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# **Brief overview of the current status of NC/BURs in developing countries**

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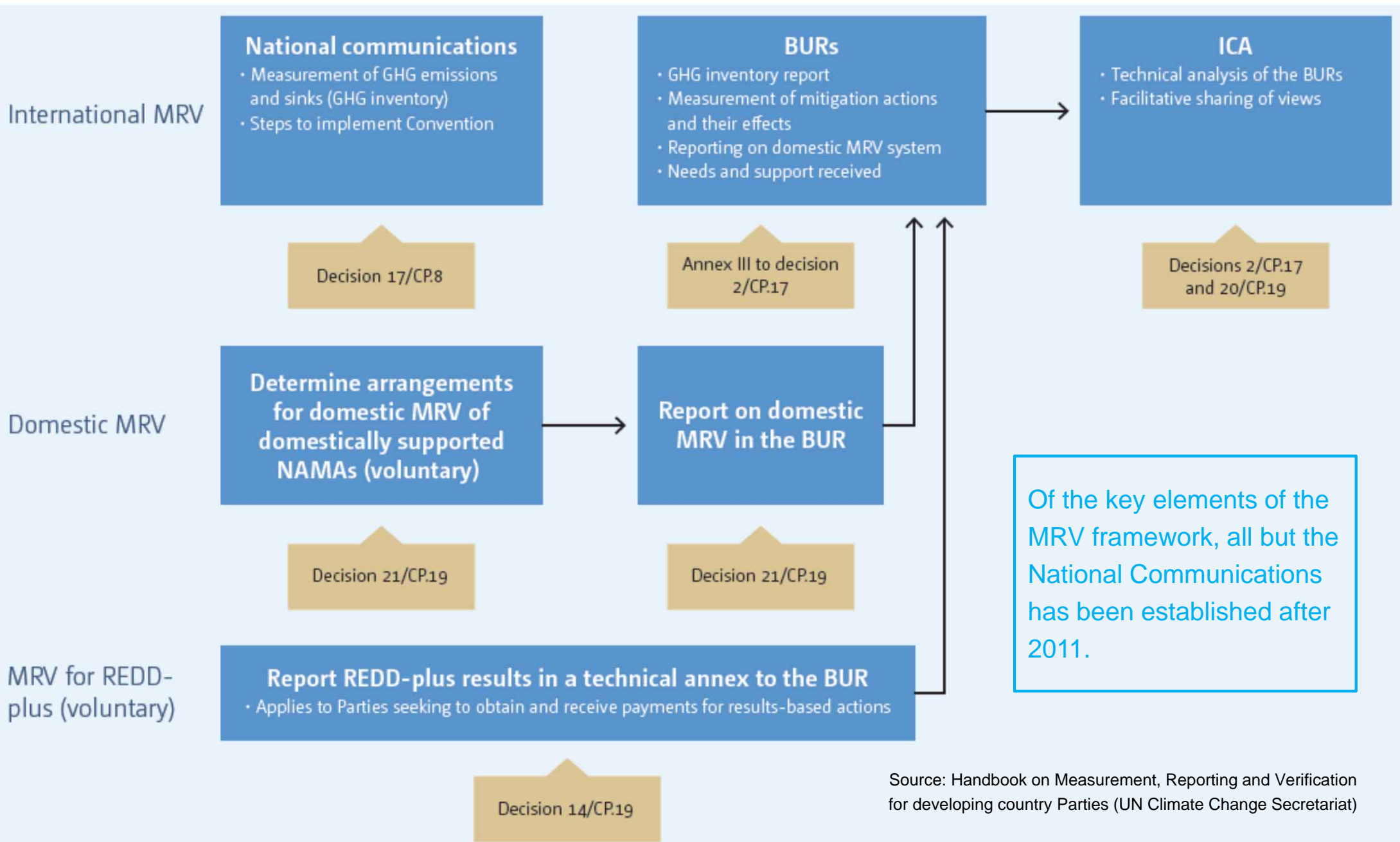
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## Introduction

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- At COP 13 (the Bali Action Plan), Parties agreed to apply the MRV principles to developing countries.
  - ◆ **Measurement (M)** applies to the efforts to address climate change and to the impacts of these efforts. It refers to GHG emissions, mitigation actions and their effects, and the support needed and received.
  - ◆ **Reporting (R)** is implemented through the national communications and BURs, where Parties report on their actions to address climate change.
  - ◆ **Verification (V)** is addressed at the international level, through the international consultation and analysis (ICA) of BURs.
- This laid the foundation for the elaboration of the MRV framework for developing countries.

