The Aarhus Convention Reporting Mechanism

2014 reporting cycle - Practical considerations

Geneva
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Aim is to present the What/Who/When/How of the 2014 reporting cycle

Objective of the presentation

- To inform the Parties and other stakeholders on practical considerations related to preparation and submission on National implementation reports (NIRs) for 2014 reporting cycle

- To give the answers to *What/Who/When/How?* regarding 2014 reporting cycle

- Key to remember:
  - Submission deadline 30 December 2013
  - **Recommended submission deadline: 1 December 2013**

Presentation outline

- What
- Who
  - Parties and other stakeholders
  - Role of the secretariat
- When
  - NIRs preparation process and timeline
- How
  - Reporting format
  - NIRs submission process

Report needs to account for measures taken and their practical implementation

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**

Only Parties are required to submit the report, other stakeholders are welcomed to submit it

Who – Parties & other stakeholders

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

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

Who - Role of the secretariat

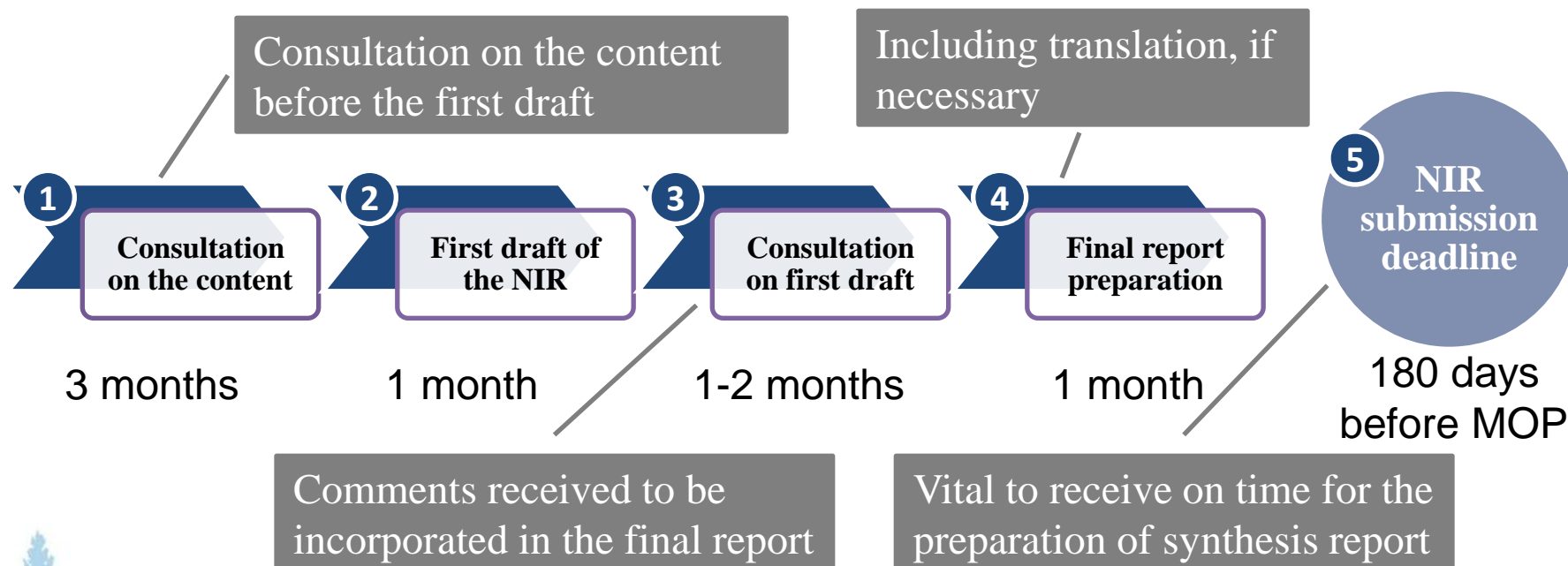Collects the NIRs, ensures publication online and submission to the MOP

