

Decision 24/CP.19

Revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 4, paragraph 1, Article 10, paragraph 2, and Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 3/CP.5, 18/CP.8, 13/CP.9, 14/CP.11 and 15/CP.17,

Noting that the revised “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories”, adopted by decision 3/CP.5 and subsequently revised and complemented by decisions 18/CP.8 and 14/CP.11, need to be updated to incorporate the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories,

1. *Adopts* the revised “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories” contained in annex I, the revised common reporting format tables contained in annex II and the global warming potential values contained in annex III;
2. *Decides* that, from 2015 until a further decision is adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the global warming potential values used by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases shall be those listed in the column entitled “Global warming potential for given time horizon” in table 2.14 of the errata to the contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, based on the effects of greenhouse gases over a 100-year time horizon, as contained in annex III;
3. *Also decides* that Annex I Parties shall use the guidelines referred to in paragraph 1 above in preparing their inventories, due by 15 April each year, beginning in 2015, provided that the upgraded CRF Reporter has been made available in accordance with paragraph 5 below. If the CRF Reporter is not available in line with paragraph 5 below, Parties may submit the CRF tables after 15 April but no longer than the corresponding delay in the CRF Reporter availability;
4. *Encourages* Annex I Parties to use the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands in preparing their annual inventories under the Convention due in 2015 and beyond;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to make available to Annex I Parties, by June 2014 at the latest, the upgraded CRF Reporter, in order to enable them to submit their inventories, due by 15 April 2015;
6. *Invites* Annex I Parties in a position to do so to provide supplementary funding for the completion of the upgraded CRF Reporter;
7. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat as referred to in paragraph 5 above;

8. *Requests* that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

Annex I

[English only]

Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 24/CP.19, adopted the “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories” (UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines) and tables of the common reporting format to implement the use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas inventories* (2006 IPCC Guidelines).

B. Scope of the note

2. This document contains the complete updated UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines for all inventory sectors. The UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories have been updated to reflect the implementation of the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

II. Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories

A. Objectives

1. The “Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories” (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines) cover the estimation and reporting of anthropogenic¹ greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals in both annual GHG inventories and inventories included in national communications, as specified by decision 11/CP.4 and other relevant decisions of the COP.

2. The objectives of the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines are:

(a) To assist Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) in meeting their commitments under Articles 4 and 12 of the Convention;

(b) To contribute to ensuring the transparency of emission reduction commitments;

(c) To facilitate the process of considering annual national inventories, including the preparation of technical analysis and synthesis documentation;

(d) To facilitate the process of verification, technical assessment and expert review of the inventory information;

(e) To assist Annex I Parties in ensuring and/or improving the quality of their annual GHG inventory submissions.

¹ Any reference to GHG emissions and removals in the guidelines shall be understood as anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals.

B. Principles and definitions

3. The annual GHG inventory should be transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate.

4. In the context of these UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines:

(a) *Transparency* means that the data sources, assumptions and methodologies used for an inventory should be clearly explained, in order to facilitate the replication and assessment of the inventory by users of the reported information. The transparency of inventories is fundamental to the success of the process for the communication and consideration of the information. The use of the common reporting format (CRF) tables and the preparation of a structured national inventory report (NIR) contribute to the transparency of the information and facilitate national and international reviews;

(b) *Consistency* means that an annual GHG inventory should be internally consistent for all reported years in all its elements across sectors, categories and gases. An inventory is consistent if the same methodologies are used for the base and all subsequent years and if consistent data sets are used to estimate emissions or removals from sources or sinks. Under certain circumstances referred to in paragraphs 16 to 18 below, an inventory using different methodologies for different years can be considered to be consistent if it has been recalculated in a transparent manner, in accordance with the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (hereinafter referred to as the 2006 IPCC Guidelines);

(c) *Comparability* means that estimates of emissions and removals reported by Annex I Parties in their inventories should be comparable among Annex I Parties. For that purpose, Annex I Parties should use the methodologies and formats agreed by the COP for making estimations and reporting their inventories. The allocation of different source/sink categories should follow the CRF tables provided in annex II to decision 24/CP.19 at the level of the summary and sectoral tables;

(d) *Completeness* means that an annual GHG inventory covers at least all sources and sinks, as well as all gases, for which methodologies are provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines or for which supplementary methodologies have been agreed by the COP. Completeness also means the full geographical coverage of the sources and sinks of an Annex I Party;²

(e) *Accuracy* means that emission and removal estimates should be accurate in the sense that they are systematically neither over nor under true emissions or removals, as far as can be judged, and that uncertainties are reduced as far as practicable. Appropriate methodologies should be used, in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, to promote accuracy in inventories.

5. In the context of these reporting guidelines, the definitions of common terms used in GHG inventory preparation are those provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

C. Context

6. The UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines also cover the establishment and maintenance of national inventory arrangements for the purpose of the continued preparation of timely, complete, consistent, comparable, accurate and transparent annual GHG inventories.

² According to the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention of each Annex I Party.

7. An annual GHG inventory submission shall consist of an NIR and the CRF tables, as set out in annexes I and II to decision 24/CP.19. The annual submission also comprises information provided by an Annex I Party in addition to its submitted NIR and CRF tables.

