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COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Seventeenth meeting

Online, 15-17 April 2020

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

OVERVIEW OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OBLIGATION TO SUBMIT NATIONAL REPORTS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 33 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety requires each Party to monitor the implementation of its obligations under the Protocol and to report periodically to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on measures it has taken to implement the Protocol.

2. In its decision [CP-9/5](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, adopted the reporting format for the fourth national report on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. It requested Parties to submit to the Secretariat their fourth national report in an official language of the United Nations, 12 months prior to the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, preferably online through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), or offline using the appropriate form, duly signed by the national focal point for the Cartagena Protocol.

3. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol encouraged Parties to respond to all questions in the reporting format and stressed the importance of the timely submission of the fourth national reports in order to facilitate the fourth assessment and review of the Cartagena Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020.

4. Through notification 2019-19, dated 13 February 2019, the Executive Secretary invited Parties to submit their fourth national report by 1 October 2019.¹

5. In accordance with its organization of work, agreed at the Committee's eighth meeting, the Committee reviews compliance by Parties with their obligation to submit a national report at the first meeting following the deadline for submission of the national reports.

6. To facilitate the review, the present note provides, in section II, an overview of the submission rate of fourth national reports and, in section III, an overview of submission rates of previous national reports. Section IV summarizes the past actions taken by the Committee in respect of Parties that had not complied with their reporting obligation. Section V contains some suggestions for the consideration of the Committee.

¹ Notification 2019-55, dated 25 June 2019, reminded Parties to submit their fourth national report by 1 October 2019 and announced the availability of the online reporting format. [Notification 2019-74](#), dated 3 September 2019, and notification 2019-98, dated 4 November 2019, reminded Parties of the submission deadline.

II. SUBMISSION RATE OF FOURTH NATIONAL REPORTS

7. This section provides, in sub-section A, an overview of the submission rate of fourth national reports and, in subsection B, some considerations on factors that may have affected the submission rate.

A. Overview

8. The determination of the submission rate of fourth national reports in the present document was based on the number of fourth national reports received by 15 January 2020.²

9. Fourth national reports were due on 1 October 2019. By 15 January 2020, out of a total of 171 Parties that had the obligation to submit a fourth national report, 99 Parties had submitted a complete fourth national report, representing a reporting rate of 58 per cent. These national reports were available through the BCH.

10. The regional breakdown of the number of Parties that had submitted their fourth national report is shown in table 1.

Table 1. Regional breakdown of fourth national reports received by 15 January 2020

<i>Regional groups</i>	<i>Number of Parties that submitted a complete fourth national report (Total number of Parties for each region)</i>	<i>Regional submission rate (Percentage)</i>
Africa	31 (49)	63%
Asia and the Pacific	18 (48)	38%
Central and Eastern Europe	16 (22)	73%
Latin America and Caribbean	15 (31)	48%
Western European and Others	19 (21)	90%

11. In addition, three Parties had submitted national reports offline but these appeared to be incomplete and had not yet been made available in the BCH by 15 January 2020. The Secretariat is communicating with these Parties to encourage them to provide the missing information and to publish their reports online.

12. An oral update on the number of fourth national report submitted to the BCH and received offline will be provided during the meeting.

B. Factors that may have affected the submission rate of fourth national reports

13. Through its decision [14/23](#), the Conference of the Parties invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to continue making funds available to assist eligible Parties in implementing the Cartagena Protocol, in particular to support eligible Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Protocol, including the preparation and submission of their fourth national reports under the Protocol.

14. Through notification [2019-42](#), dated 1 May 2019, the Executive Secretary informed Parties that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was preparing a project for funding by GEF to assist eligible Parties in the preparation of their fourth national report and encouraged eligible Parties to submit a letter of commitment to UNEP expressing their support for the project, signed by their GEF operational focal point.

15. By message of 17 December 2020 posted on the “BCH on BCH Forum”,³ UNEP reiterated the importance of receiving letters of commitment of all participating countries as soon as possible, to enable

² 15 January 2020 was the cut-off date for the submission of fourth national reports that were considered in the analysis for assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol (see also CBD/CP/CC/17/3).

