**Template for the Advanced Comments on Draft Documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation**

**TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS: Revised guidance and template for the seventh and eighth reports contained in annex to CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD1/AMEND1**

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| **Advanced comments on the draft documents on Planning, Reporting and Review Mechanisms for the Resumed Session of the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation** | | |
| **Scope of this template for comments** | | Revised guidance and template for the seventh and eighth national reports, contained in annex to the document CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD1/AMEND1 which includes a draft of Annex C to CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5. This template aims to collect feedback on that Annex. |
| ***Contact information*** | | |
| **Surname:** | | NTEP |
| **Given Name:** | | RIGOBERT |
| **Government** (if applicable)**:** | | CAMEROON |
| **Organization:** | | **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTION OF NATURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** |
| **Address:** | | **20th May Boulevard, 7th floor of Ministerial building No.2.** |
| **City:** | | Yaounde  **Cameroon**  **320**  **+237 677 303 932** |
| **Country:** | |
| **Postal Code:** | |
| **Phone Number** (including country code)**:** | |
| E-mail: | | [rntep@yahoo.fr](mailto:rntep@yahoo.fr) / [Rigobert.ntep@gmail.com](mailto:Rigobert.ntep@gmail.com) |
| **Comments** | | |
| Feeding national reports into global reviews or stock take will present a serious challenge if the country national reports are not prepared on the basis of a template or guidance that ensures coherence in preparation, presentation and subsequent ease of aggregation. Templates can be designed for both online and off-line use. The u**se of an Online Reporting tool is highly beneficial.** Experience from the 6NR where guidance on how to find geospatial and qualitative data on related global targets and indicators helped in no small way during the process of reporting.  The 7th NR template can be more useful, if hosted in a platform that has the possibility of interoperability, where other relevant environmental data sets could be easily accessed for reporting purposes. Understandably, DaRT could play that role.   * As presented in Annex C to CBD/SBI/3/CRP.5, the templates for the 7th &8th NR are merged. However, considering the stakes in the two expected reports in terms of **content**, **context** and the **reporting period,** it probably will be much clearer to all Parties if the two templates were to be presented separately. A template for each report with FOUR distinct Sections as suggested below:   **Proposed 7th National Report Template**   * **SECTION I**: Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report. * **SECTION II**: Executive summary of the report. * **SECTION III**: Status of the updated or revised NBSAPs in the light of the   Post- 2020 global biodiversity framework.   * **SECTION IV**: Assessment of progress towards the 2030 action targets.   **ANNEX**: *Responses to requests related to the seventh national report contained in respective decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.*  **Proposed 8th National Report Template**  **SECTION I:** Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report.  **SECTION II**: Executive summary of the report  **SECTION III**: Assessment of progress towards the 2030 commitments.  **SECTION IV**: Assessment of progress towards the 2050 action targets  **ANNEX**: *Responses to requests related to the eighth national report contained in respective decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.*    **General Observations:**   1. **The brief overview of the process is proposed under SECTION I instead of SECTION II.**   The reasoning behind this is that this section serves the purpose of “Setting the Scene” or “General Introduction” where parties are expected to briefly explain the stakeholder mapping and how coordination was done during consultations, which sets the stage to delve into SECTION II where the Key findings are outlined in an Executive Summary that could be used for outreach purposes. The flow could probably be better if rearranged as proposed.   1. **The Assessment of Progress towards the 2050 Action Targets may be removed from the 7th NR Template**   This is obvious in the proposal. Nevertheless, for clarity sake let us have it removed to avoid ambiguity. By the same token, the initial SECTION III on the “ Status of Updated or Revised NBSAPs in the light of the Post 2020 GBF wouldn’t be relevant in the template of the 8th NR at the time of reporting.   1. **The Use of Headline Indicators** is ideal for aggregation of results at the global level, though the use of templates with **word counts** may not give room for free expression of untagged areas for reporting. A template suggesting word counts helps to keep the report focused and easy to review. Nevertheless, it will present a difficulty to maintain the word limits in some sections where much information is needed for clarification purposes. Not all global targets are represented at the national level 2. There is a **need to improve the CBD Secretariat's online reporting system** by minimizing the technical and other issues that limit Parties from systematically using these resources. | | |
| 1. As at now, there isn’t interoperability between DaRT and the Online Reporting Systems of the MEA Secretariats in general and the SCBD in particular. There is need to ensure that information can be uploaded from DaRT into the CBD reporting system and reports generated from the tool directly. 2. Capacity building in the use of the tool has not been guaranteed – Source of funding and studies on the cost of setting up and running online reporting systems especially in least developed countries haven’t been effectively carried out. | | |
| **Section** | **Comment** | |
| I | Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section I. Executive summary of the seventh and eighth national reports.  **\**May be interchanged with Section II as explained above:***   * **This Section may serve as a summary for policy makers (SPM).** * **It could contain the major outcomes of the report, possibly in a graphical form with clear but simple and understandable statistical images.** * **Flashes on the major conclusions or recommendations.** * **It could include catchy statements such as those found in BES Assessment SPMs such as to enable any reader understand what is discussed in the full report without having to read it.** * **Word count could be 500 max.** | |
| II | Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section II. Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report.  **The overview could have three principal subheadings :**   * + **The Mandate – (Why this report? by whose authority? For which commitments? Should be included in this section.**   + **The Process – Stakeholder Mapping & methodology for data collection**   + **The Procedure – Role played by each stakeholder in the process.**   **The word count for this section could be fixed at 300 max.** | |
| III | Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section III. Status of the updated or revised NBSAP in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (This section is for the Seventh national report only).  **This Section is very important and should serve as a transition between the Aichi “induced” NBSAP targets and the Post 2020 NBSAP targets for Parties that will revise their NBSAPs. The closed ended questions posed here are straightforward and good, nevertheless, an open ended question could be added in this section that could provide give clear guidance on the following issues of concern:**   * ***Is the NBSAP aligned with the GBF*?**   **This implies National targets reflect all goals, targets and indicators of the GBF or be in line with or related to the GBF (this option allows for taking into consideration national circumstance);**   * **Does the NBSAP include national commitments made or have National Commitments as a stand-alone document?** * **Are your complimentary and component indicators adapted according to national circumstances in the NBSAP?**   **A few more questions could therefore be added to this section in the light of the above reasoning.** | |
| IV | Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section IV. Assessment of progress towards the 2050 goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.  **As proposed in the general comments above, it perhaps will make more sense if this Section is reserved for the Eighth National Report. Section IV of the Seventh National Report could have an Assessment of Progress towards the 2030 Action Targets.**  **The Word Count for this section could be fixed at 1000 max** | |
| V | Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section V. Progress towards the 2030 action targets  **Good for the Seventh National Report** | |