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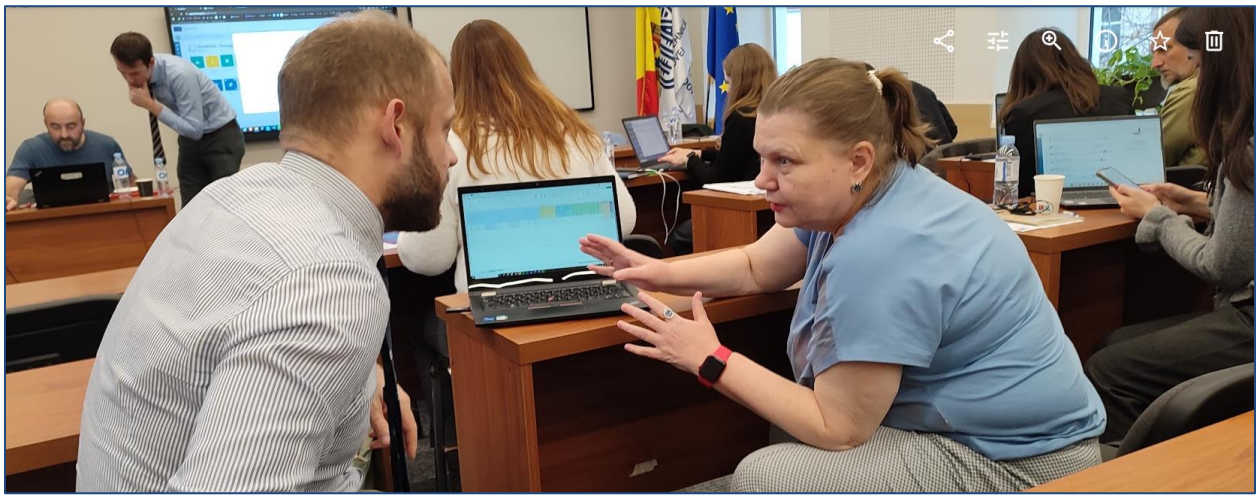

Eurasia Regional Network

Second Survey Report on the Rapid Assessment of Transparency Capacities in Eurasia

CBIT – GSP

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Contents

1. Introduction

The Rapid Assessment of Transparency Capacities in Eurasia provides a comprehensive evaluation of national transparency systems, focusing on their ability to meet reporting obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Conducted in November and December 2024, the assessment evaluates the status and capacities of the eight countries in the Eurasia Regional Transparency Network: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Türkiye**. This assessment is part of the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP), which aims to enhance climate transparency capacities and ensure compliance with the enhanced transparency framework (ETF).

This survey, the second following the initial one in 2023, consolidates and analyzes responses to highlight progress, challenges, and emerging needs as countries prepare their first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR). The **findings will guide capacity-building plans and shape targeted interventions for the 2025–2026** work cycle, ensuring that specific countries' needs are met. Additionally, the survey provides valuable insights into the effectiveness of current transparency systems and identifies areas for further support and improvement.

The network countries are at varying stages of their transparency efforts, with some having already submitted their first BTRs (Türkiye, Georgia, and Serbia) and others still preparing for submission next year. The updated questionnaire reflects the progress made and aims to update the status of each country's transparency system and capacities, addressing new emerging needs to be supported via annual work plans for 2025–2026.

This assessment helps identify the unique challenges and requirements of each country, ensuring that the support provided is relevant and effective. By addressing these specific needs, the network can enhance its overall transparency and reporting capabilities, ultimately contributing to the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement.

1.1 Survey Participation Overview and Methodology

The survey was shared with 8 Eurasian countries, with 11 responses received from 5 countries. These participants represented a variety of sectors involved in climate reporting, including GHG inventory experts, NDC/mitigation experts, CBIT-GSP country focal points, Gender and Adaptation Experts including representatives from the following national organizations and institutions which have taken part in survey and elaboration of the transparency state and needs:

- Environmental Information and Educational Center, Georgia
- Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and North Region Development, Montenegro
- Republic Hydrometeorological Institute of Republika Srpska, BiH
- National Environment Agency, Albania

- Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia
- Serbian Environmental Protection Agency
- Universities Banja Luka and Sarajevo (mitigation and adaptation experts)

The survey encompassed seven thematic sections, addressing all transparency areas pertinent to Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) reporting and progress on the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). These sections included the **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Tracking and Mitigation, Adaptation, Climate Finance, and Gender**. This comprehensive approach ensured a thorough evaluation of each country's capacities across these thematic areas.

The survey responses highlighted a diverse range of experiences, with particular emphasis on the challenges encountered in institutional coordination, technical capacity, and data availability. Overall, the survey comprised of a total of 46 questions, categorized into three types:

1. **Open-ended:** Questions that allow respondents to provide detailed, qualitative insights.
2. **Closed-ended:** Questions with predefined answer choices for quantitative analysis. The predefined answers included in the survey are:
    - *Advanced:* The system is fully operational.
    - *Good:* The system is established but requires minor improvements.
    - *Fair:* The system is established but requires major improvements.
    - *Poor:* The system is in the process of being established.
    - *Absent:* The system is not established.
3. **Yes/No**: These questions provide a simple binary choice (Yes/No).