UNEP to submit to GEF project proposals covering all participating Parties. UNEP indicated that Parties had until the end of January 2020 to submit their letter of commitment.

16. Based on information provided subsequently by UNEP, 98 Parties had submitted a letter of commitment to UNEP by the end of January 2020.⁴ UNEP informed the Secretariat that two medium-sized projects would be submitted to GEF for approval and that, following the approval of these projects, contractual arrangements would be made with the Parties concerned that would enable UNEP to disburse the funds. A third project proposal, including eligible Parties that submitted their letters of commitment later, would subsequently be submitted to GEF.

17. A total of 72 Parties had not submitted their complete fourth national report by 15 January 2020, of which 63 were eligible for GEF funding. Of these Parties, 47 had submitted a letter of commitment to UNEP by the end of 2019. The delay in accessing GEF funding may have affected the reporting rate negatively.⁵

18. Other factors that may have affected the reporting rate may be related to changes to and launch of the online reporting tool. As part of the ongoing migration of the BCH to its new platform, the Secretariat made available the online format for the fourth national report for the Cartagena Protocol through the preview version of the new BCH platform, in all six official languages of the United Nations. Due to the time required to create the preview version of the new platform, the online version of the format for the fourth national report could only be made available in June 2019. Through notification [2019-19](#), dated 13 February 2019, the Executive Secretary encouraged Parties to make use of the offline format, which had been made available in all six official languages, to organize and record the information for the fourth national report pending the availability of the online version of the reporting format. Some Parties may have postponed the preparation of their fourth national report pending the availability of the online reporting tool.

19. To assist Parties in using the new platform to submit their fourth national report, the Secretariat prepared “Questions and Answers” that included step-by-step instructions on how to submit the report through the preview version of the BCH.⁶ The Secretariat also used the “BCH on BCH” forum⁷ to share information on the fourth national reports with focal points. While the delayed availability of the online reporting tool may have caused some inconveniences, the user experience reported to the Secretariat on the new BCH platform has been positive, based on communications from Parties.⁸

³ http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art20/nfps/newBCHforum.shtml

⁴ By the end of 2019, a total of 30 eligible Parties had not yet submitted a letter of commitment. In addition, a total of five Parties indicated that they did not intend to submit a letter of commitment.

⁵ The Committee identified access to resources to support eligible Parties in preparing their national report as a factor that had affected the submission rate of national reports in the past. At its ninth meeting, for example, it noted the contribution of the financial resources made available by the Global Environment Facility in achieving the high rate of reporting and the importance of maintaining such support in the future (see UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/9/4, para. 10(a)). At its fourteenth meeting, the Committee identified difficulties in accessing funding as one of the factors that could have affected the submission rate of third national reports (see: CBD/CP/CC/14/5, para. 35).

⁶ <https://beta.bch.cbd.int/articles/5d2cdcd0620471000183573f>

⁷ http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art20/nfps/newBCHforum.shtml

⁸ See also CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.1, which provides some information on the evaluation of the use by Parties of the online reporting tool for the fourth national reports.

20. In considering factors that may have affected the submission rate of national reports in the past, the Committee considered that the length of the reporting format might be challenging.⁹ The reporting format for the fourth national report, while still lengthy, has undergone a number of revisions as a result of which it contains fewer questions (187) than the format for the third national report (209). In addition, some editorial issues and problems related to lack of clarity have been addressed in the format for the fourth national report. The revisions made to the reporting format may have had some limited positive effect on the ease of reporting, as compared to previous reporting cycles.

III. SUBMISSION RATE OF THIRD, SECOND, FIRST AND INTERIM NATIONAL REPORTS

21. This section provides an overview of submission rates of the third, second, first and interim national reports, as well as some information on factors identified by the Committee that may have affected the submission rate of the respective national reports. This information may help to identify the reasons why more than 40 per cent of Parties had not submitted their fourth national report by 15 January 2020.