# Key elements of the MRV framework



# The National Communications (NC)

## Description

- Mandate: UNFCCC Article 4, paragraph 1 and Article 12, paragraph 1
- Reporting Guidelines: decision 17/CP.8
- Frequency of reporting: every 4 years (since 2010)
- Key elements:
  - ◆ National circumstances
  - ◆ GHG inventories
  - ◆ Vulnerability and adaptation assessment
  - ◆ Mitigation assessment
  - ◆ Financial resources and transfer of technology
  - ◆ Education, training and public awareness
  - ◆ Other relevant information

## Number of submitted NCs

- Initial NC: 147 Parties
- Second NC: 108 Parties
- 3<sup>rd</sup> NC: 13 Parties
- 4<sup>th</sup> NC: 1 Party
- 5<sup>th</sup> NC: 1 Party

## NC for developed countries

- Annex I Parties follow a different reporting guidelines for NCs.
- Reporting elements are the same but the requirements differ.
- Annex I Parties NCs undergo an in depth review.
- GHG inventories are reviewed every year.
- All Annex I Parties have submitted their 6<sup>th</sup> NC.

# The Biennial Update Report (BUR)

## Description

- Mandate: decision 1/CP.16
- Reporting guidelines: decision 2/CP.17
- Frequency of reporting: every 2 years
- Deadline for first BUR: December 2014
- Key elements:
  - ◆ National circumstances & institutional arrangements
  - ◆ An update on their national GHG inventories
  - ◆ Information on mitigation actions
  - ◆ Domestic MRV
  - ◆ An outline of needs and support received
  - ◆ Other relevant information

