The Aarhus Convention Reporting Mechanism

2021 Reporting Cycle - Practical Considerations

Aarhus Convention secretariat

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2021 Reporting Cycle

Objective of the presentation

- To inform Parties and other stakeholders on practical considerations related to preparation and submission on National implementation reports (NIRs) for 2021 reporting cycle

- Key to remember:

    – **Recommended submission deadline**: 1 February 2021

    – The **formal deadline** for submitting the report: 21 April 2021 *(7th session of the Meeting of the Parties is planned to start on 18 October 2021)*

Presentation outline

- **What**
  - Content

- **Who**
  - Parties
  - Signatories and other stakeholders
  - Role of the secretariat

- **When**
  - NIRs preparation process and timeline

- **How**
  - Reporting format
  - NIRs submission process

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What

Parties are requested to submit report on:

➢ The legislative, regulatory or other **measures** taken to implement the provisions of the Convention

➢ Their practical **implementation**

What

Key tips on the content

➢ Provide adequate and clear answers to the questions

➢ Clearly identify new information (new laws, official interpretation, guidance to the public)

➢ Address all questions but focus on areas of difficulty

➢ Avoid just listing instruments, but more information on official interpretation

➢ More information on the practice (practical measures, administrative circulars and institutional arrangements, capacity building, budgetary allocations)

➢ Be user friendly for the reader

➢ Avoid cross-referencing

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What

Key tips on the content

➢Follow the format in ENG FRE RUS, see annex to Decision IV/4, available from: http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports.html

➢Consult the Compliance Committee guidance document (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2007/L.4), available from: http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports.html

What

Parties & stakeholders

• Only Parties are required to submit the report

• Signatories, other States and stakeholders are welcomed to submit it

Parties to the Convention	• required • no special status for recent Parties
Signatories and other States	• may report on measures taken, pending ratification and/or accession
International, regional, non-governmental organizations	• may report on their lessons learnt, programmes or activities providing support to Parties/ States in the implementation

Who

Role of the secretariat

- Role of secretariat is two-fold:
  - to collect reports
  - to prepare a synthesis report

Collects the NIRs, ensures publication online, as received, for availability to MOP