22. As of 15 January 2020, the reporting rate for the previous national reports on the implementation of the Protocol was as follows:

(a) Third national reports: 157 reports received out of the 170 Parties with an obligation to report (92 per cent). This includes the third national reports of Djibouti and Serbia, which were submitted since the last meeting of the Committee;

(b) Second national reports: 153 reports received out of the 161 Parties with an obligation to report (95 per cent);

(c) First national reports: 87 reports received out of the 141 Parties with an obligation to report (62 per cent). In addition, first national reports were received from four countries that were not Parties to the Protocol at that time;

(d) Interim national reports: 55 reports received out of the 121 Parties with an obligation to report (45 per cent).

23. As set out above, the determination of the submission rate of fourth national reports in the present document was based on the number of fourth national reports received by 15 January 2020. In order to facilitate a correct comparison of the submission rate of fourth national reports with the submission rates of previous national reports, the analysis that follows is based on the number of national reports received at a similar point in time following the submission deadline of the respective national report.¹⁰

A. Third national reports

24. Third national reports were due on 31 October 2015. By 31 December 2015, 105 Parties had submitted their third national report out of 170 Parties to the Protocol that had the obligation to do so,

⁹ The Committee most recently considered factors that may have affected the submission rate of national reports at its fourteenth meeting, in 2017, in relation to the submission of third national reports. The Committee also identified other reasons for lower reporting rates, including: difficulties in accessing funds from the Global Environment Facility; challenges with the length of the reporting format; difficulties in complying with multiple reporting requests under different international agreements; lack of priority accorded to biosafety at the national level; and lack of awareness of the importance of national reporting (see CBD/CP/CC/14/5, para. 35).

¹⁰ The submission rate of fourth national reports was calculated based on the number of fourth national reports received approximately three and a half months following the submission deadline (on 15 January 2020). Submission rates of previous national reports were measured between five weeks and three months after the submission deadline of the respective national report, depending on the availability of the data.

which constituted a reporting rate of 62 per cent.¹¹ A regional breakdown of third national reports received by 31 December 2015 is provided in table 2.

Table 2. Regional breakdown of third national reports received by 31 December 2015

<i>Regional groups</i>	<i>Number of Parties that submitted a complete third national report (Total number of Parties for each region)</i>	<i>Regional submission rate (Percentage)</i>
Africa	33 (49)	67%
Asia and the Pacific	22 (47)	47%
Central and Eastern Europe	17 (22)	77%
Latin America and Caribbean	16 (31)	52%
Western European and Others	17 (21)	81%

25. The documentation presented to the Committee at its thirteenth meeting furthermore indicated that, by 19 January 2016, an additional 12 incomplete national reports had been submitted to the Secretariat which, pending their completion, had not been published through the BCH.

26. At the Committee's thirteenth meeting, the Secretariat provided an oral update on the number of reports received after the date of preparation of the documentation for the meeting. At that time (February 2016), almost four months after the submission deadline, 112 Parties had submitted their complete third national report, bringing the submission rate to 66 per cent.¹²

27. Through notification 2015-59, dated 22 May 2015, the Executive Secretary announced that GEF had approved funding to support eligible Parties in the preparation of their third national report. In the documentation issued for the Committee's thirteenth meeting, it was reported that, by 19 January 2016, 82 Parties had received funding or were in the process of accessing funds for the preparation of their third national report. Ultimately, a total of 68 Parties accessed GEF funding for the preparation of their third national report.¹³

28. The Committee noted that administrative changes within the United Nations had created systemic challenges that resulted in delays for a number of eligible Parties in accessing funding. The Committee also noted that this had caused difficulties for a number of Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Protocol, for example as regards submission of their third national report.¹⁴

B. Second national reports

29. Second national reports were due on 30 September 2011. By 31 December 2011, three months after the submission deadline, 143 of the 161 Parties that had an obligation to do so had submitted their

¹¹ At its thirteenth meeting, held from 24 to 26 February 2016, the Committee considered compliance by Parties with the obligation to submit a national report. Document UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/13/2 provided an overview of third national reports submitted by 31 December 2015. Reports submitted by that date were considered for the analysis for the third assessment and review of the Protocol and mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan.

¹² UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/13/6.