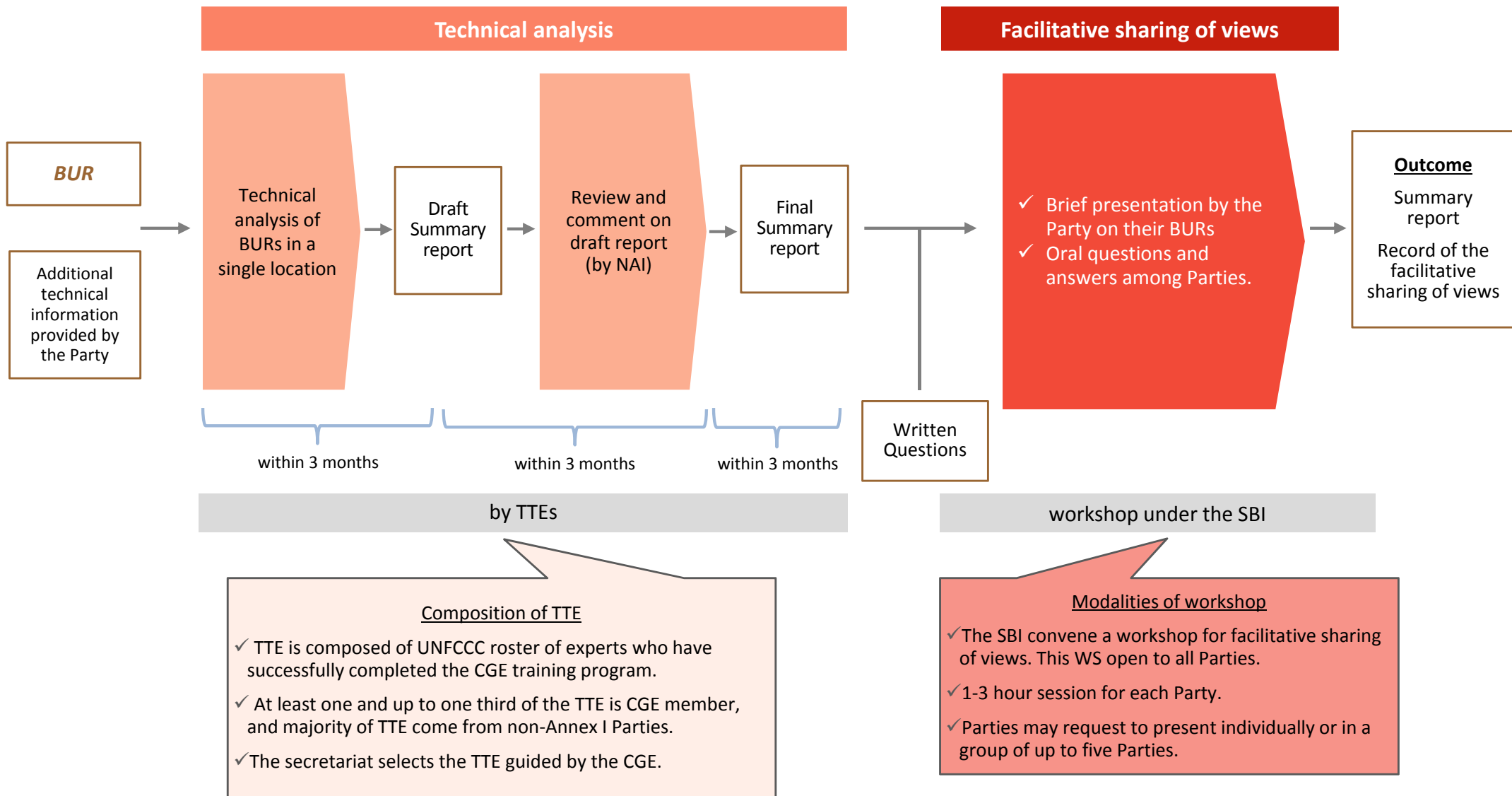
## Number of submitted BURs

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| • Andorra                | • Singapore                                     |
| • Azerbaijan             | • South Africa                                  |
| • Bosnia and Herzegovina | • The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia     |
| • Brazil                 | • Tunisia                                       |
| • Chile                  | • Viet Nam                                      |
| • Namibia                |   |
| • Peru                   | <u>(13 countries total as of June 26, 2015)</u> |
| • Republic of Korea      |   |

## BRs for developed countries

- Annex I Parties follow a different reporting guidelines for BRs.
- Reporting elements are the same but the requirements differ.
- Annex I Parties BRs undergo a technical review and multilateral assessment
- Most Annex I Parties have submitted their 1<sup>st</sup> BR in January 2014.

# The International Consultation and Analysis (ICA)



# Milestones in the development of the MRV framework

1992/ 1994	•The Convention establishes reporting obligations for all Parties
1996	•Guidelines for preparation of NCs from developing country Parties: scope, structure and content (decision 10/CP.2)
1997	•The first reporting under the Convention by developing country Parties through the initial round of NCs
1999	•The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) is established to assist countries with reporting
2002	•COP 8 adopted the revised guidelines for the preparation of NCs.
2007	•COP 13 agreed to applying MRV to developing country Parties ( <a href="#">Bali Action Plan</a> )
2010	•COP 16 defined the frequency of NCs every four years, BURs every two years; international consultation and analysis (ICA) of BURs; and domestic MRV of domestically supported mitigation actions
2011	•COP 17 adopted the guidelines for the preparation of BURs and the guidelines and modalities for ICA
2013	•COP 19 adopted decisions on the elements of the MRV framework: composition, modalities and procedures for the team of technical experts under ICA; general guidelines for domestic MRV; REDD-plus
2014	•Deadline for the First BURs.
2015	•First BURs undergo technical assessment

Implementation of MRV		
M	R	V
↓	↓	↓

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## Observations of the MRV framework

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- The MRV framework for developing countries is still in its early stages. The rules for MRV were established recently and implementation is a challenge for most developing countries.
- Generally, countries are struggling with shifting from a project based to institution based approach.
- However, some countries seem to sufficient capacity to comply with the reporting requirements. Some have a good foundation to report regularly. Some are even willing to undergo reviews to help identify areas for further improvement.
- A soft verification process (ICA) has just begun this year. However, the focus of the process is not on improving the content of the information reported, but on identifying capacity building needs.