The second capacity needs assessment supports a differentiated approach to sourcing information and feedback from countries, enabling the design of activities tailored both for regional events and for each country's specific transparency needs for 2025–2026. Additionally, further support activities, as well as the Eurasia Network's work plan for 2025 , are also informed by the following information sources:

1. Discussions and consultations that were held during various events organized within the network that provided additional insights and contextual understanding of the capacities and support needs.
2. Findings of Post-Training Surveys: These surveys were conducted after each event/training/workshop to assess effectiveness of the trainings and support needs, and
3. Annual Post Training Survey: conducted at the end of the 2024 to assess overall effectiveness of trainings throughout the year and identify support needs and potential improvements of support provision.

2. Key Findings by Thematic Section

2.1 Information on status of the country's first BTR

At the time of compiling this report, three of the Eurasian countries has submitted their first BTR while three submitted their NIDs. However, 72% of respondents confirmed that their countries are aiming to submit their first BTR by December 31, 2024, aligning with the UNFCCC deadline. Approximately 9% of countries expect to submit their BTR within the next 6 months, while two countries mentioned that they plan to submit the report by the COP 30 in 2025 as shown in Figure 2.

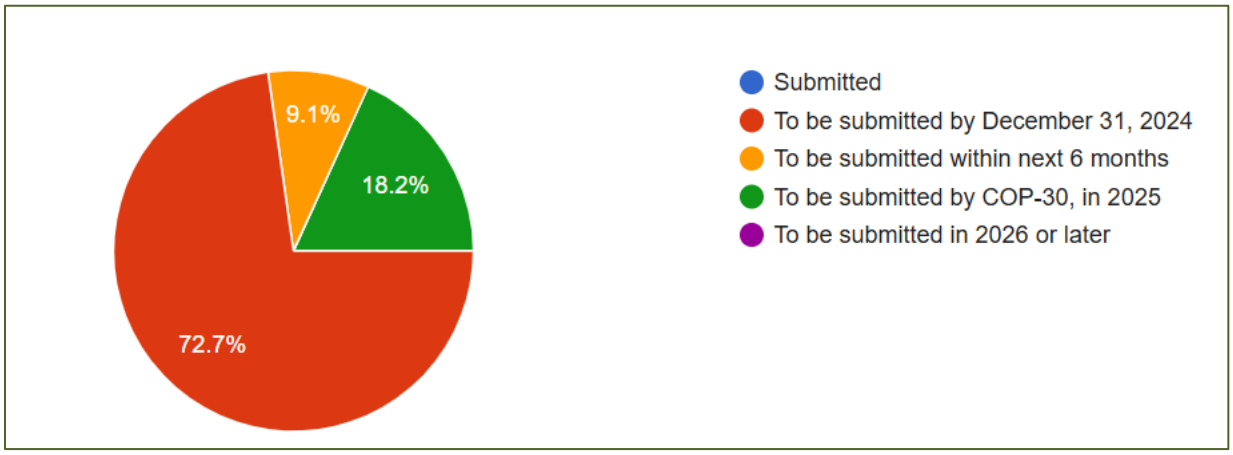

Figure 1: Countries view towards submission of the First BTR

The main challenges for timely submission that most of countries noted was the **institutional and organisational issues**, however, in addition to this, countries also noted that the **lack of domestic expertise**, **delays in securing the GEF funding** and technical matters such as translation, as being key challenges as well. Importantly, some countries stressed that **frequent changes in government structures** lead to institutional instability, which affects country's capacity to maintain consistent climate change reporting processes. The overview of the general answers is presented below:

- 63% of respondents identified institutional and organizational challenges (e.g., recruitment delays, inadequate institutional frameworks) as major barriers.
- 54% noted a lack of domestic technical expertise in key reporting areas like NDC tracking and mitigation actions.
- 27% pointed out difficulties in accessing necessary data, which compromises the timely completion of reports.
- 27% highlighted delays in securing GEF resources, which further complicates the ability to meet reporting deadlines.

In regards of **support needed to understand linkages between NDC 3.0 and BTR** the respondents assessed their situation as follows:

In Eurasia, **73% of respondents indicated their countries' intention to submit NDC 3.0 in 2025**, as shown in Figure 2. Additionally, **more than 50% of countries expressed the need for support** in understanding the complex linkages between NDC 3.0 and BTR reporting, specifically in the following areas:

- Capacity building for scenario analysis of emissions per sector, which is necessary for defining the NDC target.
- Strengthening the capacities of institutions to analyze data across different sectors and illustrate the scale of the challenge and the urgency of action needed.
- Building the capacities of countries to strategically plan both adaptation and mitigation aspects of their NDCs through assessments of current losses and damages, as well as projections based on various scenarios.