Prepares a **synthesis report** for the MOP

– summarizing the progress made

– identifying significant trends, challenges and solutions

We recommend to prepare NIRs in five steps and envisage enough time for each step
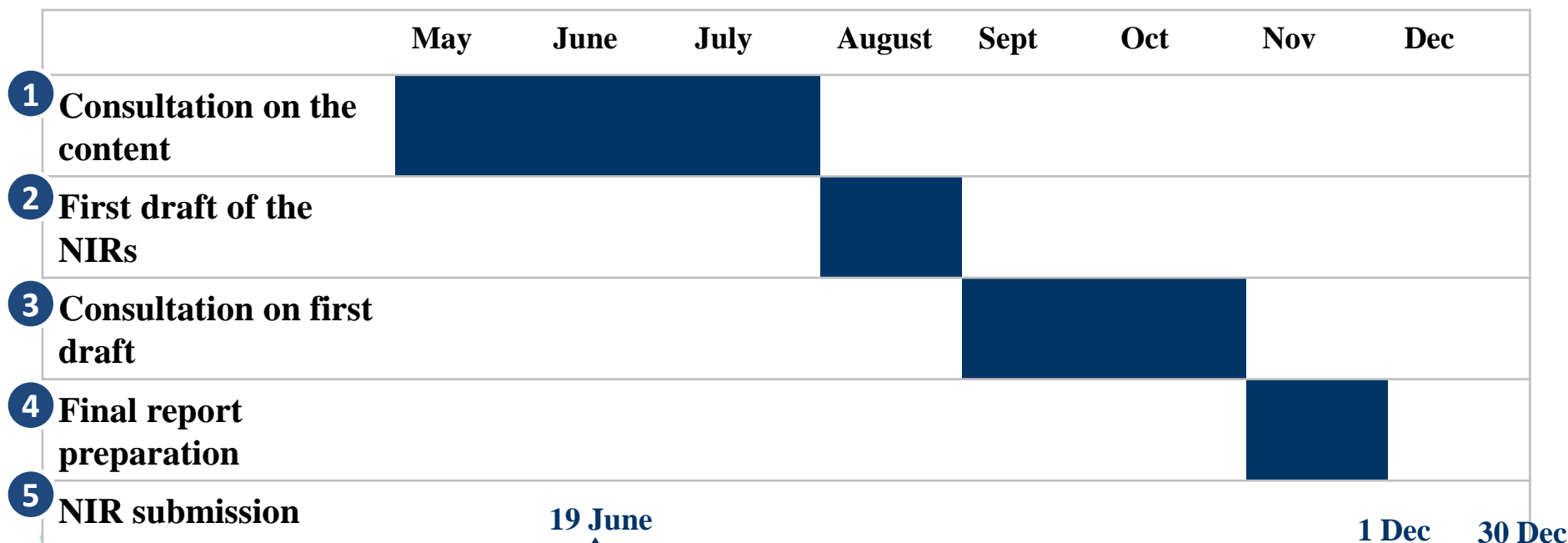
When – NIRs preparation process

Consultation on the content before the first draft

Including translation, if 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   1 month   1-2 months   1 month   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 December 2013

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

When – NIRs preparation timeline

	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 Consultation on the content	██	██	██					
2 First draft of the NIRs				██				
3 Consultation on first draft					██	██		
4 Final report preparation							██	
5 NIR submission								

19 June
16WGP

1 Dec
Recommended deadline

30 Dec
180 days before MOP

The 2014 reporting format has one additional question compared to 2011 reporting cycle

How – the reporting format (1/3)

- In accordance with the format set out in the annex to decision IV/4
- NOTE - new sections required for

New in 2014	• Compliance with last MOP recommendations on issues arising from compliance matters considered by the Compliance Committee
Recommended in 2011	• PPIF and GMO amendment

Word limit of 13.000 words enables to allocate a sufficient level of detail to each question

How – the reporting format (2/3)

- 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

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

How – the reporting format (3/3)

- **First time?**
  - Follow the 2011 revised format (decision IV/4)

- **Second or third time?**
  - Use the submitted previous report and work with track changes to enable recording of changes + upload online the clean version

Reports need to be submitted electronically as well as in hard copy

How – submission process

On-line database | Official UNECE language

- Upload to http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/index.asp
- Let us know if you require username & password

By e-mail | Official UNECE language ✛ Language of the Party

- **Track-changes** electronic version of the report in one of the official UNECE languages
- **Clean version** in language of the Party
- aarhus.survey@unece.org

By mail | Official UNECE language

- signed final clean copy of the report

Contact & additional information

aarhus.survey@unece.org

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