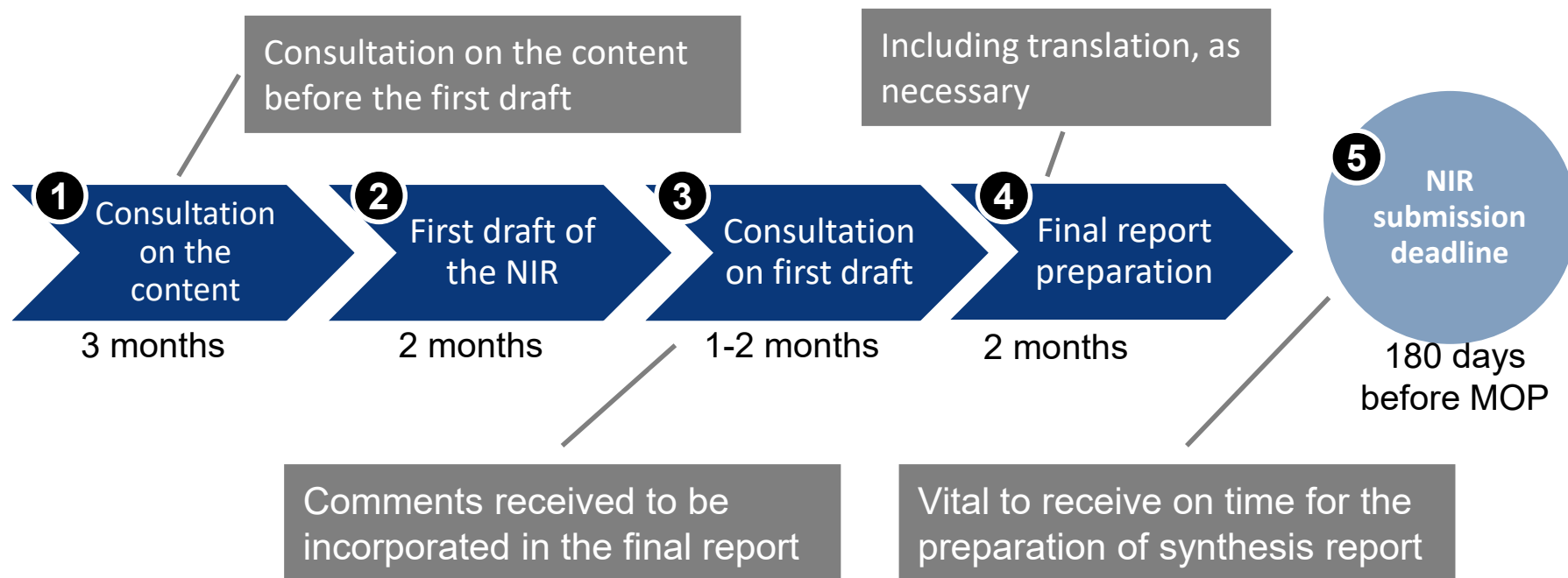Prepares a **synthesis report** for MOP

- summarizing the progress made

- identifying significant trends, challenges and solutions

When

NIRs preparation process

- We recommend to prepare NIRs in five steps and envisage enough time for each step
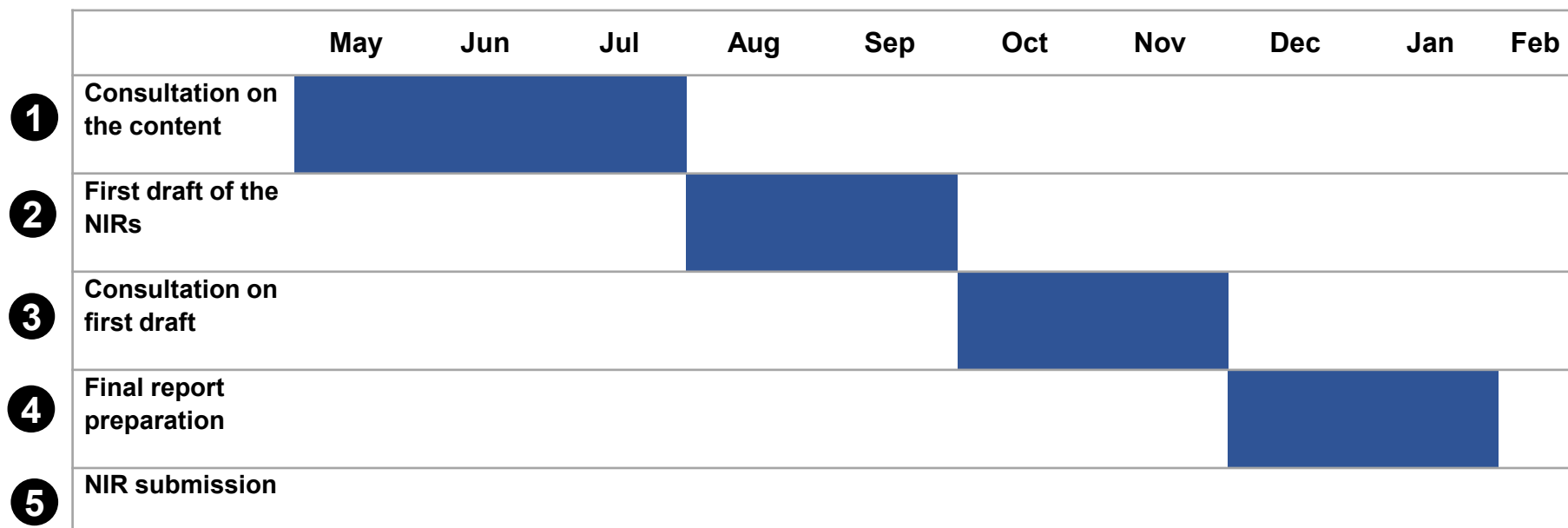
Consultation on the content before the first draft

Including translation, as necessary

1 Consultation on the content

2 First draft of the NIR

3 Consultation on first draft

4 Final report preparation

5 NIR submission deadline

3 months

2 months

1-2 months

2 months

180 days before MOP

Comments received to be incorporated in the final report

Vital to receive on time for the preparation of synthesis report

Recommended submission deadline: 1 February 2021

When

NIRs preparation timeline

- By August most Parties should have their first draft of the NIR prepared

		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
1	**Consultation on the content**	████	████	████							
2	**First draft of the NIRs**				████	████					
3	**Consultation on first draft**						████	████			
4	**Final report preparation**								████	████	
5	**NIR submission**										

▲
**1-3 July
WGP-24**

▲
**1 Feb 2021
Recommended
deadline**

How

The reporting format

- In accordance with the format set out in the annex to decision IV/4
- In form of a questionnaire
  - Each article dealt with through a separate set of questions
- Limit of 13.000 words
  - including the section headings drawn from the reporting format
  - enables to allocate a proportionate level of detail to each item

How

The reporting format

- There are some differences on how recent Parties should go about preparing a report compared to older Parties:

- **First time?**

  – Follow the 2011 revised format (decision IV/4)

- **Second, third or fourth time?**

  – Use the submitted previous report and work with track changes to enable recording of changes + upload online the clean version

How

Key Steps prior to Submission

- Prepare the **final clean report in one or more official UNECE languages** (English, French or Russian), as well as **in the language(s) of the Party**

- **Provide voluntary translations** in the other two UNECE languages

- **Ensure signing of the final clean version of the report** in one of the official UNECE languages, as appropriate, by the responsible officer

- **Prepare the report in track changes** (compare to their 2017 reports) in one of the official UNECE languages, as appropriate

- **Subscribe to the NIR online reporting tool** using "sign in" button as to get the necessary credentials from the secretariat: https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/national-reports/user/register

How

Submission process

Submit reports **electronically** through the **NIR online reporting tool:**
https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/national-reports/reports

- **Log in to the NIR online reporting tool** using your credentials as to access template for uploading national implementation report: https://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/user/login

- **Copy the final report in the official language(s) of the UNECE** (ENG, FRE, RUS) to the online template.

- Upload as attachments electronic copies of:

  – **the signed final clean report** in the official UNECE languages(s) (ENG, FRE, RUS)

  – **report in track changes** (compare to their 2017 reports) in the official UNECE language(s)

  – **final clean report in the language(s) of the Party**

Detailed guidelines for the NIR online tool will be made available in due course

Additional information & Contact

For reporting matters, please consult:

https://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports.html

or contact the secretariat at:

aarhus.survey@un.org