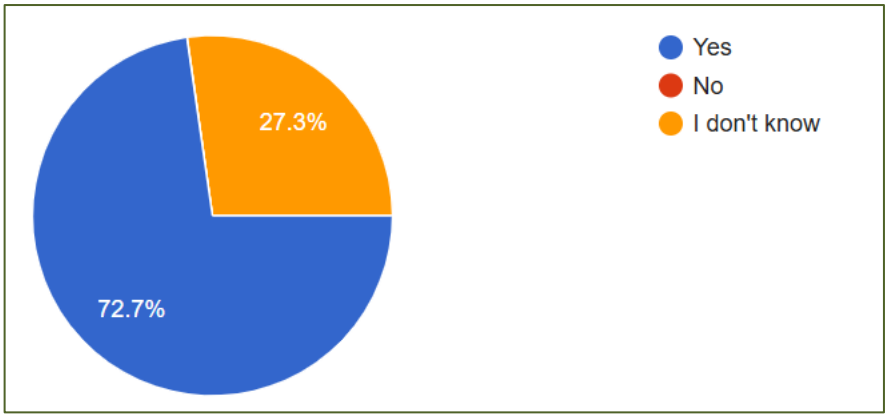

Figure 2: Intention of Eurasia to Submit NDC 3.0 in 2025

2.2 Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and Overall Assessment of Capacities on Transparency

Within the survey countries also assessed the capacities of their institutional arrangements in relation to the compilation of GHG inventories, tracking NDCs, mitigation actions and projections, technical capacities to report, and understanding of the MPGs.

Institutional Arrangements: Country representatives assessed the institutional arrangements (IA) for the ETF reporting areas as follows:

- **GHG Inventory:** Just **one respondent** assessed its institutional arrangements for the GHG inventory as **advanced. Five (5)** respondents noted that it is **good,** meaning that Institutional arrangements are established but require minor improvements, while **four (4) respondents**

rated their institutional arrangements as **fair or poor**, indicating the presence of established frameworks but in need of major improvements or in process of establishment.

- **NDC Tracking:** The responses were mixed. A total of **4 respondents** rated it as **advanced or good,** meaning the systems are fully operational or need minor improvements, while **4 respondents** rated it as **fair,** meaning that existing systems require improvements. A further 3 respondents described it as **poor or** even **absent,** meaning that significant support is required to help develop and or significantly improve systems.
- **Mitigation Actions and Projections**: The majority (**6** respondents) rated institutional arrangements as **fair and poor**, with **4 respondents** rating them as **good** and 1 responded that is as advanced.
- **Impact and adaptation**: Seven (7) respondents rated their institutional arrangements as Fair and Poor, one (1) as good and just two (2) as advanced and fully operational.
- **Loss and Damage:** Most respondents (9) assessed their institutional arrangements as fair **poor to absent**, indicating that major improvements and considerable support is necessary in these areas.
- **Support Needed/Received**: A majority of respondents (7) rated the support structures as fair and poor, indicating that while some support mechanisms are in place, there is need for major improvement.

Overview of the answers is presented at figure 3:

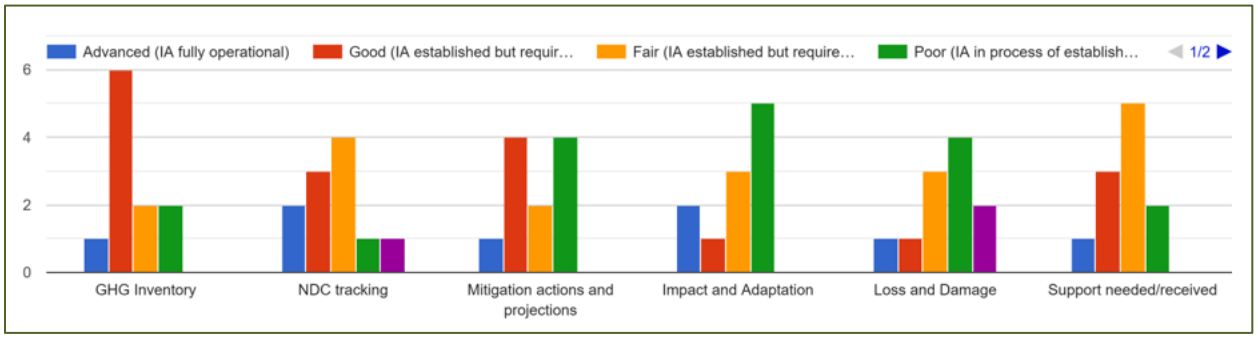

Figure 3: Institutional arrangements for the proposed ETF reporting areas

Overall, it is noted that that 10 respondents (out of 11 in total) expressed their need for **support on improving the institutional arrangements** for the mentioned reporting areas.

ETF reporting areas: The technical domestic capacity to develop, report, and submit on each of the proposed ETF reporting areas was assessed as follows:

- **GHG Inventory:** The technical capacity was mostly rated as good (6 respondents) while f**our (4) respondents rated it as fair or poor.**
- **NDC Tracking: Five (5) respondents** rated their domestic capacities as **good or advanced**, while five respondents rated them as fair or poor. One respondent noted the absence of domestic capacity to track NDCs.
- **Mitigation Actions:** Six respondents rated the technical capacity as fair or poor (6), in two cases is informed as absent while just in one case (1) is rated as advanced.

- **Impact and Adaptation:** The responses varied widely among the participants: one (1) response indicated an advanced level, three (3) responses indicated a good level, five (5) responses indicated a fair or poor level, and one response indicated an absent level.
- **Loss and Damage:** Respondents largely assessed their technical capacity as fair (four respondents) or poor and absent (five respondents), indicating a need for more technical capacity in this area.
- **Support Needed/Received:** The responses were dispersed among Advanced (1), good (3), fair (4) while three respondents rated it as poor or absent.