¹³ As last reported in CBD/CP/CC/14/4, para. 25.

¹⁴ UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/13/6, para. 10(c). The changes related to the introduction of the new Enterprise Resource Planning system (Umoja) by UNEP.

second national report, representing a submission rate of 89 per cent.¹⁵ A regional breakdown of second national reports received is provided in table 3.

Table 3. Regional breakdown of second national reports received by 31 December 2011

<i>Regional groups</i>	<i>Number of Parties that submitted a complete second national report (Total number of Parties for each region)</i>	<i>Regional submission rate (Percentage)</i>
Africa	49 (49)	100%
Asia and the Pacific	35 (41)	85%
Central and Eastern Europe	19 (22)	86%
Latin America and Caribbean	21 (28)	75%
Western European and Others	19 (21)	90%

30. At its ninth meeting, the Committee noted that a number of second national reports were incomplete for questions relating to the obligations under the Protocol.¹⁶ No account of the number of incomplete second national reports at the time is available.

31. Through notification 2011-35, dated 15 February 2011, the Executive Secretary announced that GEF had set aside funding to support eligible Parties in preparing their second national report and shared information on the modalities for accessing the funds. In the documentation provided to the Committee at its ninth meeting, it was reported that 86 Parties had accessed GEF funding for the preparation of their report.¹⁷

32. At the same meeting, the Committee noted that the provision of financial resources by GEF had contributed to the achievement of the high rate of submission of second national reports. It also took note of regional workshops that had been organized by the Secretariat through which awareness had been raised among Parties about opportunities for assistance in preparing their second national reports.¹⁸

C. First national reports

33. First national reports were due on 11 September 2007. The documentation provided to the Committee for its fourth meeting indicated that, by 16 October 2007, approximately one month after the submission deadline, 50 Parties had submitted their first national report, out of the 141 Parties that had the obligation to do so. This constituted a reporting rate of 35 per cent.¹⁹

34. By the time of the Committee's fourth meeting (held from 21 to 23 November 2007, approximately two months after the submission deadline), 62 Parties had submitted their complete first national report, bringing the submission rate to 44 per cent. No GEF funds specifically dedicated to supporting Parties in the preparation of first national reports were available.

35. A regional breakdown of first national reports received by 16 October 2007 is provided in table 4.

¹⁵ At its ninth meeting, held from 31 May to 1 June 2012, the Committee considered compliance by Parties with their obligation to submit a second national report. Document UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/9/2 provided an overview of second national submitted by 16 October 2011. Second national reports that had been submitted by that date were considered for the second assessment and review.

¹⁶ See UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/9/4, para. 10(g).

¹⁷ UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/9/2.

¹⁸ UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/9/4.

¹⁹ At the time of the Committee's fourth meeting, 62 Parties had submitted their first national report UNEP/CBD/BS/4/3, para. 12.

Table 4. Regional breakdown of first national reports received by 16 October 2007

<i>Regional groups</i>	<i>Number of Parties that submitted a complete first national report (Total number of Parties for each region)</i>	<i>Regional submission rate (Percentage)</i>
Africa	15 (40)	38
Asia and the Pacific	5 (35)	14
Central and Eastern Europe	5 (20)	25
Latin America and Caribbean	11 (25)	44
Western European and Others	14 (21)	67

36. At its fourth meeting, the Committee noted that financial support for the preparation of the second national report had not been easily available despite the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanisms in this regard (decision VIII/18, para. 12(i)).²⁰

D. Interim national reports

37. Interim national reports were due on 11 September 2005. By 11 October 2005, one month after the submission deadline, 44 Parties had submitted an interim national report of the 120 Parties that had the obligation to do so. This represented a reporting rate of 37 per cent. A regional breakdown of interim national reports received by 11 October 2005 is provided in table 5.

