

VII. Methodological issues under the Convention

(Agenda item 7)

A. Annual report on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

(Agenda item 7 (a))

58. The SBSTA welcomed the report by the secretariat on activities relating to the technical review of GHG inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties).⁴⁰

59. The SBSTA noted that these activities, including individual inventory reviews, the training programme for review experts, the meeting of lead reviewers and the further development by the secretariat of the review tools, continue to contribute to improvements in the effectiveness and efficiency of the review process, the quality of inventories of Annex I Parties and the reliability of information available to the COP.

60. The SBSTA noted with concern that it continues to be difficult for the secretariat to organize reviews with complete expert review teams (ERTs). In order to have complete teams, some experts, both from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and from Annex I Parties, were invited by the secretariat to participate in more than one review in 2008.

61. The SBSTA reiterated its request to Parties to nominate experts to the roster of experts, update the roster at least once a year and make efforts to ensure that invited experts are able to participate in reviews. In addition, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to provide, in the annual report on the technical review, information to Parties on the number of experts in the roster of experts, the number of experts who have passed the training examinations and the number of experts participating in the review process.

62. The SBSTA noted the importance of the training for inventory review experts, recalled the training programme referred to in decision 12/CP.9, annex I, and requested the secretariat to update this programme for the period up to 2014. The updated training programme should include training courses and seminars for new review experts and possible new training modules on, for example, the review of higher tier methods and models as well as activities relevant to the training needs of experienced inventory review experts. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at its thirtieth session, a draft of the updated training programme.

63. The SBSTA noted the challenges of inventory reviews for some sectors given the national circumstances of some countries, and for higher tier methodologies, in particular during in-country reviews. It recalled the provision of decision 19/CP.8 on the composition of ERTs and requested the secretariat to take into account these challenges in its organization of the ERTs and, as appropriate, include additional experts in the specific sector, subject to the availability of a sufficient number of review experts. The SBSTA also requested lead reviewers to discuss, at their next meeting, their experiences

⁴⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/INF.4.

with the review of higher tier methodologies and options to assist in and improve the review of these methodologies.

64. The SBSTA noted the need to enhance consistency of the reviews, underpinned by the reviewer's understanding and appropriate and consistent application of the UNFCCC review guidelines and review tools. It acknowledged the contribution of the lead reviewers and the usefulness of the recommendations resulting from the meetings of lead reviewers in improving the consistency and overall quality of the reviews. The SBSTA requested the lead reviewers to explore ways of improving the consistency of the reviews based on the experience of and lessons learned by the ERTs, Parties and the secretariat in the review process. The SBSTA also requested the secretariat to include the consideration of these matters as a permanent agenda item for the meetings of lead reviewers, and further requested the secretariat to prepare the necessary materials to facilitate this discussion.

65. The SBSTA recalled decision 12/CP.9 and noted that lead reviewers may consult with other lead reviewers on complex matters and questions during an ongoing review. The secretariat should facilitate such consultations by identifying lead reviewers with relevant expertise. The Party under review should be informed of these additional consultations. Any such consultations should be reflected in the review report.

66. The SBSTA acknowledged that managing the reporting and review processes, including the training of experts, planning and conducting the reviews and organizing the lead reviewer meetings, as well as the further development of the GHG information system, including the CRF Reporter software, is placing considerable demand on the secretariat and requires considerable resources. The SBSTA reiterated the urgent need to give priority to these fundamental activities and plan future related activities. It invited Annex I Parties to consider supporting these fundamental activities by providing stable and sufficient funding and to strengthen the coordination capacity of the secretariat. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a note describing how the activities referred to above are planned and prioritized for 2010–2011 and identifying commensurate resource requirements, for its consideration at its thirtieth session. Although further funding has recently been provided by Parties, the SBSTA encouraged Annex I Parties in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding for the 2009 training programme.