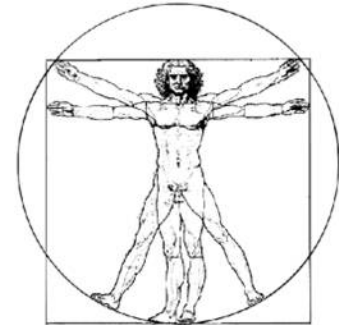


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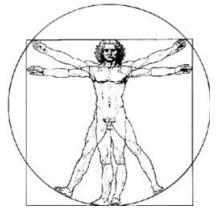
# The Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)

What's been agreed and what's left to be agreed

Linda Siegele, JD LLM  
LRI, Advisory Committee

for sustained capacity building in support of international climate change negotiations  
pour un renforcement durable des capacités en appui aux négociations internationales  
sur les changements climatiques

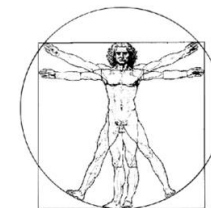
# ETF refresher: what is transparency?



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- **Paris Agreement**, Article 13
  - Build mutual trust and confidence and promote effective implementation of the Paris Agreement
  - Build on and enhance transparency arrangements under the Convention\*
  - Two components: action and support
  - “Shalls”
    - National GHG inventories
    - Information necessary to track progress of NDCs
    - Information on financial, technology and capacity-building support provided
    - BTRs to undergo technical expert review
    - Support to developing countries for implementing Article 13
  - “Shoulds”
    - Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation
    - Information on financial, technology and capacity-building support needed and received
- \*Transparency under **the Convention**, includes
  - National Communications – developed and developing countries
  - Annual GHG inventories – developed countries
  - Biennial reports (BRs) – developed countries
  - Biennial update reports (BURs) – developing countries
  - International assessment and review (IAR) – developed countries
  - International consultation and analysis (ICA) – developing countries

# ETF refresher: what is transparency?



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## Article 13 of the Paris Agreement: transparency of action and support

### Reporting

#### All Parties (*shall*)

- National greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory report [{Article 13.7\(a\)}](#)
- Progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contribution (NDC) [{Article 13.7\(b\)}](#)

#### All Parties (*should, as appropriate*)

- Climate change impacts and adaptation [{Article 13.8}](#)

#### Developed country Parties (*shall*) and other Parties that provided support (*should*)

Financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support provided to developing country Parties under Article 9, 10 and 11 [{Article 13.9}](#)

#### Developing country Parties (*should*)

Financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9, 10 and 11 [{Article 13.10}](#)

+

### Technical expert review

#### All Parties (*shall*)

- Undergo technical expert review of information submitted under Articles 13.7 [{Article 13.11}](#)

#### Developed country Parties (*shall*)

- Undergo technical expert review of information submitted under Articles 13.9 [{Article 13.11}](#)

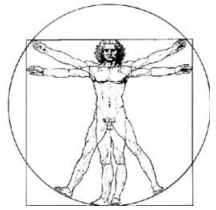
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### Multilateral facilitative consideration