It can be concluded that the technical domestic capacity to develop, report, and submit on each of the proposed ETF reporting areas is **strongest around GHG inventory, with some capacity in NDC tracking**. However, the overall state is far from optimal, and **all countries** indicated a need for technical support to improve domestic capacities in these key reporting areas. The overview of all responses is presented in Figure 4 below.

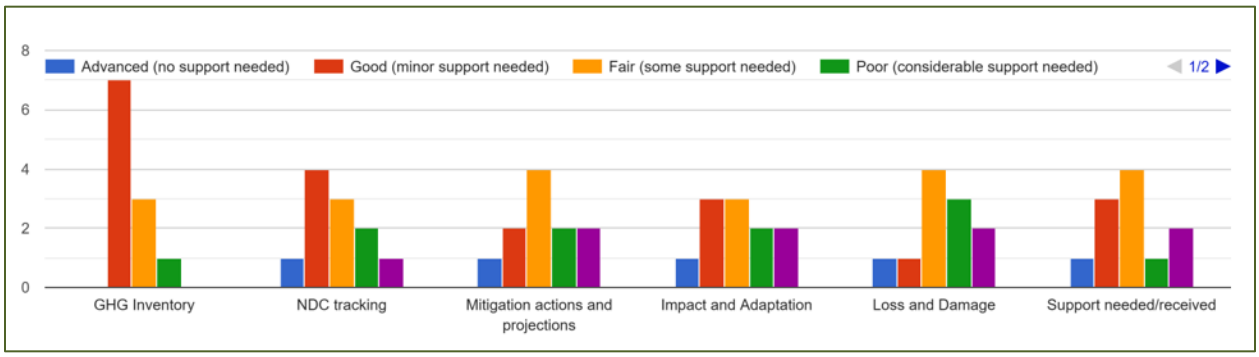

Figure 4: Assessment of technical domestic capacity to develop report and submit each proposed ETF reporting area in your country

Additionally, regarding the Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPGs), which were established under the Paris Agreement to ensure transparency and accountability in climate reporting, respondents noted the following:

Approximately 73% of respondents were familiar with the MPG provisions (Decision 18/CMA.1) and reporting templates (Decision 5/CMA.3). However, 27% reported being less familiar with these provisions, highlighting the need for increased awareness and capacity-building efforts as shown in Figure 6**.** Most of the **countries stated they will use flexibilities** in preparation of their 1BTRS and **still need support on improving the knowledge and awareness on MPG provisions, incl. reporting templates.**

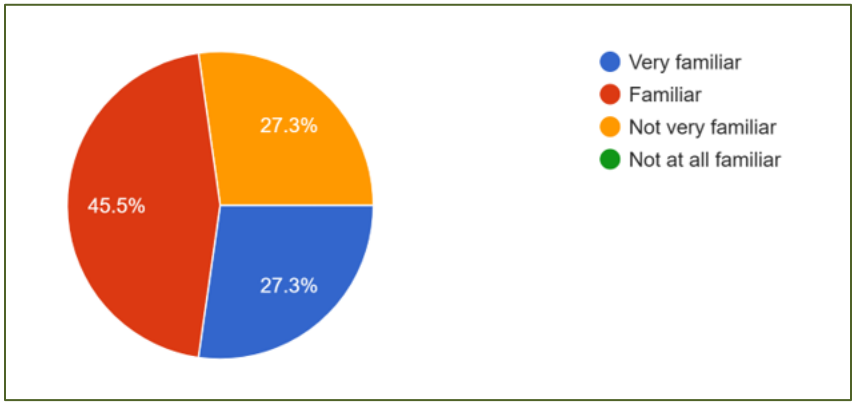

Figure5: Familiar with MPGS provisions (Decision 18. CMA1) and reporting templates (Decision 5. CMA3)

When it comes to the specific technical capacities related to the National Inventory Report (NIR), 64% of respondents reported that they were in the process of compiling or submitting their NIR for BTR1, while 9% had not yet started compiling their NIR, and 27% were still in the data collection phase Figure 6.

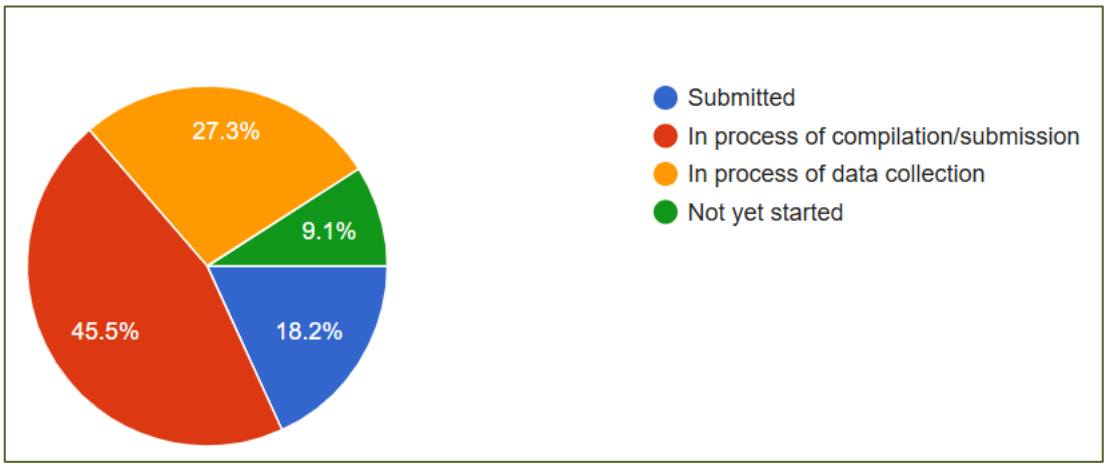

Figure 6: Status of the NIR under the BTR1

Results from the survey show that the **most challenging issues relating to NIR** development include:

- Data collection and access (64%) and compliance with MPGs (54%).
- Compilation of the narrative and ensuring consistency (45%) were identified as additional challenges, as well as
- Filling in CRT tables (36%) and use of flexibility modality (36%).
- Use ETF Reporting Tool for reporting to UNFCCC (27%).

Detailed overview of the answers can be found in the figure 7:

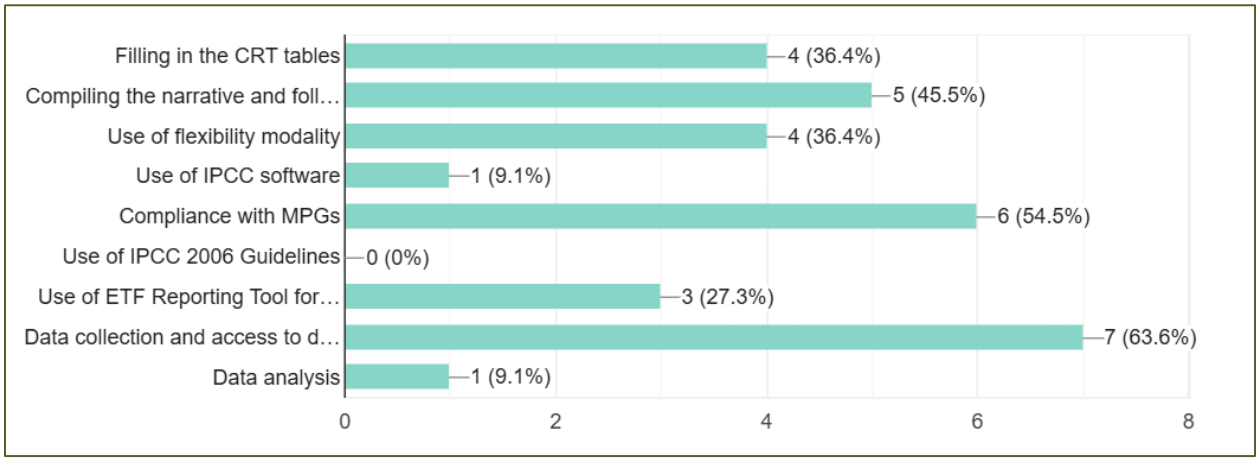

Figure 7: Challenges in developing the NIR under BTR1

Over 80% of respondents indicated the **need for technical support to overcome** challenges in preparing future **National Inventory Reports (NIRs).** The following key areas of support are required regarding the MPG obligatory provisions for NIRs:

- Support in using the recommended method (tier level) and inventory recalculation in accordance with IPCC guidance (54% of respondents).
- Guidance on the development, implementation, and elaboration of QA/QC plans and procedures, as well as performing uncertainty analysis (45% of respondents).
- Training on the **use of ETF Reporting Tools** and compilation of **Common Reporting Tables (CRTs)** (36%).
- Capacity building to estimate and report disaggregated data of F-gases (36%).
- Provision of clear guidelines for the estimation and reporting of harvested wood products (HPW) using the production approach and for reporting consistent time series (27%)

2.3 Technical capacities related to NDC Tracking and Mitigation

Of the Eurasian countries who responded to the survey, 64% have submitted their NDC tracking chapters of the BTR (Türkiye, Georgia, and Serbia) or are in the process of compiling them by the time

this report was completed. Meanwhile, 27% are in the process of data collection. The remaining countries are still in the data collection phase, as shown in Figure 8.

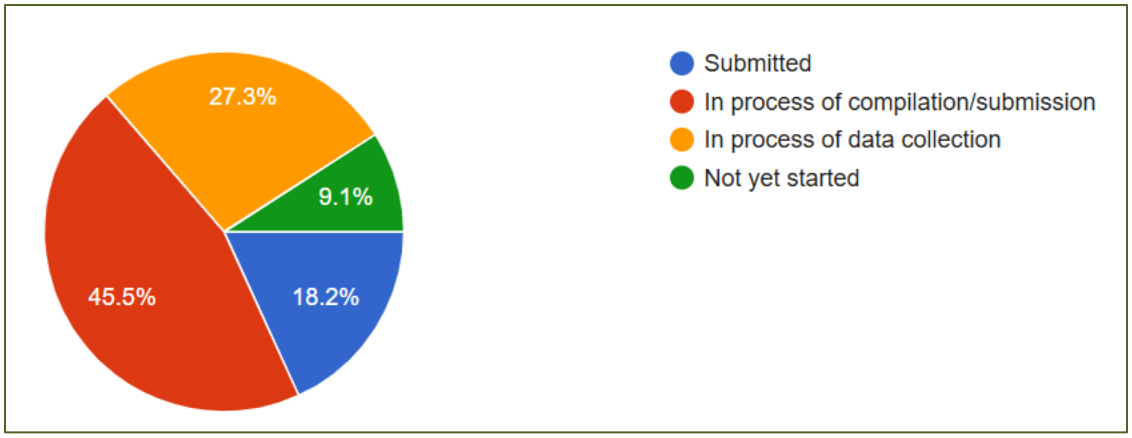

Figure 8: Status of NDC tracking in Countries under BTR 1

Challenges countries experiencing regarding NDC tracking and reporting:

