

Results of the Online Survey on the Trial Phase of an Open-Ended Forum on Review of Implementation held on 16 and 17 September 2020

The trial phase of the open-ended forum was organized pursuant to [decision 14/29](#), in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further develop options to enhance review mechanisms, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention, and to prepare a Party-led review process to be tested at the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3). In light of exceptional circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties decided that the trial phase would be held online on 16 and 17 September, in advance of SBI-3. These sessions were part of the series of special virtual sessions of SBSTTA and SBI held from 15 to 18 September 2020.

Following the trial phase, the Secretariat circulated a survey to collect additional feedback and insights to be presented to and discussed at SBI-3 under agenda item 9 (Mechanisms for Reporting, Assessment and Review). The survey was made available in the six official languages of the United Nations from 5 to 23 October 2020.

The present note provides a brief summary of the survey responses. The results of the survey are provided in annex I.

A total of 100 survey responses were received from 46 Parties (6 Parties submitted 2 responses, 1 submitted 3 responses, 2 submitted 4 responses), 25 observers and 15 civil society representatives.

In terms of regional breakdown, of the 46 Parties that responded to the survey, 10 were from AFRICA, 12 from ASIA PACIFIC, 6 from CEE, 8 from GRULAC and 10 from WEOG. Eight (8) of the 46 Parties who responded had not joined the online sessions (they included 4 Parties from AFRICA and 4 Parties from ASIA PACIFIC).

Parties who delivered presentations during the forum who responded to the survey provided an average rating of 4.67 (5=of great value, 1=of no value) on their overall experience as a Party under review. They commented that the process had provided an opportunity for them to consider what is needed to refine implementation efforts in the post-2020 period, identify future planning needs, share experiences, learn from other Parties and discuss main implementation challenges. However, a considerable amount of time had been needed to prepare the review report and presentation and there had been limited time to deliver the presentation during the forum and discuss it with participants.

Parties who joined the online sessions provided an average rating of 3.45 (5=of great value, 1=of no value) when asked if being a Party under review would be of value to their country. Among the benefits cited were that the process could assist in assessing major needs and gaps, bring government units together and enhance levels of capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning. Among the constraints cited were the lack of clarity on the specific purpose of the sessions and lack of information provided in relation to monitoring frameworks.

Responses received from 42 Parties and 39 non-Parties on the effectiveness of the procedure used for the trial phase produced an average rating of 3.02 (5=most effective, 1=least effective). Among the comments received was the need to clarify the role of observers and civil society representatives in the forum, including opportunities for them to participate in discussions.

Fifty-nine percent (59%) of participants (28 Parties and 22 non-Parties) had not read the review reports. Seventeen (17) Parties and 18 non-Parties had read them. Feedback received from participants highlighted the need to develop a common methodology and guidance for preparing the review report, with

the possibility of Parties being able to include additional information if they wish, and that this guidance should be developed after Parties decide on the specific focus of the forum. They also underlined the need for the review reports to provide precise reporting on the contribution of national targets to the achievement of each global target.

In terms of the potential added value of the open-ended forum as part of the Convention's multidimensional review mechanism, some respondents indicated that the forum could complement the other components of the review mechanism and that it could be an option for strengthening governance and accountability, if paired with other review mechanisms. Another potential added value mentioned is the potential of the forum to foster peer-to-peer learning and knowledge transfer among Parties and non-Parties in terms of methodologies, innovative solutions, monitoring mechanisms, data and technology usage, and identification of strategic actions to overcome obstacles in implementation.

Responses received from 44 Parties and 40 non-Parties regarding their level of comfort with the online format produced an average rating of 3.26 (5=very comfortable, forum should be held exclusively online; 1=least comfortable, forum should be held in person; 3=prefer a blended approach), indicating preference for a blended approach.

Suggestions to improve the design, modalities and functioning of the open-ended review forum included the following, among others:

- (a) negotiation of the principles of the forum by Parties,
- (b) prior review and verification of the review reports by the Secretariat or the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and
- (c) the organization of regional forums.

Responses received from 56 Parties and 35 non-Parties regarding the learning and exchange potential of the forum produced an average value of 3.75 (5=most useful, 1=least useful), indicating that participants felt that the forum could be useful to their countries in sharing experiences and learning from others to enhance implementation efforts.