D. Base year

8. The year 1990 should be the base year for the estimation and reporting of inventories. According to the provisions of Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Convention and decisions 9/CP.2, 11/CP.4 and 7/CP.12, the following Annex I Parties that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy are allowed to use a base year or a period of years other than 1990, or a level of emissions as established by a decision of the COP, as follows:

Bulgaria:	1988
Croatia:	1990 ³
Hungary:	the average of the years 1985 to 1987
Poland:	1988
Romania:	1989
Slovenia	1986

E. Methods

Methodology

9. Annex I Parties shall use the methodologies provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, unless stated otherwise in the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines, and any supplementary methodologies agreed by the COP, and other relevant COP decisions to estimate anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol.

10. Annex I Parties may use different methods (tiers) contained in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, prioritizing these methods in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. Annex I Parties may also use national methodologies which they consider better able to reflect their national situation, provided that these methodologies are compatible with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and are well documented and scientifically based.

11. For categories⁴ that are determined to be key categories, in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and estimated in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 14 below, Annex I Parties should make every effort to use a recommended method, in accordance with the corresponding decision trees in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. Annex I Parties should also make every effort to develop and/or select emission factors (EFs), and collect and select activity data (AD), in accordance with IPCC good practice. Where national circumstances prohibit the use of a recommended method, then the Annex I Party shall explain in its annual GHG inventory submission the reason(s) as to why it was unable to implement a recommended method in accordance with the decision trees in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

³ In accordance with decision 7/CP.12.

⁴ The term "categories" refers to both source and sink categories as set out in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. The term "key categories" refers to the key categories as addressed in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

12. The 2006 IPCC Guidelines provide default methodologies which include default EFs and in some cases default AD for the categories to be reported. As the assumptions implicit in these default data, factors and methods may not be appropriate for specific national circumstances, Annex I Parties should use their own national EFs and AD, where available, provided that they are developed in a manner consistent with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and are considered to be more accurate than the defaults. If Annex I Parties lack country-specific information, they could also use EFs or other parameters provided in the IPCC Emission Factor Database, where available, provided that they can demonstrate that those parameters are appropriate in the specific national circumstances and are more accurate than the default data provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. Annex I Parties shall transparently explain in their annual GHG inventory submissions what data and/or parameters have been used.

13. Parties are encouraged to refine estimates of anthropogenic emissions and removals in the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector through the application of tier 3 methods, provided that they are developed in a manner consistent with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and information for transparency is provided in accordance with paragraph 50(a) below.

Key category identification

14. Annex I Parties shall identify their key categories for the base year and the latest reported inventory year, using approach 1, level and trend assessment, including and excluding LULUCF. Parties are encouraged to also use approach 2 and to add additional key categories to the result of approach 1.

Uncertainties

15. Annex I Parties shall quantitatively estimate the uncertainty of the data used for all source and sink categories using at least approach 1, as provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and report uncertainties for at least the base year and the latest inventory year and the trend uncertainty between these two years. Annex I Parties are encouraged to use approach 2 or a hybrid of approaches 1 and 2 provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, in order to address technical limitations of approach 1. The uncertainty of the data used for all source and sink categories should also be qualitatively discussed in a transparent manner in the NIR, in particular for categories that were identified as key categories.

Recalculations and time-series consistency

16. The inventory for a time series, including the base year and all subsequent years for which the inventory has been reported, should be estimated using the same methodologies, and the underlying AD and EFs should be obtained and used in a consistent manner, ensuring that changes in emission trends are not introduced as a result of changes in estimation methods or assumptions over the time series of estimates.

17. Recalculations should ensure the consistency of the time series and shall be carried out to improve accuracy and/or completeness. Where the methodology or manner in which underlying AD and EFs are gathered has changed, Annex I Parties should recalculate their inventories for the base year and subsequent years of the times series. Annex I Parties should evaluate the need for recalculations relative to the reasons provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, in particular for key categories. Recalculations should be performed in accordance with 2006 IPCC Guidelines and the general principles set down in these reporting guidelines.

18. In some cases it may not be possible to use the same methods and consistent data sets for all years, owing to a possible lack of AD, EFs or other parameters directly used in the calculation of emission estimates for some historical years, including the base year. In such cases, emissions or removals may need to be recalculated using alternative methods

not generally covered by paragraph 9 above. In these instances, Annex I Parties should use one of the techniques provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines to estimate the missing values. Annex I Parties should document and report the methodologies used for the entire time series.

Quality assurance/quality control

19. Each Annex I Party shall elaborate an inventory quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) plan and implement general inventory QC procedures in accordance with its QA/QC plan following the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. In addition, Annex I Parties should apply category-specific QC procedures for key categories and for those individual categories in which significant methodological changes and/or data revisions have occurred, in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. In addition, Annex I Parties should implement QA procedures by conducting a basic expert peer review of their inventories in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

F. National inventory arrangements

20. Each Annex I Party should implement and maintain national inventory arrangements for the estimation of anthropogenic GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks. The national inventory arrangements include all institutional, legal and procedural arrangements made within an Annex I Party for estimating anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and for reporting and archiving inventory information.

