

THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS (CGE)

ASSISTING DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES IN ACHIEVING
THEIR REPORTING GOALS



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Climate Change

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WHAT IS THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS?

The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) was established by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fifth session, in 1999, as an expert group to assist developing countries in improving their National Communications (NCs), and since COP 19, their Biennial Update Reports (BURs).

The CGE comprises 24¹ experts as follows:

- (a) Five members from each of the regions of non-Annex I Parties, namely, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (b) Six members from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties), including one from countries with economies in transition;
- (c) One member from each of three international organizations with relevant experience in providing technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of national communications.

The members are nominated for a period of two years and serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

WHAT DOES THE CGE DO?

The CGE assists non-Annex I Parties by providing them with technical support and advice in an effective, adequate and sustainable manner to build the countries' capacity in meeting their reporting requirements to the Convention.

To that effect, the CGE, in 2014, laid out its vision and strategies to respond effectively to the mandate given to it by the COP. The strategies cover the areas of technical support and advice, operational management, communication and outreach, as well as collaboration and cooperation with other global initiatives.

Vision

The CGE provides technical support and advice that significantly contributes to Parties' efforts in implementing the measurement, reporting and verification framework under the Convention for developing country Parties.

¹ In addition, currently an observer representing non-Annex I Parties from Eastern Europe participates in the work of the group.

STRATEGIES

1. Build the capacity of developing country Parties to facilitate the implementation of MRV arrangements under the Convention.

The CGE recognizes that there is a need for capacity-building: (a) to assist non-Annex I Parties in fulfilling national reporting requirements, targeting both individuals and institutions, while taking into account country-specific needs, local context and national capabilities; and (b) that respond to the needs of the team of technical experts (TTE) undertaking the technical analysis of biennial update reports (BURS) under the international consultation and analysis process.

ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Conducting needs analysis.
- Developing, designing and delivering training materials.
- Conducting hands-on training workshops.
- Using innovative tools to reach out to a larger pool of experts through online webinars and e-learning courses.
- Designing the training programme for the TTE.

2. Enhance the sustainability of the NC and BUR process

The cross-cutting nature of climate change issues across many different sectors and disciplines requires interdisciplinary exchange among various institutions and stakeholders. Furthermore, countries increasingly recognize the benefits of developing national GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, and mitigation assessments, which go beyond merely satisfying their reporting requirements. Developing countries are thus transforming the reporting process into strategic and policy support tool to meet their needs for national planning and decision-making.

Recognizing this evolution at the national level, this strategy aims to assist non-Annex I Parties in enhancing the sustainability of their reporting process.

ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Developing tools and guidance materials on: (i) setting up and enhancing robust institutional arrangements that function on a continuous basis; and (ii) enhancing access to financial, technical and capacity-building resources.
- Identifying potential linkages between national development policies and strategies to address adaptation and mitigation actions.

3. Ensure availability of resources and optimal working arrangements for the operations of the CGE

The CGE continues to be mandated as the primary vehicle under the Convention to address the capacity development and technical assistance needs of developing country Parties in fulfilling their reporting requirements. In order to do this, the CGE needs to ensure that the financial and human resources are secured, available and predictable at all times.

ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Reviewing current working arrangements and their limitations.
- Developing working arrangements to fulfill its long-term strategy.
- Developing and revising annual work plan.
- Enhancing cooperation with other multilateral initiatives.

4. Enhance collaboration and cooperation with other global initiatives

The capacity-building needs of non-Annex I Parties in fulfilling their reporting requirement under the Convention continues to evolve, and in order to have a wider impact, there is a need for collaboration with other global initiatives. The CGE identified the need for effective and efficient mechanisms to expand its reach and develop cooperation with other expert groups and international bodies. Collaboration with United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, the research community and academia will ensure harmony and efficient use of resources as well as avoid duplication of efforts in addressing non-Annex I Parties' capacity-building needs.

ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Developing collaboration and cooperation with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention.
- Developing collaboration and cooperation with key global initiatives.

5. Enhance communication and outreach

Continuous interaction and information exchange between key stakeholders and Parties is necessary to improve the stability and overall effectiveness of the CGE's work. Ample opportunities already exist for the CGE and developing countries to exchange knowledge on challenges, lessons learned and best practices.

ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Identifying global networks the CGE can collaborate with to enhance effective and efficient interaction with stakeholders.
- Developing communication products targeting experts and the aforementioned global network in non-Annex I Parties.
- Using existing web-based platform to access information and guidance on preparing national communications and biennial update reports.

WHAT HAS THE CGE DELIVERED SO FAR?

Since 2014, guided by its vision and long-term strategy, the CGE has delivered the following outputs:

- Targeted training through: [in-person hands-on workshops](#), [e-learning courses](#), webinars;
- **Establishment of an e-Network** – forum to exchange information and knowledge amongst experts and practitioners.
- **Conduct of 9 hands-on regional training workshops**, attended by a total of **516** non-Annex I Party national experts (Table 1).
- **Developed tools and guidance materials** aimed at improving institutional arrangements and gaining access to financial, technical and capacity-building resources.
- **Revised and improved its current working arrangements** for a better understanding of its management and capacities in order to fulfill its strategy.
- **Developed** its [annual work plans](#) to measure progress and the financial and human resources needed.
- **Developed** collaboration with key global initiatives, such as the [UNDP-UNEP Global Support Programme for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports](#).
- **Developed and rolled out the training programme** for the team of technical experts (Table 2).
- Reached out to **404** participants, through **11** webinars, covering:
 - Vulnerability and adaptation assessment
 - Mitigation assessment
 - National GHG inventories

TABLE 1

Number of non-Annex I Party national experts trained at workshops of the Consultative Group of Experts, by region and subject, between 2014 and 2016

Region	Vulnerability and adaptation assessment	National greenhouse gas inventories	Preparation of biennial update reports	Total
Latin America and Caribbean	32	41	69	142
Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe	31	56	90	177
Africa	44	57	96	197
Total	107	154	255	516

TABLE 2

Number of experts on the UNFCCC roster of experts that successfully completed the Consultative Group of Experts training programme for the team of technical experts

Round	Year	Annex I	Non-Annex I	Total
Round 1	2015	29	41	70
Round 2: experienced experts	2015	14	21	35
Round 2: less experienced experts	2015	16	18	34
Round 3	2016	12	12	24
Total		71	92	163