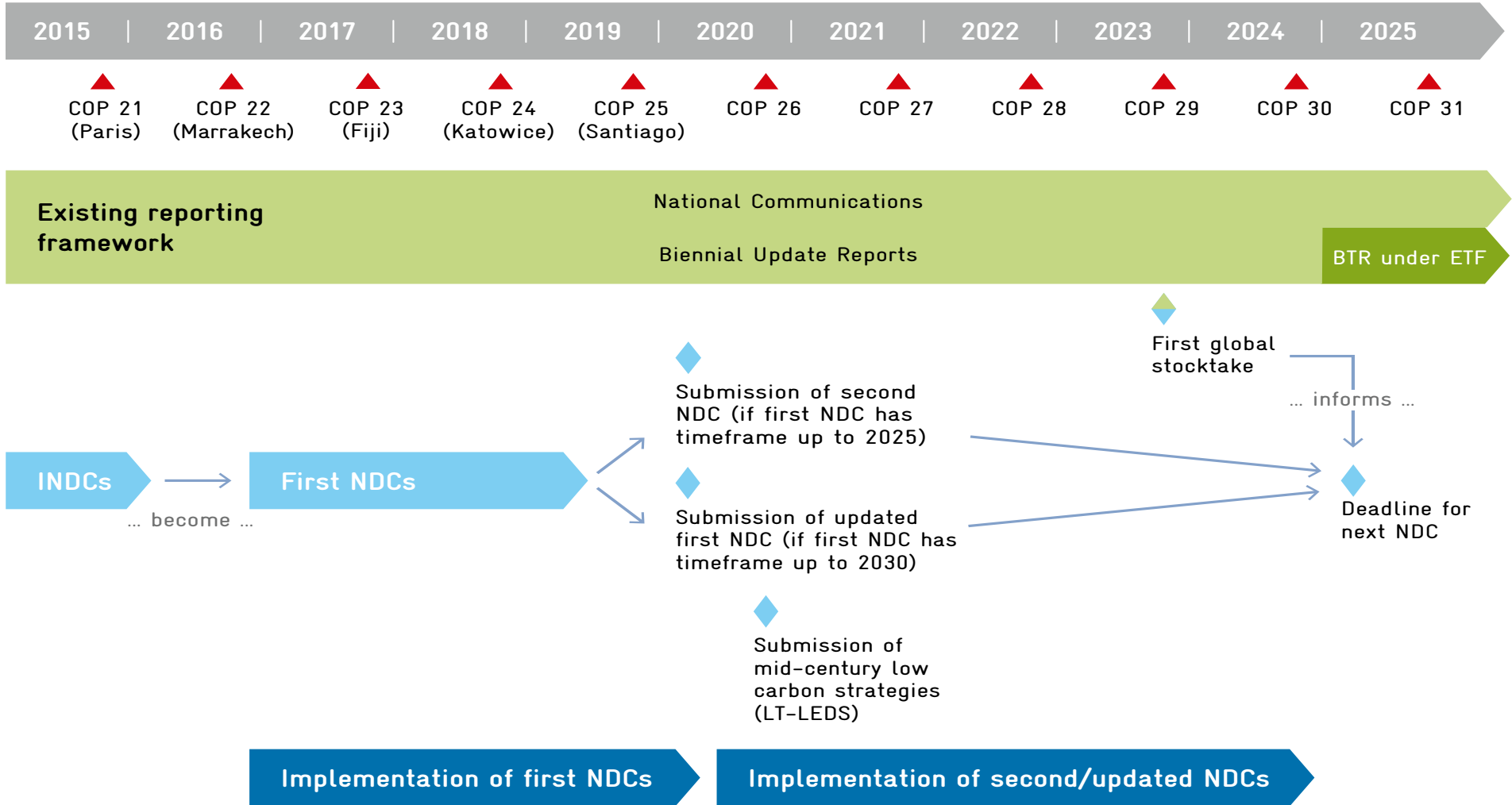
#### All Parties (*shall*)

- Multilateral facilitative consideration of progress with respect to efforts under Article 9, and its respective implementation and achievement of its NDCs [{Article 13.11}](#)

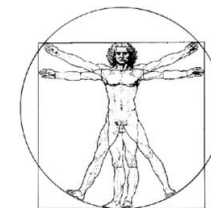
# ETF: Linkages to other reporting obligations



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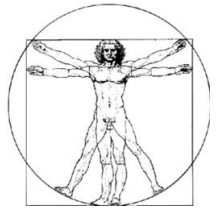
# Linkages to other parts of the Paris Agreement



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- **Article 4: NDC accounting**  
*Parties shall account for their nationally determined contributions in their biennial transparency reports, including through a structured summary...*
- **Article 6: especially, MPGs, para 77(d)**
- **Article 7**
  - **Adaptation communication**
  - Recognising **adaptation efforts** of developing country Parties
- **Article 8: Loss and damage**, in particular, **MPGs para 115**
- **Article 9: Finance**
  - **Articles 9.5** and **9.7** biennial reporting
  - Funding the **reporting process**
  - Supporting **capacity-building**
- **Articles 10 and 11: Tech transfer and capacity-building**
  - Using international processes on these two issues to facilitate reporting on needs and support received
- **Article 14: Global stocktake**
- **Article 15: Facilitating implementation and promoting compliance**
  - **Consideration may be commenced** if required information in **BTRs not submitted**
- **Institutional arrangements**
  - Work of the **CGE**
  - **CBIT**