21. National inventory arrangements should be designed and operated:

(a) To ensure the transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness and accuracy of inventories, as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 above;

(b) To ensure the quality of inventories through the planning, preparation and management of inventory activities. Inventory activities include collecting AD, selecting methods and EFs appropriately, estimating anthropogenic GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks, implementing uncertainty assessment and QA/QC activities, and carrying out procedures for the verification of the inventory data at the national level, as described in these reporting guidelines.

22. In the implementation of its national inventory arrangements, each Annex I Party should perform the following general functions:

(a) Establish and maintain the institutional, legal and procedural arrangements necessary to perform the functions defined in paragraphs 23 to 27 below, as appropriate, between the government agencies and other entities responsible for the performance of all functions defined in these reporting guidelines;

(b) Ensure sufficient capacity for the timely performance of the functions defined in these reporting guidelines, including data collection for estimating anthropogenic GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks and arrangements for the technical competence of the staff involved in the inventory development process;

(c) Designate a single national entity with overall responsibility for the national inventory;

(d) Prepare national annual GHG inventories in a timely manner in accordance with these reporting guidelines and relevant decisions of the COP, and provide the information necessary to meet the reporting requirements defined in these reporting guidelines and in relevant decisions of the COP;

(e) Undertake specific functions relating to inventory planning, preparation and management.

Inventory planning

23. As part of its inventory planning, each Annex I Party should:

(a) Define and allocate specific responsibilities in the inventory development process, including those relating to choosing methods, data collection, particularly AD and EFs from statistical services and other entities, processing and archiving, and QA/QC. Such definition should specify the roles of, and the cooperation between, government agencies and other entities involved in the preparation of the inventory, as well as the institutional, legal and procedural arrangements made to prepare the inventory;

(b) Elaborate an inventory QA/QC plan as indicated in paragraph 19 above;

(c) Establish processes for the official consideration and approval of the inventory, including any recalculations, prior to its submission, and for responding to any issues raised in the inventory review process.

24. As part of its inventory planning, each Annex I Party should consider ways to improve the quality of AD, EFs, methods and other relevant technical elements of the inventory. Information obtained from the implementation of the QA/QC programme, the inventory review process and other verification activities should be considered in the development and/or revision of the QA/QC plan and the quality objectives.

Inventory preparation

25. As part of its inventory preparation, each Annex I Party should:

(a) Prepare estimates in accordance with the requirements defined in these reporting guidelines;

(b) Collect sufficient AD, process information and EFs as are necessary to support the methods selected for estimating anthropogenic GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks;

(c) Make quantitative estimates of uncertainty for each category and for the inventory as a whole, as indicated in paragraph 15 above;

(d) Ensure that any recalculations are prepared in accordance with paragraphs 16–18 above;

(e) Compile the NIR and the CRF tables in accordance with these reporting guidelines;

(f) Implement general inventory QC procedures in accordance with its QA/QC plan, following the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

26. As part of its inventory preparation, each Annex I Party should:

(a) Apply category-specific QC procedures for key categories and for those individual categories in which significant methodological and/or data revisions have occurred, in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines;

(b) Provide for a basic review of the inventory by personnel that have not been involved in the inventory development process, preferably an independent third party, before the submission of the inventory, in accordance with the planned QA procedures referred to in paragraph 19 above;

(c) Provide for a more extensive review of the inventory for key categories, as well as for categories where significant changes to methods or data have been made, in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines;

(d) On the basis of the reviews described in paragraph 26(b) and (c) above and periodic internal evaluations of the inventory preparation process, re-evaluate the inventory planning process, in order to meet the established quality objectives referred to in paragraph 24 above.

Inventory management

27. As part of its inventory management, each Annex I Party should:

(a) Archive all relevant inventory information for the reported time series, including all disaggregated EFs and AD, documentation on how these factors and data have been generated and aggregated for the preparation of the inventory, internal documentation on QA/QC procedures, external and internal reviews, and documentation on annual key categories and key category identification and planned inventory improvements;

(b) Provide review teams with access to all archived information used by the Party to prepare the inventory through the single national entity, in accordance with relevant decisions of the COP;

(c) Respond, in a timely manner, to requests for clarifying inventory information resulting from the different stages of the process of review of the inventory information and information on the national inventory arrangements.

G. Reporting

1. General guidance

Estimates of emissions and removals

28. Article 12, paragraph 1(a), of the Convention requires that each Party shall communicate to the COP, through the secretariat, inter alia, a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol. As a minimum requirement, inventories shall contain information on the following GHGs: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃).

29. In addition, Annex I Parties should provide information on the following precursor gases: carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), as well as sulphur oxides (SO_x). Annex I Parties may report indirect CO₂ from the atmospheric oxidation of CH₄, CO and NMVOCs. Annex I Parties may report as a memo item indirect N₂O emissions from other than the agriculture and LULUCF sources. These estimates of indirect N₂O should not be included in national totals. For Parties that decide to report indirect CO₂ the national totals shall be presented with and without indirect CO₂.

30. GHG emissions and removals should be presented on a gas-by-gas basis in units of mass, with emissions by sources listed separately from removals by sinks, except in cases where it may be technically impossible to separate information on sources and sinks in the area of LULUCF. For HFCs and PFCs, emissions should be reported for each relevant chemical in the category on a disaggregated basis, except in cases where paragraph 36 below applies.

