

UNFCCC Review Process

6th Joint UNECE Task Force & EIONET Meeting on Emission Inventories and Projections

**Rovaniemi, Finland
19-21 October 2005**

**Astrid Olsson
Methods, Inventories & Science Programme
UNFCCC Secretariat
aolsson@unfccc.int**

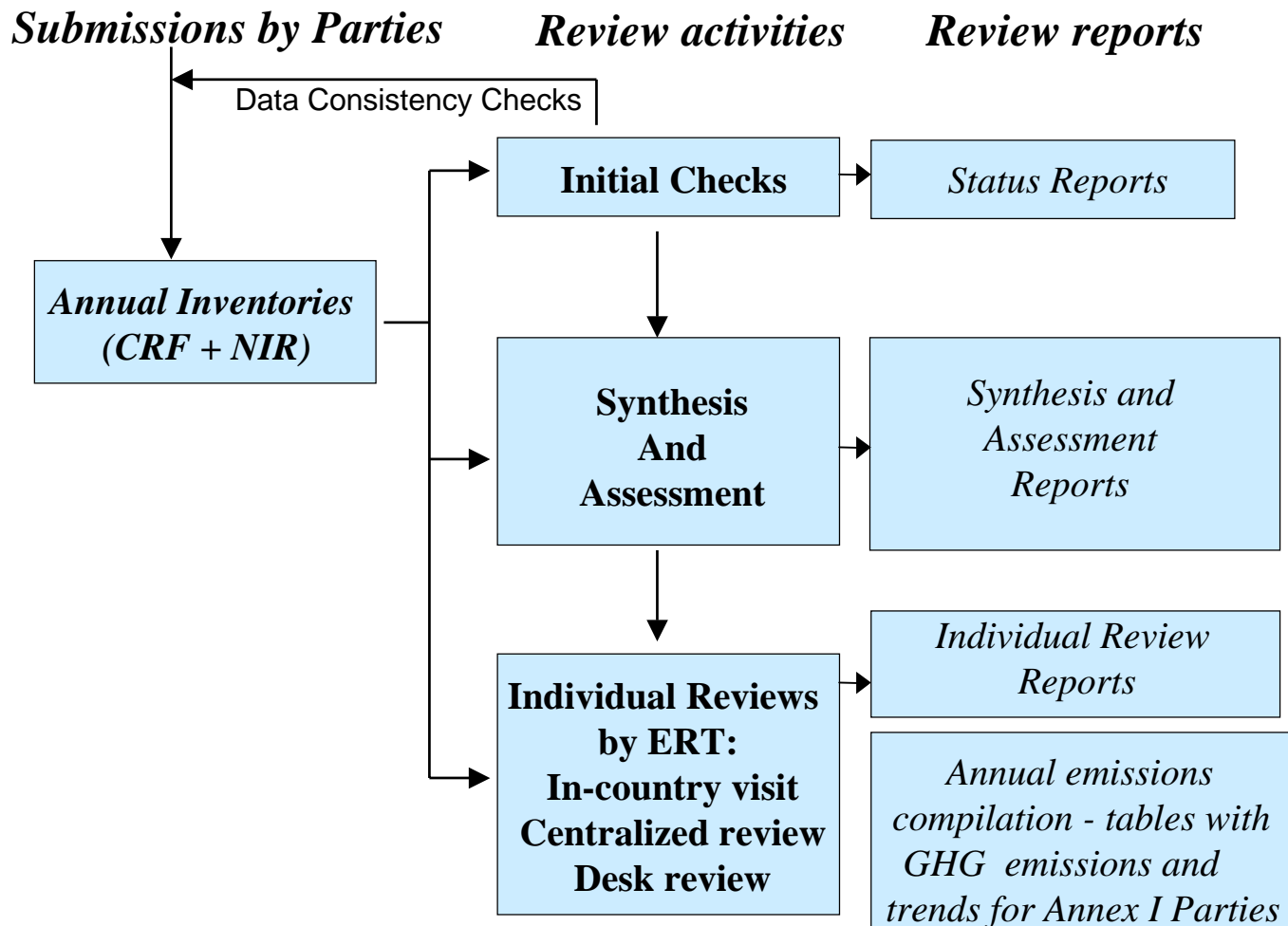


UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Why review inventory submissions?

- Help to ensure that reliable information is available to the Conference of the Parties
- Enable assessment of Parties commitments and progress toward Convention objectives
- Improve quality of Parties' inventories
- Critical for Kyoto Protocol – compliance, participation in emissions trading

UNFCCC Emissions Inventory Review Process



- Stages designed to compliment each other
- Publication of reports for each stage
- Strict deadlines for completion of each stage
- 'Due Process': Parties can provide comments or additional information at all stages
- Consistent with review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol

Special analysis on GHG emissions and trends

What is reviewed

Annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory Submission – descriptive report and data

Common Reporting Format - Data

- Standardized framework of 40+ tables
- Almost completely quantitative information
- Emissions, Activity Data, Implied Emission Factors, Methodologies, Documentation, Preparation Process

- Coverage:

Base year to submission year minus two

CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆ (reported but not reviewed SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC, CO)

Cross-sectoral/general, Energy, Industry, Agriculture, Land-use and Forestry, Waste

What is reviewed

Annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory Submission –
descriptive report and data

National Inventory Report – descriptive report of inventory

- Description of methodologies :
 - Assumptions
 - References of sources, emission factors, activity data and rationale for their selection
- Key categories analysis
- Uncertainties
- Quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures
- Improvements & changes in response to findings of previous reviews

How reviews are undertaken

- Mandatory review of every Annex I Party each year
- 1st stage completed in 7 weeks after submission
- 2nd stage Part I completed approximately two months after submission
- 2nd stage Part II completed latest 7 weeks before start of 3rd stage of review
- In-country review is undertaken every 5th year
- Formal part of 3rd stage review takes about one week
- From start to finish 3rd stage review process takes 3-6 months
- Numerous rounds of interactions between secretariat, experts and Party

How reviews are undertaken (II)

- 1st and 2nd stages of review undertaken by secretariat
- 3rd stage - In-country visit, Centralized review or Desk review undertaken with national experts
- One secretariat staff coordinates 3rd stage reviews
- 6 -13 review experts per review depending on review type and size
- Party involved throughout process - Parties must provide resubmissions, comments, answers to questions, additional information, etc.

Resources Required for Reviews

In-country reviews

- 6 review experts per review

Centralized or Desk reviews

- 12 - 13 review experts per review

Every review has two lead reviewers

Time commitment from national experts

- Reviewer: 3 - 4 weeks
- Lead reviewer: 4 - 6 weeks

Costs per funded expert approximately 3,500 US\$ (*those from EU / Eastern European area approx. 2,500 US\$*)

Other secretariat costs – staff, information systems (development & management), administrative costs

Pros and cons of different reviews

- In-country
 - + In-depth review, detailed
 - + Experts concentrate on review
 - + Discussion with Party under review, discussion within ERT
 - Most expensive
- Centralized
 - + Experts concentrate on review
 - + Experts meet in one place, discuss the findings
 - + Less expensive than In-country
- Desk
 - + Cheapest review option
 - Difficult for secretariat to manage
 - Competing with tasks at home for experts