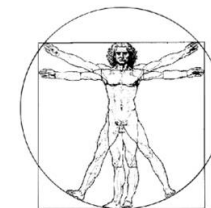
## ETF refresher: Katowice outcomes



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- **Decision 18/CMA.1**, including modalities, procedures and guidelines (**MPGs**)
- First **Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)** and National Inventory Report to be submitted no later than December **2024**
- **Flexibility** for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities is reflected in the **MPGs for the transparency of action and support**
- **Support** to be provided to **developing country Parties** for the **implementation of Article 13** and for the building of transparency-related capacity
- **LDCs and SIDS** to report at their discretion
- **CGE to serve the PA from 1 Jan 2019** to provide advice and technical support to developing countries for development and submission of BTRs and to advise the secretariat on a training programme for Reviewers
- First **review of the MPGs** to take place no later than **2028**
- **Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)** will continue to support developing country Parties, upon request, to build their institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post- 2020

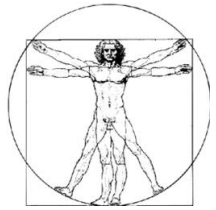
## ETF refresher: Guiding principles, MPGs, paragraph 3



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- Building on and **enhancing the transparency** arrangements **under the Convention** in a **facilitative, non-intrusive, non-punitive** manner, respecting **national sovereignty** and avoiding placing **undue burden** on Parties;
- Facilitating **improved** reporting and **transparency over time**;
- Providing **flexibility** to those developing country Parties that need it;
- Promoting **transparency, accuracy, completeness, consistency** and **comparability (TACCC)**;
- **Avoiding duplication** of work;
- **Maintaining** at least the **frequency** and **quality** of reporting **under the Convention**;
- Avoiding **double counting**;
- Ensuring **environmental integrity**

## Decision 18/CMA.I mandate



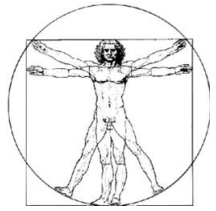
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SBSTA has been requested to develop by **CMA 3** (2020):

- **Common reporting tables (CRTs)** for the electronic reporting of
  - National Inventory information
- **Common tabular formats (CTFs)** for the electronic reporting of information on
  - Tracking progress on implementation of NDCs;
  - Financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support, provided and mobilized as well as needed and received (as set out in paragraphs 133, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, and 144 of the MPGs)
- Pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs), **outlines** of the
  - Biennial transparency report (**BTR**);
  - National inventory document (**NID**); and
  - Technical expert review report (**TERR**)
- A **training programme** for technical experts participating in the **technical expert review (TER)**



# Where transparency is addressed



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*Transparency issues are addressed across a number of agenda items*

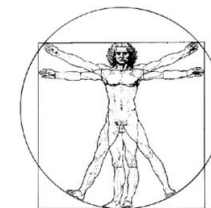
## ***Under the Convention:***

- SBI
  - Reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
    - Primarily looking at the provision of GHG inventory information and review
  - Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention
    - Considering the current guidance and review processes
- SBSTA
  - Methodological issues under the Convention – primarily on coordinating existing technical review processes with the ETF's TER

## ***Under the Paris Agreement:***

- SBSTA
  - Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement

# Where are we after SBSTA 50?



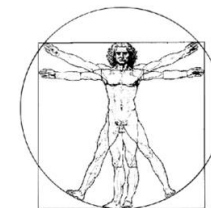
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## SBSTA 50 conclusions

- Dedicated discussion on **flexibility** planned for SBSTA 51
- New round of **submissions** (30 September 2019)
- **Technical paper** on existing training programmes for TERs
- Consideration of the ETF TER process under **existing training programmes**
- Discussions on **revision of ToRs for CGE** to continue at SB 51
- Consideration of **financial and technical support** for developing countries at SB 51

## Co-facilitators' notes from SBSTA 50 on:

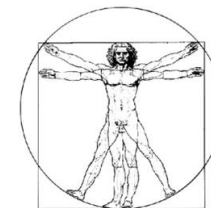
- Overview of informal consultations
- Common reporting tables (CRTs) for GHG inventories
- Common tabular formats (CTFs) for tracking progress of NDCs
- Training for technical experts