31. Annex I Parties should report aggregate emissions and removals of GHGs, expressed in CO₂ equivalent (CO₂ eq), using the global warming potential values as agreed by decision 24/CP.19 or any subsequent decision by the COP on global warming potentials.

32. Annex I Parties shall report actual emissions of HFCs, PFCs, SF₆ and NF₃, providing disaggregated data by chemical (e.g. HFC-134a) and category in units of mass and in CO₂ eq, except in cases where paragraph 36 below applies. Annex I Parties should report emission estimates or notation keys in line with paragraph 37 below and trends for these gases for 1990 onwards, in accordance with the provisions of these reporting guidelines.

33. Annex I Parties are strongly encouraged to also report emissions and removals of additional GHGs, such as hydrofluoroethers (HFEs), perfluoropolyethers (PFPEs), and other gases for which 100-year global warming potential values are available from the IPCC but have not yet been adopted by the COP. These emissions and removals should be reported separately from national totals.

34. In accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, international aviation and marine bunker fuel emissions should not be included in national totals but should be reported separately. Annex I Parties should make every effort to both apply and report according to the method contained in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for separating domestic and international emissions. Annex I Parties should also report emissions from international aviation and marine bunker fuels as two separate entries in their inventories.

35. Annex I Parties should clearly indicate how feedstocks and non-energy use of fuels have been accounted for in the inventory, under the energy or industrial processes sector, in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

36. Emissions and removals should be reported at the most disaggregated level of each source/sink category, taking into account that a minimum level of aggregation may be required to protect confidential business and military information.

Completeness

37. Where methodological or data gaps in inventories exist, information on these gaps should be presented in a transparent manner. Annex I Parties should clearly indicate the sources and sinks which are not considered in their inventories but which are included in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and explain the reasons for such exclusion. Similarly, Annex I Parties should indicate the parts of their geographical area, if any, not covered by their inventory and explain the reasons for their exclusion. In addition, Annex I Parties should use the notation keys presented below to fill in the blanks in all the CRF tables.⁵ This approach facilitates the assessment of the completeness of an inventory. The notation keys are as follows:

(a) “NO” (not occurring) for categories or processes, including recovery, under a particular source or sink category that do not occur within an Annex I Party;

(b) “NE” (not estimated) for AD and/or emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs which have not been estimated but for which a corresponding activity may occur within a Party.⁶ Where “NE” is used in an inventory to report emissions or removals of CO₂, N₂O, CH₄, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆ and NF₃, the Annex I Party shall indicate in both the NIR and the CRF completeness table why such emissions or removals have not been estimated. Furthermore, a Party may consider that a disproportionate amount of effort

⁵ If notation keys are used in the NIR, they should be consistent with those reported in the CRF tables.

⁶ The notation key “NE” could also be used when an activity occurs in the Party but the 2006 IPCC Guidelines do not provide methodologies to estimate the emissions/removals.

would be required to collect data for a gas from a specific category⁷ that would be insignificant in terms of the overall level and trend in national emissions and in such cases use the notation key “NE”. The Party should in the NIR provide justifications for exclusion in terms of the likely level of emissions. An emission should only be considered insignificant if the likely level of emissions is below 0.05 per cent of the national total GHG emissions,⁸ and does not exceed 500 kt CO₂ eq. The total national aggregate of estimated emissions for all gases and categories considered insignificant shall remain below 0.1 per cent of the national total GHG emissions.⁹ Parties should use approximated AD and default IPCC EFs to derive a likely level of emissions for the respective category. Once emissions from a specific category have been reported in a previous submission, emissions from this specific category shall be reported in subsequent GHG inventory submissions;

(c) “NA” (not applicable) for activities under a given source/sink category that do occur within the Party but do not result in emissions or removals of a specific gas. If the cells for categories in the CRF tables for which “NA” is applicable are shaded, they do not need to be filled in;

(d) “IE” (included elsewhere) for emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs estimated but included elsewhere in the inventory instead of under the expected source/sink category. Where “IE” is used in an inventory, the Annex I Party should indicate, in the CRF completeness table, where in the inventory the emissions or removals for the displaced source/sink category have been included, and the Annex I Party should explain such a deviation from the inclusion under the expected category, especially if it is due to confidentiality;

(e) “C” (confidential) for emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs of which the reporting could lead to the disclosure of confidential information, given the provisions of paragraph 36 above.

38. Annex I Parties are encouraged to estimate and report emissions and removals for source or sink categories for which estimation methods are not included in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. If Annex I Parties estimate and report emissions and removals for country-specific sources or sinks or of gases which are not included in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, they should explicitly describe what source/sink categories or gases these are, as well as what methodologies, EFs and AD have been used for their estimation, and provide references for these data.

Key categories

39. Annex I Parties shall estimate and report the individual and cumulative percentage contributions from key categories to their national total, with respect to both level and trend. The emissions should be expressed in terms of CO₂ eq using the methods provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. As indicated in paragraph 50 below, this information should be included in the NIR using tables 4.2 and 4.3 of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, adapted to the level of category disaggregation that the Annex I Party used for determining its key categories.¹⁰

Verification

40. For the purposes of verification, Annex I Parties should compare their national estimates of CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion with those estimates obtained using the

⁷ Category as defined in the CRF tables.