The primary challenges countries face are related to the ensuring **compliance with MPG provisions** (54%) and using **flexibility modalities** (36%), **filling in CTF tables** for reports submission to the UNFCCC, and use of GHG emission projections and reporting via ETF reporting Tool (18%).

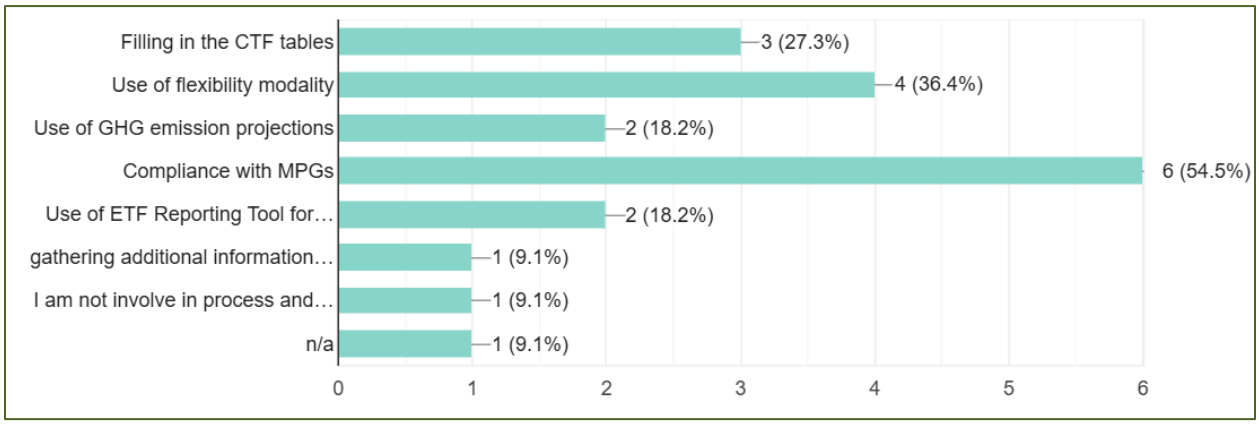

Figure 9: Most Challenges for developing NDC tracking under BTR 1

Countries identified the following **MPG mandatory provisions** as the most challenging:

- 54% respondents reported difficulties in providing information necessary to track progress toward achieving NDCs under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement.
- 54% identified challenges in reporting mitigation policies, measures, actions, and plans, including those with co-benefits for adaptation and economic diversification plans for implementation of their NDCs.
- 45% experienced difficulties in projecting GHG emissions and removals as required.
- 27% reported challenges in summarizing emissions and removals.

All respondents indicated the need for support to address the challenges identified in improving NDC tracking and mitigation. Specific support is required to enhance capacities in identifying the information necessary to track NDC progress. Additionally, respondents noted the benefit of comparing various projection tools and organizing a dedicated workshop to discuss the advantages and limitations of each, to better select the most suitable tool.

Support is also needed to understand how to align economic diversification strategies with climate objectives and how to assess and integrate the economic and non-economic benefits of adaptation actions into economic diversification plans.

2.4 Specific technical capacities related to adaptation

Regarding adaptation reporting, **nearly 55% of the countries have either submitted or are in the process of compiling/submitting** their adaptation component of the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). Meanwhile, 27% are in the data collection phase, and 18% have neither submitted nor started preparing their BTR adaptation chapter, as shown in Figure 10 below.

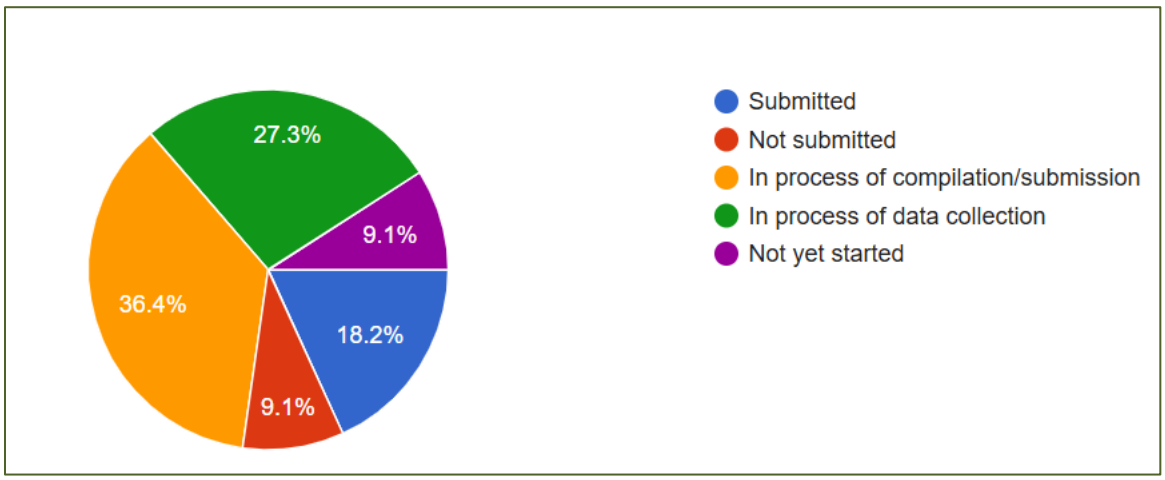

Figure 10: Status of adaption section under the BTR 1

The respondents identified the following **challenges regarding Adaptation Reporting:**