# Challenges in reporting

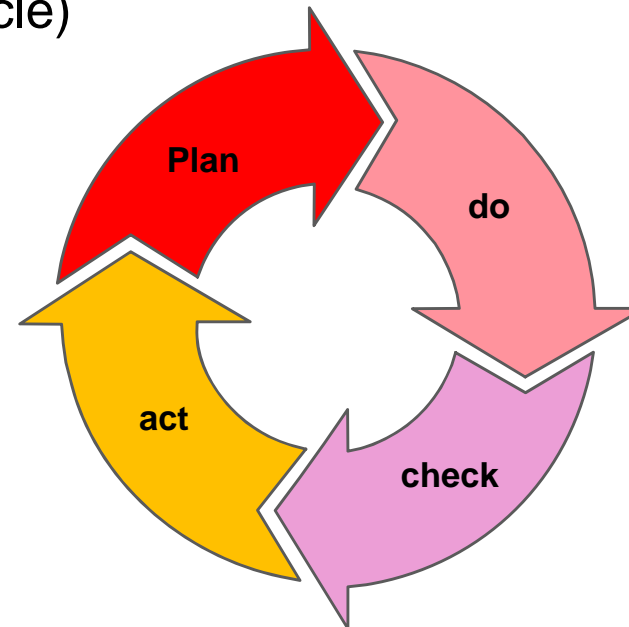
Theme	Description
<b>Insufficient capacity and resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lack of or limited human capacity and/or knowhow, limited financial and other resources</li> <li>■ Examples: lack of awareness; limited technical and financial resources for the National Climate Change Unit; lack of availability of qualified human resources to carry out vulnerability assessment using different available models; lack of expertise on MRV and other subjects including financial mechanisms; available methodologies and tools not suitable for SIDs; too expensive to run V&amp;A models”</li> </ul>
<b>Lack of proper collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Problems and constraints resulting from an inability to properly collaborate with stakeholders during the process of and preparation of national communications and/or BURs</li> <li>■ Examples: lack of close collaboration between ministries, agencies and provinces; lack of collaboration by the private sector in regards to data collection</li> </ul>
<b>Lack of effective institutional arrangement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Problems and constraints associated with weak or lack of effective institutional arrangements, agreements/MoUs; inability to retain institutional memory and a lack of or insufficient support from lead ministries</li> <li>■ Examples: weak institutional arrangements and difficulties in establishing agreements between key institutions; lack of leadership from key institutions including the ministries of planning and finance that should be leading national communications and BUR preparations; high turnover of climate change staff</li> </ul>
<b>Lack of adequate data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Problems and constraints associated with highly aggregated, incomplete or simply inaccessible data.</li> <li>■ Examples: gaps in baseline data; not all relevant data that is available is easily accessible; poor quality data or lack of data in some sectors; reluctance of the private sector to provide data for various reasons</li> </ul>
<b>Insufficient support from responsible international bodies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Problems and constraints associated with the support available to them from the UNFCCC or the IPCC</li> <li>■ Examples: limited availability of guiding material from UNFCCC; difficulties in the implementation of the sectoral approach due to the fact that most data are not available in the way IPCC guidelines require; simpler guidelines are needed; new software (NAIIS) is incompatible with 2006 guidelines</li> </ul>

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## Other challenges

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- Many developing countries have difficulty interpreting and using the NC guidelines and BUR guidelines.
  - The NC guidelines were adopted in 2002. The language and guidance need to be updated to reflect the current circumstances.
  - The BUR guidelines are extremely vague and open to interpretation. More useful guidance needs to be provided so that the technical people can draft the reports and fill out the reporting tables.
- Not considered an iterative process (PDCA cycle)
- No concept of continuous improvement
- Consistency of information



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## What's next?

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- Points to consider for the next step of the MRV/transparency framework
  - What is the point of MRV? How stringent does it need to be? Does cost effectiveness, efficiency come into play?
  - The BUR/ICA process has just begun. Only 13 countries have submitted BURs 6 months after the first deadline. Why?
  - What is good enough? Is the developed country MRV framework the goal for developing countries?
  - National circumstances are different.
  - Capacities/capabilities of countries are different.
  - Different countries have different expectations from the MRV framework.