⁸ “National total GHG emissions” refers to the total GHG emissions without LULUCF for the latest reported inventory year.

⁹ As footnote 8 above.

¹⁰ Table 4.1 of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines should be used as the basis for preparing the key category analysis but does not need to be reported in the NIR.

IPCC reference approach, as contained in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and report the results of this comparison in the NIR.

41. Annex I Parties that prepare their estimates of emissions and/or removals using higher-tier (tier 3) methods and/or models shall provide in the NIR verification information consistent with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

Uncertainties

42. Annex I Parties shall report, in the NIR, uncertainties estimated as indicated in paragraph 15 above, as well as methods used and underlying assumptions, for the purpose of helping to prioritize efforts to improve the accuracy of national inventories in the future and to guide decisions on methodological choice. This information should be presented using table 3.3 of volume 1 of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. In addition, Annex I Parties should indicate in that table those categories that have been identified as key categories in their inventory.

Recalculations

43. Recalculations of previously submitted estimates of emissions and removals as a result of changes in methodologies, changes in the manner in which EFs and AD are obtained and used, or the inclusion of new sources or sinks which have existed since the base year but were not previously reported, shall be reported for the base year and all subsequent years of the time series up to the year for which the recalculations are made. Further, a discussion on the impact of the recalculations on the trend in emissions should be provided in the NIR at the category, sector and national total level, as appropriate.

44. Recalculations shall be reported in the NIR, with explanatory information and justifications for recalculations. Information on the procedures used for performing the recalculations, changes in the calculation methods, EFs and AD used, and the inclusion of sources or sinks not previously covered should be reported with an indication of the relevant changes in each source or sink category where these changes have taken place.

45. Annex I Parties shall report any other changes in estimates of emissions and removals, and clearly indicate the reason for the changes compared with previously submitted inventories (e.g. error correction, statistical reason or reallocation of categories), in the NIR as indicated in paragraph 50 below. Small differences (e.g. due to the rounding of estimates) should not be considered as recalculations.

Quality assurance/quality control

46. Annex I Parties shall report in the NIR on their QA/QC plan and give information on QA/QC procedures already implemented or to be implemented in the future. In addition, Annex I Parties are encouraged to report on any peer review of their inventory, apart from the UNFCCC review.

Corrections

47. Inventories shall be reported without corrections relating, for example, to climate variations or trade patterns of electricity.

2. National inventory report

48. Annex I Parties shall submit to the COP, through the secretariat, an NIR containing detailed and complete information on their inventories. The NIR should ensure transparency and contain sufficiently detailed information to enable the inventory to be reviewed. This information should cover the base year, the most recent 10 years and any previous years since the base year ending with 0 or 5 (1990, 1995, 2000, etc.).

49. Each year, an updated NIR shall be electronically submitted in its entirety to the COP, through the secretariat, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the COP.

50. The NIR shall include:

(a) Descriptions, references and sources of information for the specific methodologies, including higher-tier methods and models, assumptions, EFs and AD, as well as the rationale for their selection. For tier 3 models, additional information for improving transparency;¹¹

(b) An indication of the level of complexity (IPCC tier) applied and a description of any national methodology used by the Annex I Party, as well as information on anticipated future improvements;

(c) For key categories, an explanation if the recommended methods from the appropriate decision tree in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines are not used;

(d) A description of the national key categories, as indicated in paragraph 39 above, including:

(i) A summary table with the key categories identified for the latest reporting year (by level and trend);

(ii) Information on the level of category disaggregation used and the rationale for its use;

(iii) Additional information relating to the methodology used for identifying key categories;

(e) Information on how and where feedstocks and non-energy use of fuels have been reported in the inventory;

(f) Assessment of completeness, including information and explanations in relation to categories not estimated or included elsewhere, and information related to the geographical scope;

(g) Information on uncertainties, as requested in paragraph 42 above;

(h) Information on any recalculations relating to previously submitted inventory data, as requested in paragraphs 43 to 45 above, including changes in methodologies, sources of information and assumptions, in particular in relation to recalculations made in response to the review process;

(i) Information on changes in response to the review process;

(j) Information on the national inventory arrangements and changes to the national inventory arrangements, including a description of the institutional arrangements for inventory preparation, as well as information on verification as requested in paragraphs 40 and 41 above and on QA/QC as requested in paragraph 46 above.

51. The NIR should follow the outline and general structure contained in annex I to decision 24/CP.19.

¹¹ Parties should, as applicable, report information on: basis and type of model, application and adaptation of the model, main equations/processes, key assumptions, domain of application, how the model parameters were estimated, description of key inputs and outputs, details of calibration and model evaluation, uncertainty and sensitivity analysis, QA/QC procedures adopted and references to peer-reviewed literature.

3. Common reporting format tables

52. The CRF tables are designed to ensure that Annex I Parties report quantitative data in a standardized format and to facilitate comparison of inventory data and trends. Explanation of information of a qualitative character should mainly be provided in the NIR rather than in the CRF tables. Such explanatory information should be cross-referenced to the specific chapter of the NIR.

