

**THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE IPCC
Geneva, 6-9 June 2012**

IPCC-XXXV/INF. 3, Rev.2
(19.VIII.2013)
Agenda Item: 11
ENGLISH ONLY

MATTERS RELATED TO UNFCCC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Report on UNFCCC COP 17/CMP 7 decisions referring to IPCC

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

MATTERS RELATED TO UNFCCC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Report on COP-17 decisions referring to IPCC

Relevant COP¹ and CMP² decisions and SBSTA³ conclusions decisions from the UNFCCC Conference held in Durban, South Africa (28 November – 9 December 2011) are extracted in this document, for the Panel's information. The text is based on the decisions and reports available in March 2012 on the UNFCCC website unfccc.int where the full final text of the decisions can be found.

Section A covers COP and CMP decisions that have used AR4 conclusions as reference points and refer to the use of future IPCC assessments in the UNFCCC process.

Section B summarizes direct and indirect references to the Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX).

Section C contains decisions that refer to the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) and request further work from the TFI.

Other related decisions and issues are covered in **Section D**.

Continued active dialogue with the UNFCCC and its Secretariat continues to be important to ensure IPCC information responds to the information needs of governments. Mr Halldór Thorgeirsson, Director for Implementation Strategy, will brief the Panel about matters arising from the Durban Conference and discuss matters of future cooperation.

¹ The COP or [Conference of the Parties](#) is the supreme decision making body of the Convention. All governments that are party to the Convention are represented at the COP where they review and promote the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts, including institutional and administrative arrangements.

² CMP or Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) - The COP serves as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). All governments that are party to the Kyoto Protocol are represented, while governments that are not party are observers. The CMP reviews the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and takes decision to promote its effective implementation.

³ SBSTA - Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

The SBSTA supports the work of the COP and the CMP through the provision of timely information and advice on scientific and technological matters as they relate to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol.

A. COP 17 and CMP7 Decisions referring to AR4 findings and future IPCC assessments

For long-term, as well as short-term action (Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention and Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol), AR4 conclusions are used as reference points, including the range of desired emissions reductions for Annex I Parties taken from AR4 WG III Chapter 13.

For the review of the Long-term Global Goal, all IPCC Reports (Assessment Reports and Special Reports) as well as Technical Papers are mentioned. Future reviews are to be scheduled after every IPCC AR (or at least 7 years).

Review of the long-term global goal

Decision 1/CP.17 (Reference: FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1; Date: 15 March 2012)

Establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

6. *Further decides* that the process shall raise the level of ambition and shall be informed, inter alia, by the **Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**, the outcomes of the 2013-2015 review and the work of the subsidiary bodies;

Decision 2/CP.17 (Reference: FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1; Date: 15 March 2012)

Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

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VII. Review: further definition of its scope and development of its modalities

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160. *Also agrees* that the review should be guided by the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and should take into account, inter alia, the following:

- (a) The best available scientific knowledge, including the **assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**;
- (b) Observed impacts of climate change;
- (c) An assessment of the overall aggregate effect of the steps taken by Parties in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention;
- (d) Consideration of strengthening the long-term global goal, referencing various matters presented by the science, including in relation to temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius;

161. *Further agrees* that the review should be based on information from various sources, including the following:

- (a) **The assessment and special reports and technical papers of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**;

- (b) Submissions from Parties, national communications, first biennial update reports from developing countries and biennial reports from developed countries, national inventories, reports of international consultation and analysis, international analysis and review, and other relevant reports from Parties and processes under the Convention;
- (c) Other relevant reports from United Nations agencies and other international organizations, including reports on emission projections, technology development, access, transfer and deployment, and reports on gross domestic product, including projections;
- (d) Scientific information on the observed impacts of climate change, including that from reports coordinated by relevant regional and subregional agencies;

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167. *Decides* that subsequent reviews should take place following the adoption of an assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or at least every seven years.

Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

1. Decision 2/CP.17 (Reference: FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1; Date: 15 March 2012)

Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

II. Enhanced action on mitigation

A. Nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions by developed country Parties

Matters relating to paragraphs 36-38 of the Cancun Agreements

Recognizing that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required according to science, as documented in the **Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**, with a view to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C above preindustrial levels, and that Parties should take urgent action to meet this long-term goal, consistent with science and on the basis of equity; also recognizes the need to consider, in the context of the first review of the long-term global goal, as referred to in paragraph 138 of decision 1/CP.16, strengthening the long-term global goal on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge, including in relation to a global average temperature rise of 1.5 °C,

Acknowledging that there is a gap between the aggregate level of reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases to be achieved through global mitigation efforts and the reduction needed as part of the global effort to achieve the range indicated in the **Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**,

Recognizing that the clarification of developed country Parties' quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets builds confidence and trust among Parties,

Urging developed country Parties to increase the ambition of their economy-wide emission reduction targets, with a view to reducing their aggregate anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol to a level consistent with the ranges documented in **the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and subsequent assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**,

B. Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties

Matters relating to paragraphs 48-51 of the Cancun Agreements

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Recognizing that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required according to science, and as documented in the **Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**, with a view to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C above preindustrial levels, and that Parties should take urgent action to meet this long-term goal, consistent with science and on the basis of equity; also recognizes the need to consider, in the context of the first review, as referred to in paragraph 138 of decision 1/CP.16, strengthening the long-term global goal on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge, including in relation to a global average temperature rise of 1.5°C,

Acknowledging that there is a gap between the aggregate level of reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases to be achieved through global mitigation efforts and the reduction needed as part of the global effort to achieve the range indicated in the **Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**,

Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol

Decision 1/CMP.7 (Reference: FCCC/KP/CMP/2011/10/Add.1; Date: 15 March 2012)

Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol at its sixteenth session

(Note: No direct reference to IPCC but use of IPCC AR4 WG III Chapter 13 numbers as follows):

Aiming to ensure that aggregate emissions of greenhouse gases by Parties included in Annex I are reduced by at least 25-40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, noting in this regard the relevance of the review referred to in Chapter V of decision 1/CP.16 to be concluded by 2015,

B. Decisions and conclusions referring to the SREX

The SREX is mentioned under the work programme on loss and damage and in the decision on research. It is also mentioned in the SBSTA conclusions on the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), but not in the relevant COP decision.

Decision 6/CP.17 (Reference: FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.2; Date: 15 March 2012)

Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

(Note: No mentioning of IPCC, reference to SREX in SBSTA conclusions copied below)

Decision 7/CP.17

Work programme on loss and damage

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Encouraging Parties to make use of the relevant information contained in the *Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* in considering approaches to address loss and damage, as appropriate,

SBSTA Conclusions (Reference: FCCC/SBSTA/2011/5 ; Date: 1 March 2012)

Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

2. The SBSTA also noted the presentation made by the IPCC on the *Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, and the seven regional outreach workshops to be held during the coming year, which may provide useful input into the future work under the Nairobi work programme

Research and systematic observation

7. The SBSTA requested the secretariat, taking into consideration information from relevant research programmes and organizations and the IPCC, to further enhance the availability and visibility of scientific information relevant to the Convention on the UNFCCC website, including through webcasts of the proceedings of any workshops under the research dialogue

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12. The SBSTA welcomed the *IPCC Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, noting the importance of the underlying research and systematic observations enabling the production of that report.

C. Decisions that refer to TFI work and request further work

The work of the TFI features very prominently in all relevant decisions. References are found to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, the Good Practice Guidance (GPG) publications of the TFI, and the upcoming wetlands guidance.

Furthermore, a new request has been made to the IPCC TFI to review, and if necessary, update elements of the GPG for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).

Decision 15/CP.17 (Reference: FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.2; Date: 15 March 2012)

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

Noting that the “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 decisions 3/CP.5, 18/CP.8 and 14/CP.11, need to be revised in order to implement the use of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories,

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1. *Decides* that, from 2015 until a further decision by the Conference of the Parties, the global warming potentials used by 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 included in annex III to this decision;

3. *Also invites* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at its thirty-eighth session, to start considering the information submitted by Annex I Parties on their experiences in using the UNFCCC Annex I inventory reporting guidelines and the upgraded or new CRF Reporter software, and any supplementary methodological guidance on wetlands developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with a view to adopting a final decision on these revised guidelines and common reporting format tables at the latest at the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

Annex

E. Methods

Methodology

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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 on annual GHG inventories, 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 the 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.

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 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).

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 time 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.....