## 10(a) CRT on GHG inventories

- Outlines discussions under the following four questions:
  - Is there a specific **set of tables** that could serve **as a starting point** for the work?
  - What is the **structure and content of the tables** (e.g. what information is reported)?
  - How should the **flexibility provisions** contained in the MPGs be considered in the reporting of information in the CRT?
  - Should discussions be limited to **only the structure and content of the CRT**, or should considerations related to **possible future software tools** be taken into account?
- The **need for capacity-building** to support developing countries' reporting was an underlying theme of the discussions.
- Annex I contains **information on flexibility** for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities.
- Annex II contains links to the current **Common Reporting Format (CRF) tables** for developed countries and **tables 1 and 2** in the annex to decision 17/CP.8 (national communication reporting tables for developing countries).

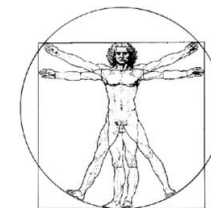
# Review of co-facilitators' notes from SBSTA 50: Item 10(b)



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## 10(b) CTFs for reporting progress made in implementing NDCs

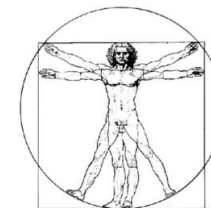
- The co-facilitators' reflections on the discussions are as follows:
  - CTFs need to accommodate **different types of NDCs** and reflect the **country-driven nature** of NDCs.
  - Most Parties were of the view that in developing the CTFs the **tables currently used by developed country Parties** in reporting under the Convention provide a good **starting point**, noting that Parties were of the view that adjustments are needed for these tables to align with the requirements of the MPGs, and taking into consideration the provisions of **flexibility** for those developing country Parties that need it.
  - Most Parties considered the **development of the CTFs** to be **informed by** the outcome of the **discussion on CRTs**.
  - Regarding the information necessary to track progress made in implementing NDCs, Parties were of the view that **further discussions are needed on how the information should be presented** – either in **tabular, graphical or narrative formats**, or a **combination** of these.
  - Proposed **draft CTFs** in Annex I.
  - Proposed draft CTFs for **GHG projections and key underlying assumptions** and parameters used for projections in Annex II.



### **10(c) CTFs for reporting information on FTC provided and mobilised and needed and received**

- The co-facilitators' recognised that Parties were of the view that in developing the BTR CTF for financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building (FTC) support, the **existing BR CTF** which are currently used by developed country Parties provide a good **starting point**.
- However, **additional tables** for financial support mobilized, as well as FTC support needed and received are **to be developed**.
- The **draft elements and tables** for consideration for the BTR CTFs for reporting information on FTC are provided **in the Annex** to the note.

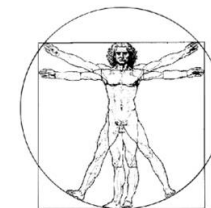
# Review of co-facilitators' notes from SBSTA 50: Item 10(d)



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## 10(d) Outlines of the BTRs, NIDs and TERRs

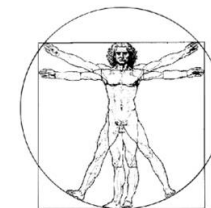
- The co-facilitators' reflections are as follows:
  - The **outlines being developed shall follow the MPGs** without adding additional reporting and review requirements.
  - **Elements** on reporting and review **related to national communications** submitted in conjunction with BTRs have been **included**, as appropriate.
  - The outlines should take into account **established practice and experience** in relation to the **existing MRV system** under the UNFCCC.
  - Recognising the importance of the **flexibility provisions** in the MPGs, there are various options for how they could be taken into account.
  - The discussions under agenda sub-items 10(a–c) inform the discussion on reporting outlines, therefore, the final outlines should be **aligned with the final outcomes under the other relevant agenda items**.
  - **Draft elements** of the outlines of the relevant reports are provided **in an annex**.
  - The outlines of the **BTR** and the **TERR** use **two levels** of headings, while the outline of the **NID** is presented at a **more disaggregated level** to reflect the technical nature of the matter, existing practice and reporting experience.