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Annex I

100
Responses

105:35
Average time to complete

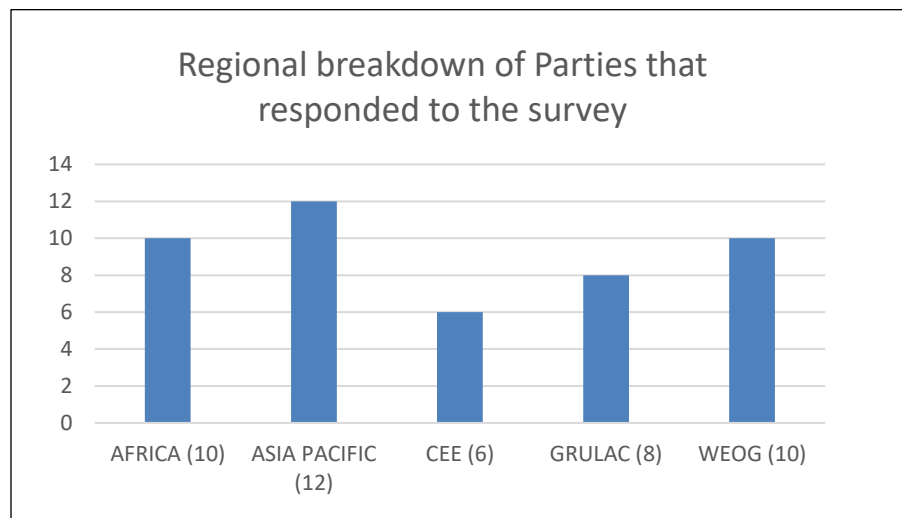
Closed
Status

1. Are you a Party, observer or representative of civil society?

● Party	60
● Observer	25
● Representative of civil society	15



2. Regional breakdown of Parties that responded to the survey



3. If you are a Party, did you join the online meeting for the open-ended forum?

● Yes	47
● No	13



4. Are you one of the five Parties that presented during the trial phase of the open-ended forum?

● Yes	3
● No	43



5. Please rate your overall experience participating in the trial phase as a presenting Party. Please rate on a scale of 1-5 (5=most positive, 1=least positive).

3
Responses

4.67
Average Number

6. What do you see as three main benefits and three main constraints in terms of participation as a presenting Party (or Party "under review")?

2
Responses

7. How valuable would being involved in a review process be from your perspective? Please rate on a scale of 1-5 (5=of great value, 1=of no value).

42

Responses

3.45

Average Number

8. What do you see as three main benefits and three main constraints in terms of participation?

36

Responses

9. How effective was the procedure used for the trial phase of the open-ended forum (e.g. process of selection of Parties to be reviewed, submission of Review Reports, submission of questions by other Parties, selection and response to questions, participation of non-Parties, moderation, length of the session)? Please rate on a scale of 1-5 (5=most effective, 1=least effective).

81

Responses

3.02

Average Number

10. Please provide a short explanation for the rating you have provided above on the effectiveness of the procedure used for the trial phase.

72

Responses

11. Did you read the review reports of the presenting Parties before the session?

● Yes 35
● No 50



12. How useful were the review reports for your preparation to participate in the forum?

33
Responses

13. Were you able to ask questions to the participating Parties and follow the discussions even though you had not read the review reports?

45
Responses

14. Please provide any additional feedback on the review reports and the guidance for them below.

41
Responses

15. What in your opinion is the potential value added of the open-ended forum as part of the Convention's multidimensional review mechanism (which includes National Reports, global review by SBI/COP, the Voluntary Peer Review (VPR) process, among others)? Please provide a short explanation below.

66

Responses

16. How comfortable did you feel with the online format and do you feel that, if instituted as a mechanism under the Convention, future forums could be held fruitfully exclusively online? Please rate on a scale of 1-5 (5=very comfortable, forum should be held exclusively online, 1=least comfortable, forum should be held in person) (3=prefer a blended approach)

84

Responses

3.26

Average Number

17. Please provide a short explanation for the rating you have provided above regarding your level of comfort with the online format.

71

Responses

18. Please provide any other suggestions to improve the design/modalities and functioning of the open-ended review forum below.

48

Responses

19. Regarding learning and exchange potential, how useful do you think this process could be to your country in sharing your experience and learning from others to enhance your implementation

efforts? Please rate on a scale of 1-5 (5=most useful, 1=least useful).

91

Responses

3.75

Average Number

20. Please provide a short explanation for the rating you have provided above on the learning and exchange potential of this process.

65

Responses