53. Annex I Parties shall submit annually to the COP, through the secretariat, the information required in the CRF tables, as contained in annex II to decision 24/CP.19. This information shall be electronically submitted on an annual basis in its entirety to the COP, through the secretariat, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the COP. Parties should submit their CRF tables, generated by the CRF Reporter software, via the UNFCCC submission portal, with a view to facilitating the processing of the inventory information by the secretariat.

54. The CRF is a standardized format for reporting estimates of GHG emissions and removals and other relevant information. The CRF allows for the improved handling of electronic submissions and facilitates the processing of inventory information and the preparation of useful technical analysis and synthesis documentation.

55. The CRF tables shall be reported in accordance with the tables included in annex II to decision 24/CP.19 and as specified in these reporting guidelines. In completing the CRF tables, Annex I Parties:

(a) Shall provide a full set of CRF tables for the base year and all years from 1990 up to the most recent inventory year;

(b) Should provide completeness tables for the latest inventory year only, if the information applies to all years of the time series. If the information in those tables differs for each reported year, then either the tables or information on the specific changes must be provided for each year in the CRF tables;

(c) Should use the documentation boxes provided at the foot of the sectoral report and background data tables to provide cross references to detailed explanations in the NIR, or any other information, as specified in those boxes.

56. Annex I Parties should provide the information requested in the additional information boxes. Where the information called for is inappropriate because of the methodological tier used by the Annex I Party, the corresponding cells should be completed using the notation key "NA". In such cases, the Annex I Parties should cross-reference in the documentation box the relevant chapter in the NIR where equivalent information can be found.

57. Annex I Parties should use the notation keys, as specified in paragraph 37 above, in all the CRF tables to fill in the cells where no quantitative data are directly entered. Using the notation keys in this way facilitates the assessment of the completeness of an inventory.

H. Record-keeping

58. Annex I Parties should gather and archive all relevant inventory information for each year of the reported time series, including all disaggregated EFs and AD, and documentation on how those factors and data were generated, including expert judgement where appropriate, and how they have been aggregated for their reporting in the inventory. This information should allow for the reconstruction of the inventory by the expert review teams. Inventory information should be archived from the base year and should include corresponding data on the recalculations applied. The 'paper trail', which can include

spreadsheets or databases used to compile inventory data, should enable estimates of emissions and removals to be traced back to the original disaggregated EFs and AD. Also, relevant supporting documentation related to QA/QC implementation, uncertainty evaluation or key category analyses should be kept on file. This information should facilitate the process of clarifying inventory data in a timely manner when the secretariat prepares annual compilations of inventories or assesses methodological issues.

I. Systematic updating of the guidelines

59. The UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines on annual GHG inventories shall be reviewed and revised, as appropriate, in accordance with decisions of the COP on this matter.

J. Language

60. The NIR shall be submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations. Annex I Parties are encouraged to submit an English translation of the NIR to facilitate its use by the expert review teams.

Appendix

An outline and general structure of the national inventory report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ES.1. Background information on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and climate change (e.g. as it pertains to the national context)
- ES.2. Summary of national emission and removal-related trends
- ES.3. Overview of source and sink category emission estimates and trends
- ES.4. Other information (e.g. indirect GHGs)

Chapter 1: Introduction

- 1.1. Background information on GHG inventories and climate change (e.g. as it pertains to the national context, to provide information to the general public)
- 1.2. A description of the national inventory arrangements
 - 1.2.1. Institutional, legal and procedural arrangements
 - 1.2.2. Overview of inventory planning, preparation and management
 - 1.2.3. Quality assurance, quality control and verification plan

Indicate:

- *Quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures applied*
- *QA/QC plan*
- *Verification activities*
- *Treatment of confidentiality issues*

1.2.4. Changes in the national inventory arrangements since previous annual GHG inventory submission

1.3. Inventory preparation, and data collection, processing and storage

1.4. Brief general description of methodologies (including tiers used) and data sources used

1.5. Brief description of key categories

Provide a summary table with the key categories identified for the latest reporting year (by level and trend) on the basis of table 4.4 of volume 1 of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (hereinafter referred to as the 2006 IPCC Guidelines) and provide more detailed information in annex 1. Indicate whether the key category analysis differs from the one included in the common reporting format (CRF) table and, if so, give a short description of the differences.

1.6. General uncertainty evaluation, including data on the overall uncertainty for the inventory totals

1.7. General assessment of completeness

Provide, inter alia, information and explanations in relation to categories not estimated or included elsewhere, and information related to the geographical scope.

Chapter 2: Trends in greenhouse gas emissions

2.1. Description and interpretation of emission trends for aggregated GHG emissions

2.2. Description and interpretation of emission trends by sector

Explain, inter alia, significant changes compared with 1990 and the previous year.