38. No GEF funds specifically dedicated to support Parties in the preparation of interim national reports were available. The Committee, at its third meeting, considered the submission rate of the interim national reports and noted the low reporting rate. It considered the reasons that could have affected the submission rate, including a possible misunderstanding among certain Parties whether they had an obligation to submit an interim national report.²¹

Table 5. Regional breakdown of interim national reports received by 11 October 2005

<i>Regional groups</i>	<i>Number of Parties that submitted a complete interim national report (Total number of Parties for each region)</i>	<i>Regional submission rate (Percentage)</i>
Africa	7 (32)	22
Asia and the Pacific	4 (29)	14
Central and Eastern Europe	5 (17)	29
Latin America and Caribbean	12 (22)	55
Western European and Others	16 (20)	80

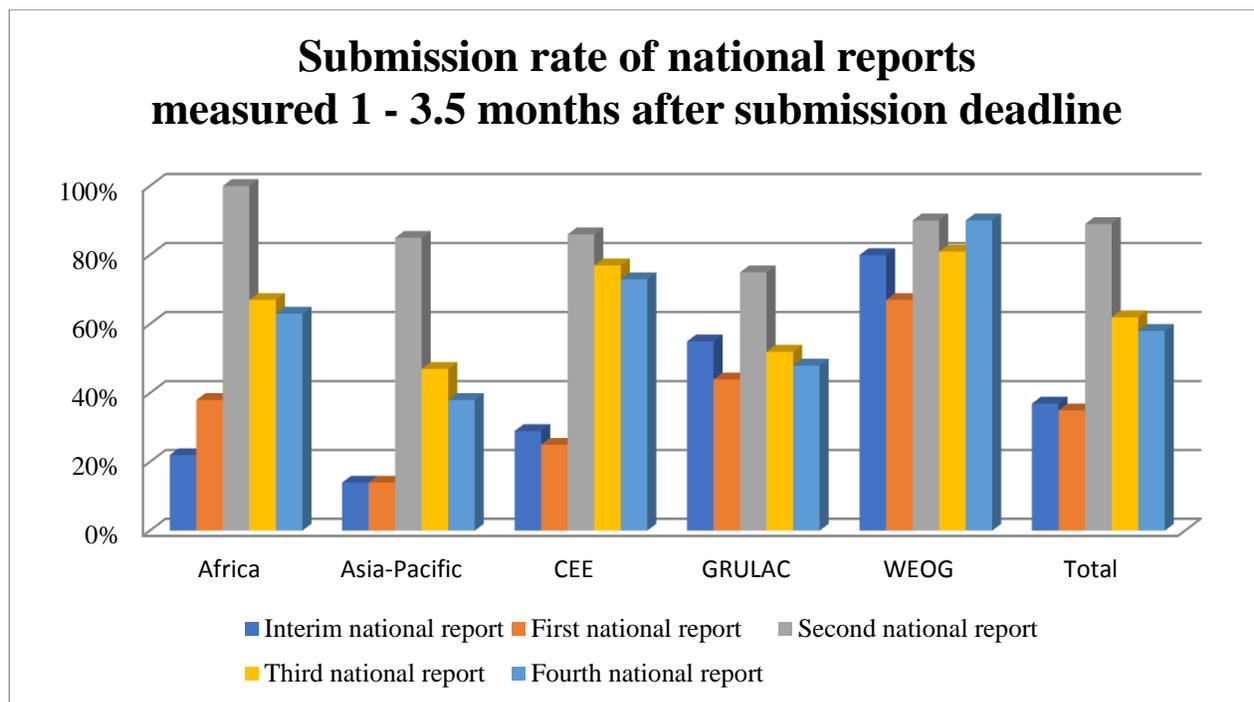
E. Comparative overview of submission rate of national reports

39. Based on the tables provided in sections II and III, a comparative overview of submission rates of national reports is provided in figure 1.

²⁰ See UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/4/3, para. 14.

²¹ See UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/3/2.

Figure 1. Submission rates of national reports measured at similar points in time following the submission deadline of the respective national report



40. The data show that the submission rate of the fourth national report is slightly lower than the submission rate of the third national reports, considerably lower than the submission rate of the second national report, but considerably higher than those of the first and interim national reports.

41. As outlined above, one of the key factors identified by the Committee that affected the submission rate of previous national reports is the timely access to GEF funding to support eligible Parties in the preparation of their national report.