## 10(e) Training programme for technical experts participating in the TER

- The training programme **should be based on existing training programmes**, while it is foreseen that new training courses should become available in accordance with the MPGs, addressing, where applicable, the outcomes from the consultations under agenda items 10(a – d).
- **New training courses** were suggested, e.g. dealing with **flexibility, tracking progress of the NDCs** and experts new to the review process. The training courses on **inventory review** should continue to be **based on sectors**.
- The timeline for development and implementation of the training programme was discussed, which led to the call for the **secretariat to develop a technical paper on experience with existing training programmes** (time to develop courses, number of experts, pass rates, etc.)
- As far as **development and implementation** of the training programme is concerned, **three potential situations** were discussed: the CGE takes the lead, with support from the secretariat and the lead reviewers; the secretariat takes the lead, with support from the CGE and the lead reviewers; the secretariat has sole responsibility.

# Preparing for consideration at SBSTA 5 I

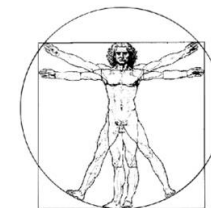


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- Topics covered by the **submission** of views
  - Experience with **using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines** for National GHG Inventories, the common reporting format, the **transition to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines** for National GHG Inventories and countries' experience with that transition, and the development of **country-specific tools** for facilitating GHG inventory reporting;
  - CTF tables for **tracking progress** in implementing and achieving **NDCs**;
  - Tables for reporting on support needed and received, and support mobilized;
  - Approaches for **operationalising the flexibility** for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities.
- Drilling down on **flexibility** – noting the mandate for a dedicated discussion on this issue
- **Sequencing** – what needs to be decided first?
  - Within the ETF mandate
  - Outside the ETF mandate
- **Linkages** to other Paris Agreement elements and negotiating streams
  - NDCs
  - Article 6
  - GST
- **Financial** and other **support**



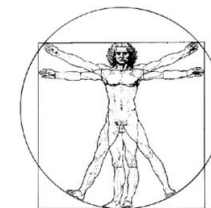
## Additional considerations



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- Using **CRFs and related tools as a starting point** to develop CRTs
  - Different understanding of starting points
    - Developed countries have been using CRF tables for many years
    - Developing countries have been using Tables 1 and 2 and are not familiar with CRF tables or the reporting tools
  - Summary tables vs sectoral tables
- How should **flexibility** be operationalised?
  - Scope, frequency, level of detail (decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 89)
  - Possible options
    - Existing notation keys or a new notation key;
    - Documentation boxes;
    - A table to report on flexibilities used by a Party;
    - Hiding blank columns or rows of tables
    - Narrative description in the NID
- What is the relationship between **reporting tables** and **reporting tools**?
  - Chicken and egg question?
- **Capacity-building** for developing countries
  - Applying 2006 guidelines
  - Getting familiar with CRF tables and tools
  - Institutional arrangements and other improvements domestically
  - Data availability and data development

## Provisions in the MPGs on flexibility include:



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- **Chapter II: National inventory reports (CRTs)**

Key category analysis; uncertainty assessment; assessment of completeness; quality assurance / quality control; sectors and gases; time series

- **Chapter III: Tracking progress on the implementation of NDCs (CTFs)**

Estimates of expected and achieved GHG emissions; projections of GHG emissions and removals; extent of projections; methodologies used to make projections of GHG emissions and removals

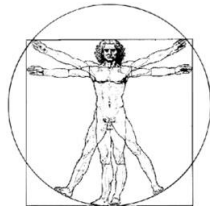
- **Chapter VII: Technical expert review (TER)**

The TER must take into account the flexibility accorded to a Party; the TER team shall not review a Party's determination to apply flexibility nor whether the Party has the capacity to implement without flexibility; flexibility for centralised vs in-country reviews; flexibility regarding the timeframe for providing additional information to the TER team; the TER team to communicate capacity-building needs identified during the review; flexibility regarding the timeframe for providing comments after a review

- **Chapter VIII: Facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress**

Flexibility regarding the timing of responding during the written question phase of the FMCP

## Possible SBSTA 51 outcomes



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- Deeper understanding on **operationalising flexibility**
- Agreement on **summary tables**
- Discussion around **sectoral tables**
  - Sectoral summary tables
  - What other tables are needed?
- More discussion around **reporting tools**
- Deciding **next steps**
  - Another round of submissions?
  - Synthesis report?
  - Workshop next year?