Decision 12/CP.17 (REDD+ : Safeguards and reference levels)

(Reference: FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.2; Date: 15 March 2012)

Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected and modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels as referred to in decision 1/CP.16

Annex

Guidelines for submissions of information on reference levels

Each developing country Party aiming to undertake the actions listed in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, should include in its submission transparent, complete,¹ consistent with guidance agreed by the Conference of the Parties (COP), and accurate information for the purpose of allowing a technical assessment of the data, methodologies and procedures used in the construction of a forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level. The information provided should be guided by the **most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged by the COP**, as appropriate, and include:

- (a) Information that was used by Parties in constructing a forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level, including historical data, in a comprehensive and transparent way;
- (b) Transparent, complete, consistent and accurate information, including methodological information, used at the time of construction of forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, including, inter alia, as appropriate, a description of data sets, approaches, methods, models, if applicable and assumptions used, descriptions of relevant policies and plans, and description of changes from previously submitted information;
- (c) Pools and gases, and activities listed in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, which have been included in forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels and the reasons for omitting a pool and/or activity from the construction of forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, noting that significant pools and/or activities should not be excluded;
- (d) The definition of forest used in the construction of forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels and, if appropriate, in case there is a difference with the definition of forest used in the national greenhouse gas inventory or in reporting to other international organizations, an explanation of why and how the definition used in the construction of forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels was chosen.

Decision 2/CMP.7

Land use, land-use change and forestry

8. **Invites the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to review and, if necessary, update supplementary methodologies** for estimating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from land use, land-use change and forestry activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol, related to the annex to this decision, on the basis of, inter alia, chapter 4 of its *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*;

9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to consider, following the completion of **methodological work by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** outlined in paragraph 8 above, any supplementary methodologies related to the annex to this decision, with a view to forwarding a draft decision on this matter to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol for adoption at its tenth session;

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11. Accounting for wetland drainage and rewetting shall be based on estimation methodologies for wetlands, lands converted to wetlands and land use on drained organic soils in **the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines** most recently adopted or encouraged by the Conference of the Parties, and any subsequent clarifications agreed by the Conference of the Parties.

Decision 4/CMP.7 (Reference: FCCC/KP/CMP/2011/10/Add.1; Date: 15 March 2012)

Greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories, common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks, and other methodological issues

A. Greenhouse gases¹

1. *Decides* that, for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, actual emissions of the species of hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons **listed in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change²** and of sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride, should be estimated where data or methodologies are available to Parties and reported, and included in the coverage of the quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments for that period;

2. *Recognizes* that there are other new greenhouse gases with high **GWPs listed in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** that are not yet produced in significant quantities but which should be further monitored to identify whether it is necessary to address them as part of mitigation commitments;

² Footnote The list of gases and species of gases 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.

B. Common metrics

5. *Decides* that, for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the global warming potentials used by Parties to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases listed in Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol 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, taking into account the inherent and complicated uncertainties involved in global warming potential estimates;

6. *Notes* that alternative common metrics and the shortcomings in the use of GWPs **are still being assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in the context of its work on the Fifth Assessment Report**;

.....

10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to conduct an assessment, based on the work of, **inter alia, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, of the implications of the choice of metrics** used to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of the greenhouse gases listed in Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol for the third or subsequent commitment periods;

C. Application of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

(Note: References also to GPG LULUCF)

D. Other relevant decisions

The decision on the research dialogue on developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention has mentioned the importance of the IPCC and expresses appreciation for the IPCC's work and participation in the research dialogue.

No decisions or conclusions refer to the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN). Important decisions on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS) were taken and reference is made to the IPCC 2006 Guidelines but no reference is made to the Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (SRCCS) prepared by the IPCC upon request of the UNFCCC and published in 2005.

Draft decision 16/CP.17 (Reference: FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.2; Date: 15 March 2012)

Research dialogue on developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention

Further recognizing the continuing importance of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in conducting regular assessments of published scientific information on climate change, and in communicating these assessments to the Convention,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the regional and international research programmes and organizations active in climate change research, as well as to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, for their participation in the research dialogue and for their continued provision of information on developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention; ...

Decision 10/CMP.7 (Reference: FCCC/KP/CMP/2011/10/Add.2; Date: 15 March 2012)

Modalities and procedures for carbon dioxide capture and storage in geological formations as clean development mechanism project activities

11. In order to meet the objectives outlined in paragraph 10 above, the monitoring plan for the proposed CCS project activity shall, in addition to the requirements set out in paragraph 53 of the modalities and procedures for a CDM, contained in the annex to decision 3/CMP.1 (hereinafter referred to as the CDM modalities and procedures), during the operational phase, closure phase and post-closure phase:

(a) Reflect the principles and criteria of international good practice for the monitoring of geological storage sites and consider the range of technologies described in the **relevant sections of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and other good practice guidance;**