- 54% of respondents reported difficulties in reporting on loss and damage.
- 36% of respondents noted challenges with tools and methodologies for collecting data and information on adaptation, as well as difficulties with gaps in adaptation data and information.
- 27% of respondents identified the replication of best practices and the use of specific case studies on adaptation as challenging.
- 27% of respondents also experienced difficulties in the identification of mechanisms for tracking and reporting on adaptation.

Overview of responses is presented on the figure below:

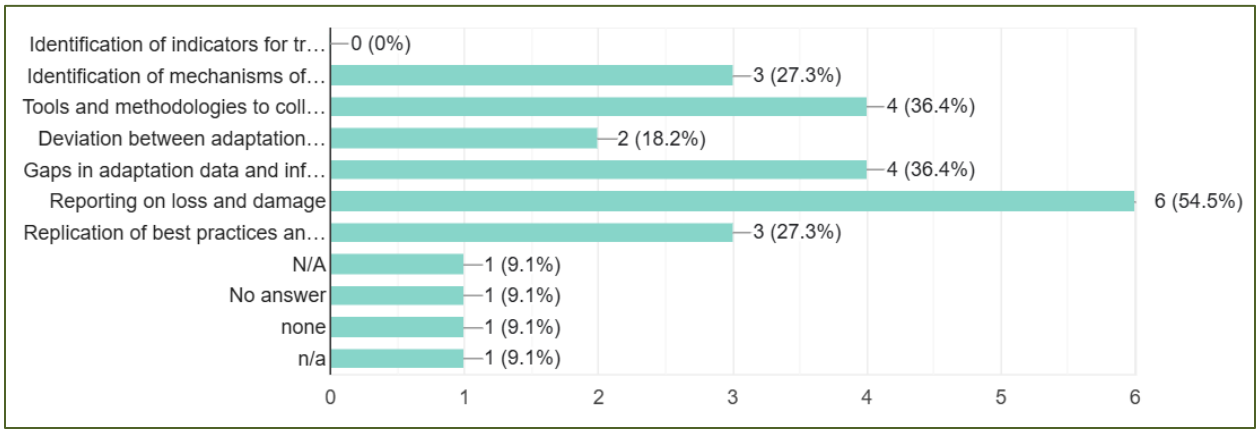

Figure 11: Challenges in adaptation reporting

When it comes to the **Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPG)** respondents stressed difficulties with several provisions for adaptation reporting:

- **72%** of countries faced challenging reporting on information related to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.
- **54%** of countries face difficulties with developing and reporting on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions and processes.
- **45%** of countries struggle to report on progress on implementation of adaptation.
- **45%** of countries have difficulties reporting on cooperation, good practices, experience, and lessons learned.
- **36%** of countries faced challenging reporting on impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities, while
- **27%** of countries experience difficulties setting up and report adaptation priorities and barriers, as well as adaptation strategies, policies, plans, goals, and actions to integrate adaptation into national policies and strategies.

The Figure 12. below provides full overview of responses.

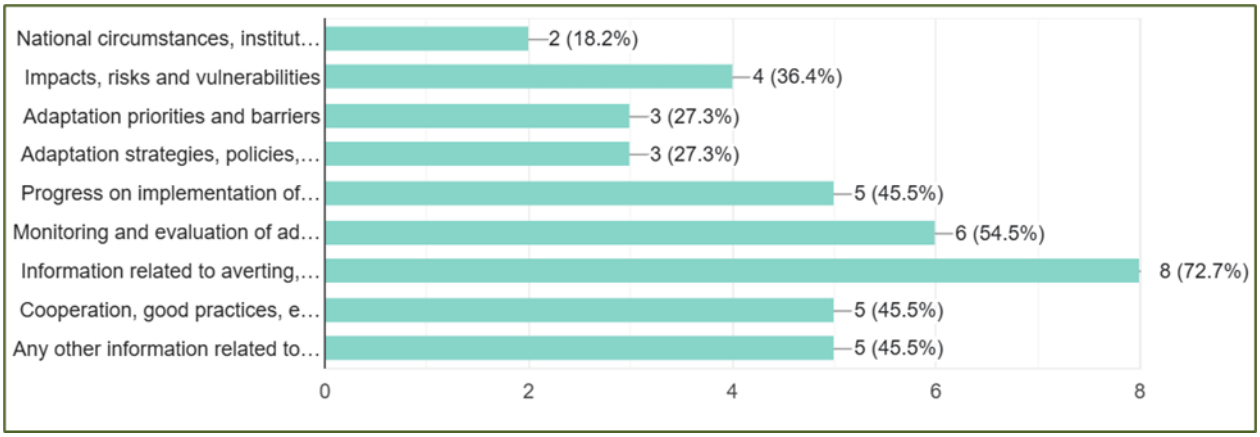

Figure 12: Most challenging MPG provisions in reporting adaption

In regard to adaptation reporting, **all respondents indicated that they would require technical support** to address the challenges identified above. Respondents specifically stressed they need training on **monitoring and reporting on loss and damages** and support in addressing issues of good practices, experience and lessons learned related to averting, minimizing and **addressing loss and damage** associated with climate change impacts.