Chapter 3: Energy (CRF sector 1)

3.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category)

3.2. Fuel combustion (CRF 1.A), including detailed information on:

3.2.1. Comparison of the sectoral approach with the reference approach

3.2.2. International bunker fuels

3.2.3. Feedstocks and non-energy use of fuels

3.2.4. Category (CRF category number)

3.2.4.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

3.2.4.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, information on carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

3.2.4.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency

3.2.4.4. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable

3.2.4.5. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

3.2.4.6. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors, etc.), including tracking of those identified in the review process

3.3. Fugitive emissions from solid fuels and oil and natural gas and other emissions from energy production (CRF 1.B)

3.3.1. Category (CRF category number)

3.3.1.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

3.3.1.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

3.3.1.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency

3.3.1.4. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable

3.3.1.5. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

3.3.1.6. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors, etc.), including tracking of those identified in the review process

3.4. CO₂ transport and storage (CRF 1.C)

3.4.1. Category (CRF category number)

3.4.1.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

3.4.1.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

3.4.1.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency

3.4.1.4. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable

3.4.1.5. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

3.4.1.6. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors, etc.), including tracking of those identified in the review process

Chapter 4: Industrial processes and product use (CRF sector 2)

4.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category)

4.2. Category (CRF category number)

4.2.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

4.2.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, information on CO₂ capture, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

4.2.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency

4.2.4. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable

4.2.5. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

4.2.6. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors, etc.), including tracking of those identified in the review process

Chapter 5: Agriculture (CRF sector 3)

5.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category)

5.2. Category (CRF category number)

5.2.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

5.2.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission and removal estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

5.2.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency

5.2.4. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable

5.2.5. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

5.2.6. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors, etc.), including tracking of those identified in the review process

Chapter 6: Land use, land-use change and forestry (CRF sector 4)

6.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category, and coverage of pools)

6.2. Land-use definitions and the classification systems used and their correspondence to the land use, land-use change and forestry categories (e.g. land use and land-use change matrix)

6.3. Information on approaches used for representing land areas and on land-use databases used for the inventory preparation

6.4. Category (CRF category number)

6.4.1. Description (e.g. characteristics of category)

6.4.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission and removal estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

6.4.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency

6.4.4. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable

6.4.5. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

6.4.6. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors, etc.), including those in response to the review process

Chapter 7: Waste (CRF sector 5)

7.1. Overview of sector (e.g. quantitative overview and description, including trends and methodological tiers by category)

7.2. Category (CRF category number)

7.2.1. Category description (e.g. characteristics of sources)

7.2.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

7.2.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency

7.2.4. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable

7.2.5. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process

7.2.6. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors, etc.), including those in response to the review process

Chapter 8: Other (CRF sector 6) (if applicable)

Chapter 9: Indirect CO₂ and nitrous oxide emissions¹²

9.1. Description of sources of indirect emissions in GHG inventory

9.2. Methodological issues (e.g. choice of methods/activity data/emission factors, assumptions, parameters and conventions underlying the emission estimates and the rationale for their selection, any specific methodological issues (e.g. description of national methods and models))

9.3. Uncertainties and time-series consistency

9.4. Category-specific QA/QC and verification, if applicable

9.5. Category-specific recalculations, if applicable, including changes made in response to the review process and impact on emission trend

9.6. Category-specific planned improvements, if applicable (e.g. methodologies, activity data, emission factors, etc.), including tracking of those identified in the review process

Chapter 10: Recalculations and improvements

10.1. Explanations and justifications for recalculations, including in response to the review process

10.2. Implications for emission levels

10.3. Implications for emission trends, including time-series consistency

10.4. Planned improvements, including in response to the review process

¹² Content of this chapter should be consistent with paragraph 29.

Annexes to the national inventory report

Annex 1: Key categories

- Description of methodology used for identifying key categories, if different from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tier 1 approach
- Information on the level of disaggregation
- Tables 4.2 and 4.3 of volume 1 of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, including and excluding land use, land-use change and forestry

Annex 2: Assessment of uncertainty

- Description of methodology used for identifying uncertainties
- Table 3.3 of volume 1 of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines

Annex 3: Detailed methodological descriptions for individual source or sink categories

A.3.X (sector or category name)

Annex 4: The national energy balance for the most recent inventory year

Annex 5: Any additional information, as applicable.

References

All references used in the national inventory report must be listed in the references list.

Annex II

[English only]

Common reporting format tables

Owing to the complexity of and the importance of colour coding in the common reporting format (CRF) tables, they are not included in this document but can be downloaded from the UNFCCC website at

<http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/reporting_requirements/items/5333.php>.

Annex III

[English only]

