDC Group • Hyung-Wook Choi, Republic of Korea • Jongikhaya Witi, South Africa
Discussion questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the benefits of using the CRF Reporter to report GHG inventories? 2. Are there any CRF tables that are particularly challenging to complete? If so, why?

15:00 – 15:30 CET	Break
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15:30 – 17:00 CET	Session 3: Sharing experience: Challenges and solutions in using CRFs and the CRF Reporter (Part II)
Focus	<p>While Annex I Parties have considerable experience in reporting information using CRFs and the CRF Reporter, Non-Annex I Parties' experience in reporting national GHG inventories is more limited. In particular, Non-Annex I Parties are not required to use a common set of tables and do not need to submit information to the UNFCCC through a common software. During this session, speakers and participants will be able to share their experience in reporting national GHG inventories. Annex I Parties will share and discuss what they identified as the key challenges and potential solutions in using CRFs and the CRF Reporter, whereas Non-Annex I Parties will share their views on what could be the potential challenges and solutions in transitioning to the CRT system.</p> <p><i>At 16:15 – 16:45, discussions in small breakout groups</i></p>
Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lea Kai, Lebanon
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elena Gavrilova, Republic of North Macedonia • Peter Brown, United Kingdom • Roberta Cantinho, Brazil
Discussion questions	<p><i>Participants are invited to discuss the following in small breakout groups:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your country's experience with using the CRF tables and/or the CRF Reporter? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For developing countries: What do you think could be the main challenges in reporting using the CRF/CRTs and the CRF/CRT Reporter, and what resources would your country need to overcome such challenges? b. For developed countries: How have you overcome some of the key challenges of reporting using the CRFs and the CRF Reporter? 2. What are three key takeaways from your country's current reporting experience that could be considered in the context of the transparency negotiations on CRTs?

Wednesday 3 February 2021

11:00 – 17:00 CET	Hands-on: Understanding the CRF Reporter*
Focus	<p>The CRF Reporter is a web-based software developed by the UNFCCC Secretariat to facilitate the reporting of national GHG inventories by Annex I Parties. It constitutes a part of the official current reporting process for Annex I Parties, as paragraph 53 of Decision 24/CP.19 mandates that Annex I Parties “should” submit their CRF tables, generated by the CRF Reporter software, via the UNFCCC submission portal. During this training session, participants will have the opportunity to experiment first-hand some of the key functions of the CRF Reporter.</p> <p><i>Two different training slots have been organised:</i></p> <p>11:00 – 13: 00: First training slot</p> <p><i>Either/or</i></p> <p>15:00 – 17:00: Second training slot</p> <p>* Due to technical constraints, and to ensure that the training allows for a good level of interaction, only a maximum of <u>two delegates per Party</u> will be able to participate and take an active role in the training on Wednesday. To confirm your interest, please send an email to Elodie.PRATA-LEAL@oecd.org. The training slots will be identical and are being held twice to facilitate participation from different time zones.</p>
Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nashib Kafle, UNFCCC
Relevant material	<p>Training webinar on getting familiar with the CRF reporter, UNFCCC (2020) (video)</p>

Thursday 4 February 2021

11:30 – 13:00 CET	Session 4 Tools and software to support and facilitate CRT reporting
Focus	The CRF Reporter is a reporting tool, as it allows to report and organise information on national GHG emissions in CRFs. However, there are other tools and software that can support countries in the earlier phases of GHG-inventory preparation –and particularly in estimating their emissions– which can thereafter support the inputting of data into the CRF Reporter. In this session, participants will be able to learn more about IT options and solutions that could support and facilitate CRT reporting.
Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marta Alfaro, Chile
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Vartanyan, Spherical • Sandro Federici, IPCC • Justin Goodwin, Aether
Discussion questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent can IT tools and arrangements facilitate the process of reporting through CRTs and the CRT Reporter? 2. What are key IT challenges that developing countries could face in this context, and what are possible solutions to overcome these?

13:00 – 13:30 CET	Break
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13:30 – 15:30 CET	Session 5 Looking ahead: Opportunities in developing CRTs
Focus	<p>Decision 18/CMA.1 requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to develop, pursuant to the MPGs, “common reporting tables” (CRTs) for the electronic reporting of information on national GHG inventories. During this session, speakers and participants will have the opportunity to take stock of the outcomes of these three days of discussions to share views on the development of CRTs.</p> <p><i>At 14:30 – 15:00, discussions in small breakout groups</i></p>
Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Gardiner, Australia
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sina Wartmann, Independent Consultant • Amit Garg, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad • Ole-Kenneth Nielsen, Denmark • Rueanna Haynes, AOSIS
Discussion questions	<p><i>Participants will be invited to discuss the following in small breakout groups:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How could the design and structure of the CRTs meet developing countries’ needs and concerns, and to what extent could the tables be simplified? 2. How could the CRT Reporter be improved in a way such as to further facilitate CRT reporting, and are there any key functionalities that could be integrated into the software?