42. At the time of writing of the present note, none of the eligible Parties had accessed GEF funding for the preparation of their fourth national report. A comparison with the situation in respect of previous reporting cycles shows that, at a similar point in time after the submission deadline for the second national reports, 86 Parties had accessed GEF funding, and the submission rate of the second national reports was 89 per cent.

43. At a comparable point in time following the submission deadline for the third national reports, 82 Parties that had accessed or were in the process of accessing GEF funding for the preparation of their third national report, and the submission rate was 62 per cent. The Committee noted that a number of the 82 Parties were facing delays in accessing funding. The Committee also noted that this had caused difficulties for a number of Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligation.²²

IV. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF PARTIES THAT DID NOT COMPLY WITH THEIR REPORTING OBLIGATION

44. Since its second meeting, the Committee has extensively reviewed compliance with the obligation of Parties to report. Decision [BS-V/1](#) enabled the Committee to take certain measures in accordance with section VI of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Cartagena Protocol²³ if a Party does

²² Ultimately, 68 Parties accessed funding (see UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/13/6, para. 10(c)).

²³ As provided in decision BS-1/7, annex.

not submit a national report. Further to this, the Committee has taken measures in respect of individual Parties and made recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in this regard.

45. In line with the organization of work agreed at its eighth meeting, the Committee reviews compliance by Parties with their obligation to submit a national report at the first meeting following the deadline for submission of the respective national report and may decide on recommendations and follow-up actions. The Committee usually reverts to the issue at its subsequent meetings, reviewing an update of the number of Parties that have submitted their national report and considering follow-up actions regarding Parties that continue not complying with their obligation in this regard.

46. In this context, the Committee has made recommendations and taken a number of actions, a selection of which have been summarized below:

(a) Recommends to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol that it urge Parties that have not yet done so to submit their complete national report;

(b) Recommends, through the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, that the Conference of the Parties, in adopting its guidance to the financial mechanism, invite the GEF to make funds available to all eligible Parties for the preparation of the national report under the Cartagena Protocol;

(c) Requests the Secretariat to follow up with Parties that have not yet submitted their national report. Follow-up in this regard has been done informally by e-mail to the national focal point of the Parties concerned, and occasionally formally through a letter from the Executive Secretary. These communications reminded Parties of their obligation to submit their national report and offered assistance in this regard. In some cases, the Committee has requested the Secretariat to enquire with the Parties concerned about the difficulties they face in complying with their obligation to submit a national report;

(d) Decides that the Chair of the Committee shall write to individual Parties reminding these Parties of the obligation to submit a national report and offering assistance in this regard. These letters have been sent either to the national focal point for the Cartagena Protocol or, at a subsequent stage, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with copy to the national focal point for the Cartagena Protocol;

(e) Recommend to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol that it caution specific Parties for their failure to comply with their obligation to submit national reports. The Committee has twice made a recommendation in this regard, in relation to a small number of Parties that had not submitted any national report, over multiple reporting cycles. While the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol has not taken up the recommendation to caution individual Parties, the Committee has recognized that these recommendations have been useful in encouraging the individual Parties to submit their national report.

47. In addition to the above-listed recommendations and actions, members of the Committee have also informally followed up with Parties in their respective regions that had not submitted a national report. The Committee noted such informal follow-up at its twelfth and thirteenth meetings.²⁴

48. When deciding on compliance measures, the Committee may take into consideration the capacity of the Party concerned and other factors, such as the cause, type, degree and frequency of non-compliance, in accordance with section VI of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance.

49. In deciding on measures in respect of Parties that had not complied with their reporting obligation, the Committee has taken into consideration a number of factors, for example, compliance of the Party concerned with its reporting obligation under previous reporting cycles, and the type of follow-up actions already taken in respect of the Party concerned.

²⁴ See UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/12/5, para. 18, and UNEP/CBD/BS/CC/13/6, para.10(e).

50. The Committee's actions concerning the obligation to submit national reports have contributed to a rise in the reporting rate for the second and third national reports.²⁵ At the same time, however, the timeliness of the submission of national reports remains an issue, and this has repercussions for processes that depend on the information provided through the national reports.

V. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMITTEE

51. Against this background, the Committee may wish to discuss the current status of submission of fourth national reports.

52. The Committee may also wish to discuss the issue of access to funding to support the preparation and submission of national reports. In this context, the Committee may wish to recall that, at its sixteenth meeting, it recognized that Parties have an obligation to report, irrespective of the availability of funding. The Committee also acknowledged that financial support greatly contributed to the completion and submission of national reports. It considered that it could be useful to explore avenues for ensuring that the GEF funding to support Parties in completing their future national reports was made available further in advance of the submission deadline than was currently the case. In that regard, it stressed the importance of the timely availability of funding for the fifth national reports and decided to further consider the matter at its seventeenth meeting, in the context of the review of compliance by Parties with their obligation to submit the fourth national report.

53. It may also be recalled that the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol have decided to move to a synchronized reporting cycle for the next round of national reports, beginning in 2023.²⁶ As part of the synchronized reporting cycle, it is expected that the deadline for submission of fifth national reports may be earlier in the year than it has been for previous reporting cycles, making the early availability of funding even more important to support the timely submission of national reports.

54. The Committee may wish to consider follow-up actions in respect of Parties that have not yet submitted their fourth national report. In this context, the Committee may wish to take into consideration compliance by these Parties with their reporting obligation in the previous reporting cycle. Of the 13 Parties that have not yet submitted a third national report,²⁷ none have submitted their fourth national report.

55. The Committee may wish to consider requesting the Secretariat to follow up with those Parties that have not yet submitted their fourth national report.

56. The Committee may furthermore wish to request the Executive Secretary to send a letter to those Parties that have not yet submitted their fourth national report and have also not submitted their third national report, reminding these Parties of their obligation to submit their national report as a matter of urgency.

57. The Committee may wish to consider whether further actions, either informally or formally, could assist those Parties that have not submitted their fourth or third national report.

58. The Committee may furthermore wish to consider recommending that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties, at its tenth meeting:

²⁵ See "Activities undertaken by the Compliance Committee with regard to the obligation to submit national reports leading up to the recommendation to caution individual Parties" (CBD/CP/MOP/9/INF/2) for an overview of the steps taken by the Committee concerning second and third national reports.

²⁶ Decision 14/27, as accepted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in decision CP-9/5, para. 9.

²⁷ Angola, Azerbaijan, Belize, Cabo Verde, Libya, Montenegro, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, State of Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic. Montenegro, which has not submitted its fourth, third or second national reports, is being considered as an individual case of non-compliance (see CBD/CP/CC/17/5).

- (a) Welcome the 99 complete fourth national reports submitted;²⁸
- (b) Express concern about the low rate of submission of fourth national reports;
- (c) Also express concern about delays in the project to enable eligible Parties to access funding from the Global Environment Facility to support the preparation of fourth national reports, noting that such funding was not available prior to the deadline for the submission of fourth national reports, which may have caused difficulties for a number of Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligation under the Protocol;
- (d) Urge Parties that have not yet submitted their fourth national report to do so as soon as possible;²⁹
- (e) Note with concern that, of the Parties that have not yet submitted their fourth national report, some Parties have also not submitted their third national report,³⁰ and that one³¹ of these Parties has not submitted its third or second national report;
- (f) Urge Parties that have submitted an incomplete fourth national report to provide the missing information as soon as possible;
- (g) Recommend that the Conference of the Parties, in adopting its guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to support for the implementation of the Protocol, invite the Global Environment Facility to continue making funds available to support eligible Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Protocol, including through the submission of fifth national reports, in a timely fashion.

²⁸ Number to be updated to reflect number of reports received by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its tenth meeting.

²⁹ Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Comoros, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Eritrea, Eswatini, Fiji, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nauru, Niue, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

³⁰ Angola, Azerbaijan, Belize, Cabo Verde, Libya, Montenegro, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, State of Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic.

³¹ Montenegro. Montenegro, which has not submitted its fourth, third and second national reports, is being considered as an individual case of non-compliance, see document CBD/CP/CC/17/5.