Global warming potential values^a

<i>Greenhouse gas</i>	<i>Chemical formula</i>	<i>Global warming potentials</i>
Carbon dioxide	CO ₂	1
Methane	CH ₄	25
Nitrous oxide	N ₂ O	298
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)		
HFC-23	CHF ₃	14 800
HFC-32	CH ₂ F ₂	675
HFC-41	CH ₃ F	92
HFC-43-10mee	CF ₃ CHFCHFCF ₂ CF ₃	1 640
HFC-125	C ₂ HF ₅	3 500
HFC-134	C ₂ H ₂ F ₄ (CHF ₂ CHF ₂)	1 100
HFC-134a	C ₂ H ₂ F ₄ (CH ₂ FCF ₃)	1 430
HFC-143	C ₂ H ₃ F ₃ (CHF ₂ CH ₂ F)	353
HFC-143a	C ₂ H ₃ F ₃ (CF ₃ CH ₃)	4 470
HFC-152	CH ₂ FCH ₂ F	53
HFC-152a	C ₂ H ₄ F ₂ (CH ₃ CHF ₂)	124
HFC-161	CH ₃ CH ₂ F	12
HFC-227ea	C ₃ HF ₇	3 220
HFC-236cb	CH ₂ FCF ₂ CF ₃	1 340
HFC-236ea	CHF ₂ CHFCF ₃	1 370
HFC-236fa	C ₃ H ₂ F ₆	9 810
HFC-245ca	C ₃ H ₃ F ₅	693
HFC-245fa	CHF ₂ CH ₂ CF ₃	1 030
HFC-365mfc	CH ₃ CF ₂ CH ₂ CF ₃	794
Perfluorocarbons		
Perfluoromethane – PFC-14	CF ₄	7 390
Perfluoroethane – PFC-116	C ₂ F ₆	12 200
Perfluoropropane – PFC-218	C ₃ F ₈	8 830
Perfluorobutane – PFC-3-1-10	C ₄ F ₁₀	8 860
Perfluorocyclobutane – PFC-318	c-C ₄ F ₈	10 300
Perfluoropentane – PFC-4-1-12	C ₅ F ₁₂	9 160
Perfluorohexane – PFC-5-1-14	C ₆ F ₁₄	9 300
Perfluorodecalin – PFC-9-1-18 ^b	C ₁₀ F ₁₈	>7 500
Perfluorocyclopropane ^c	c-C ₃ F ₆	>17 340
Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)		
Sulphur hexafluoride	SF ₆	22 800
Nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃)		
Nitrogen trifluoride	NF ₃	17 200
Fluorinated ethers		
HFE-125	CHF ₂ OCF ₃	14 900
HFE-134	CHF ₂ OCHF ₂	6 320
HFE-143a	CH ₃ OCF ₃	756

<i>Greenhouse gas</i>	<i>Chemical formula</i>	<i>Global warming potentials</i>
HCFE-235da2	CHF ₂ OCHClCF ₃	350
HFE-245cb2	CH ₃ OCF ₂ CF ₃	708
HFE-245fa2	CHF ₂ OCH ₂ CF ₃	659
HFE-254cb2	CH ₃ OCF ₂ CHF ₂	359
HFE-347mcc3	CH ₃ OCF ₂ CF ₂ CF ₃	575
HFE-347pcf2	CHF ₂ CF ₂ OCH ₂ CF ₃	580
HFE-356pcc3	CH ₃ OCF ₂ CF ₂ CHF ₂	110
HFE-449sl (HFE-7100)	C ₄ F ₉ OCH ₃	297
HFE-569sf2 (HFE-7200)	C ₄ F ₉ OC ₂ H ₅	59
HFE-43-10pccc124 (H-Galden 1040x)	CHF ₂ OCF ₂ OC ₂ F ₄ OCHF ₂	1 870
HFE-236ca12 (HG-10)	CHF ₂ OCF ₂ OCHF ₂	2 800
HFE-338pcc13 (HG-01)	CHF ₂ OCF ₂ CF ₂ OCHF ₂	1 500
	(CF ₃) ₂ CFOCH ₃	343
	CF ₃ CF ₂ CH ₂ OH	42
	(CF ₃) ₂ CHOH	195
HFE-227ea	CF ₃ CHFOCF ₃	1 540
HFE-236ea2	CHF ₂ OCHF ₂ CF ₃	989
HFE-236fa	CF ₃ CH ₂ OCF ₃	487
HFE-245fa1	CHF ₂ CH ₂ OCF ₃	286
HFE-263fb2	CF ₃ CH ₂ OCH ₃	11
HFE-329mcc2	CHF ₂ CF ₂ OCF ₂ CF ₃	919
HFE-338mcf2	CF ₃ CH ₂ OCF ₂ CF ₃	552
HFE-347mcf2	CHF ₂ CH ₂ OCF ₂ CF ₃	374
HFE-356mec3	CH ₃ OCF ₂ CHF ₂ CF ₃	101
HFE-356pcf2	CHF ₂ CH ₂ OCF ₂ CHF ₂	265
HFE-356pcf3	CHF ₂ OCH ₂ CF ₂ CHF ₂	502
HFE-365mcf11 t3	CF ₃ CF ₂ CH ₂ OCH ₃	11
HFE-374pc2	CHF ₂ CF ₂ OCH ₂ CH ₃	557
	– (CF ₂) ₄ CH (OH) –	73
	(CF ₃) ₂ CHOCHF ₂	380
	(CF ₃) ₂ CHOCH ₃	27
Perfluoropolyethers		
PFPME	CF ₃ OCF(CF ₃)CF ₂ OCF ₂ OCF ₃	10 300
Trifluoromethyl sulphur pentafluoride (SF₅CF₃)		
Trifluoromethyl sulphur pentafluoride	SF ₅ CF ₃	17 700

^a As listed in the column entitled “Global warming potential for given time horizon” in table 2.14 of the errata to the contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, based on the effects of greenhouse gases over a 100-year time horizon.

^b The CRF Reporter will use the value of 7,500 for perfluorodecalin.

^c The CRF Reporter will use the value of 17,340 for perfluorocyclopropane.

10th plenary meeting
22 November 2013