**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.  |
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| **Comments** |
| Please provide any general comments on the structure of the draft template for the seventh and eighth national reports, as well as the introduction to the template. *General comments:** *The simplification of the template, compared to the one for the 6th National Reports’ is a very welcome development!*
* *The fact that the format and timing for both the 7th and 8th national reports are being considered at the same time as adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is also very welcome. This gives Parties more opportunity to plan ahead, and enables clearer understanding of trends.*
* *During the preparation of the 6th national reports, many Parties encountered difficulties with the Online Reporting Tool. When implementing the tool for the 7th and 8th national reports, particular attention should be devoted to: 1) simplify access and authorizations, 2) introduce an easy way to include attachments, 3) allow the creation of shareable and editable drafts, and 4) ensure the availability of consistent and complete versions in all official languages.*

*General comments related to DaRT:** *UNEP welcomes and supports referencing DaRT in document CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.1/Amend.1, Annex, paragraph 12-13. DaRT contributes to ensuring consistency of reporting across the biodiversity-related conventions, reducing duplication of work by improving information and knowledge management at the national level and improved use data by strengthening collaboration among national stakeholders and linking national working spaces to global and regional data sources.*
* *Mentioning DaRT in the context of national reporting is consistent with several draft outcome documents:*
	+ *CBD/SBSTTA/24/L3, paragraph 16(b), requesting the Executive Secretary to facilitate the use of relevant tools, including the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT), to facilitate national reporting and the sharing of information between multilateral environment agreements;*
	+ *CBD/SBI/3/CRP4, paragraph 14 (d), requesting the Executive Secretary to continue collaboration with relevant initiatives, including DaRT (with DaRT being also listed in the Annex of the CRP, paragraph 16); and*
	+ *CBD/SBI/3/CRP5, paragraph 16, requesting the Executive Secretary to facilitating of the use of tools for data reporting, such as the DaRT. In the same CRP, DaRT is also mentioned in paragraph 1(d) on adopting an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review – this paragraph, however, is in brackets and currently being negotiated.*

*Comments relating to integrating a gender perspective when reporting on progress in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:** *We have a question regarding the gender plan of action for the post-2020 period and elements of the draft recommendation (document CBD/SBI/3/4/Add.2/Rev.2). Paragraph 5 of the recommended draft decision, invites Parties to submit information on efforts and steps taken to implement the post-2020 gender plan of action in their national reporting.*
* *Parties, whenever possible, could use gender-sensitive indicators and data disaggregated by sex when reporting on progress towards goals and targets that relate to people. As such, the templates for the 7th and 8th national reports could be updated to include relevant section(s) to report on progress towards gender elements from goals and targets, and to report on progress towards objectives from the gender plan of action.*
* *Having access to guidance and expertise to integrate a gender perspective in national reports have proved to be useful resources for Parties (CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.3). Therefore, it would be useful to develop guidance to support Parties in addressing the effectiveness of measures for integrating gender considerations in the implementation of the post-2020 framework and the Convention more broadly (this relates to* ***Paragraph 9*** *on the development of materials to support the preparation of reports).*

*Specific comments on the Annex:** *Throughout the text in Annex and the draft template, language that relates to the content and structure of the monitoring framework, including text that relates to headline, component and complementary indicators, should probably remain in square brackets, since the monitoring framework is not yet agreed. This applies to text in the introduction in* ***paragraphs 2 and 3****, and particularly* ***paragraph 11****, which details how headline indicators should be used. Alternatively, text that adds clarity could be added, noting that the adoption of the national reporting template is dependent on the outcomes of discussions on the monitoring framework.*
* *Wherever DaRT is mentioned in the Annex, could you please add in a footnote the URL* [*https://dart.informea.org/*](https://dart.informea.org/) *and/or a reference to document CBD/SBI/3/INF/8* [*https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3f65/d8fe/7e3a76d05cb0fc279fd7f38c/sbi-03-inf-08-en.pdf*](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3f65/d8fe/7e3a76d05cb0fc279fd7f38c/sbi-03-inf-08-en.pdf)
* ***Paragraph 4:*** *refers to inclusion of information required by COP decisions, but does not make clear how this should be included where it is not already a part of the template. Should something relating to this be included in the template?*
* ***Paragraph 5:*** *mentions the decision that the submission of the next reports under the Convention and its Protocols will be synchronized. However, the template at this stage does not include specific sections referring to the protocols.*
* ***Paragraph 6:*** *We note that the actions of non-state actors could be reported on here, but could also be captured through further implementation of the Action Agenda. Steps may need to be taken to avoid duplication in recognition and reporting of such actions, or at least to understand when such commitments or actions are referred to in multiple places.*
* ***Paragraph 9:*** *On the resource manual to be prepared to provide further guidance and explanation, we note that the previous version was valuable in identifying other data sources, potentially useful assessments, and where the reports to other MEAs and processes might provide valuable content. In this manual it will be valuable to incorporate information on indicators and support that could be provided, to provide information on key data sources (and one of the compendia produced by UNEP-WCMC is directly relevant here), and we could usefully also include reference to tools such as DaRT (*[*https://dart.informea.org/*](https://dart.informea.org/)*) which will be developed or enhanced as needed to support the preparation of the reports. UNEP and UNEP-WCMC are happy to assist with development of the resource manual.*
* ***Paragraph 9:*** *Also note that the resource manual will need to incorporate guidance on integrating a gender perspective.*
* ***Paragraph 10:*** *It is good to set out how the national reports might be used, but is it sufficiently clear what the difference is between paragraph 10(a) and paragraph 10(b)?*
* ***Paragraph 10 (d):*** *on the voluntary national review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, you may want to note that DaRT has established interoperability with IRIS (Indicators Reporting Information System) for reporting on SDGs* [*https://dart.informea.org/tools*](https://dart.informea.org/tools)*. Further indicators included in UNEP’s “Environment Global Database” will be made available in the national working spaces in support of national reporting, including the voluntary reviews under the SDGs.*
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| Please use the table below to provide any specific comments on the template:  |
| **Section** | **Comment** |
| I | Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section I. Executive summary of the seventh and eighth national reports.* *UNEP in collaboration with the Cameroon Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development are conducting a case study on using DaRT for completing a national report, using the draft template proposed in the present document. One preliminary finding of this project is that the suggested word count is by no means sufficient to provide meaningful information on progress towards goals/targets, changes observed and ambition gaps/challenges. We therefore recommend dropping the word counts suggested in Section I.*
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| II | Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section II. Brief overview of the process of preparation of the report* *We note that DaRT has demonstrated potential to facilitate cooperation among the focal points of the MEAs and the focal Points of the SDGs at the national level which will help in synchronizing reporting to multiple processes. It is also useful for the planning and preparation of National Reports by allowing facilitated coordination and efficiency in data gathering at the national level. Finally, DaRT can foster engagement in national processes/mechanisms involving for example the national biodiversity steering committee and engaging as many relevant stakeholders from various groups as possible and include many sources and updated information. These are the sorts of aspects that could be expanded upon in guidance provided, and UNEP would be happy to assist with this..*
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| 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) * *Instead of the three categories used currently in response to the first question, would it be better to have something more like: full review/update done; preliminary review/update done; full review/update under way; preliminary review/update under way; no review/update planned (with some multiple combinations possible)?*
* *Surely whether or not something has been submitted to the Secretariat is a completely separate question/point, and you may want to also include this?*
* *We note that DaRT is populated with NBSAPs and allows an automated system to map and track strategies of all MEAs, global/national targets and actions. This will facilitate development of the National Report.*
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| IV | Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section IV. Assessment of progress towards the 2050 goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework* *Where is the assessment of progress supposed to be inserted? The second or the third column? If it is under the third column, the heading could be misleading as it refers only to the sources of data. Or does assessment of progress only relate to the provision of indicators - in which case it is not really an assessment?*
* *The term “value” for headline indicators is unclear, some further information on what is meant by value may be helpful. In some instances, the value may be numerical, or text, depending on the nature of the indicator. It is unclear how values will be prefilled from relevant datasets - it suggests a system that gathers values for indicators and disaggregates the data for individual countries. As far as I am aware, such a dataset does not yet exist and will require development (although some work is underway on a target tracker concept and in UN Biodiversity Labs).*
* *The column on source data for headline indicators seems superfluous if the data is prefilled from global datasets, as the source datasets in such a scenario will be known to Parties.*
* *If the national data differs from disaggregated global data, what is the process for Parties to either dispute the values provided? Will global data be overwritten by national data? What are the governance systems in place to ensure that if and when data is disputed, the data can be replaced or maintained?*
* *It is unclear why the narrative relating to progress such as that included in row 1-4 of section V relating to action targets, is not included in section IV for goals.*
* *We note that the DaRT tool currently includes targets from all biodiversity-relevant conventions and those of the UNCCD, cross-related as appropriate. The goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be uploaded and similarly cross-related once it is adopted, facilitating the tracking of goals, targets and indicators, including the SDGs.*
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| V | Please include comments or specific suggestions for Section V. Progress towards the 2030 action targets* *See comments on Section IV above relating to the text on headline indicator data, prefilling datasets, ownership and acceptance of national/global indicator data.*
* *UNEP in collaboration with the Cameroon Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development are conducting a case study on using DaRT for completing a national report, using the draft template proposed in the present document. One preliminary finding of this project is that the suggested word count is by no means sufficient to provide meaningful information on action targets. We therefore recommend dropping the word counts suggested in Section V.*
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