2.5 Support Needed and Received

In regard to Support Needed and Received nearly 55% of respondents indicated their countries have either submitted or are in the process of compiling/submitting their Support Needed and Received component of the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). Meanwhile, 27% are in the data collection phase, and 18% have neither submitted nor started preparing their BTR adaptation chapter, as shown in Figure 9 below. See Figure 14.

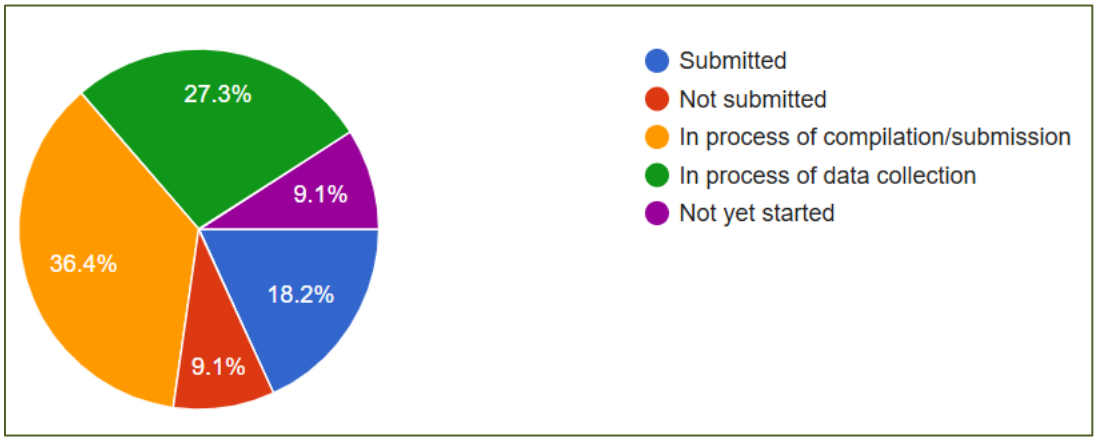

Figure 13: Status of support needed and received under BTR1

When it comes to **challenges in reporting on support needed and received**, participating countries reported facing at least one of the following issues:

- **63%** highlighted the lack of a unified domestic mechanism to compile the necessary data and information.
- **54%** cited a lack of data on finance, technology development/transfer, and capacity-building support.
- **54%** pointed to limited coordination among agencies responsible for receiving or managing support, leading to inefficiencies.
- **27%** identified risks of double counting due to uncoordinated data systems.
- **18%** reported difficulties in filling CTF tables for support needed and received.

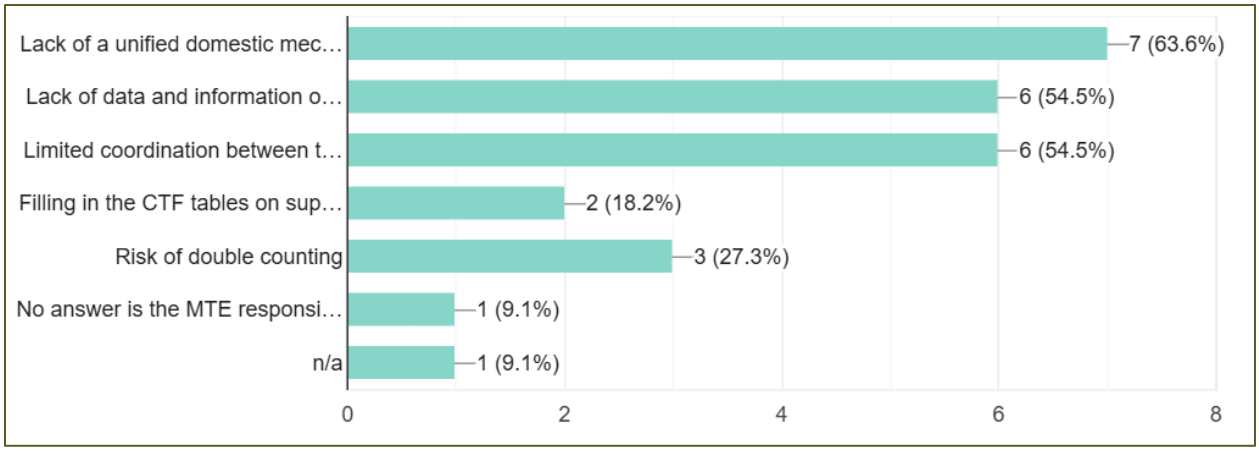

Figure 14: Challenging reporting on support needed and received

Countries face significant **challenges in meeting provisions of the Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPG)** when reporting on **support needed and received**. Specifically, 54% of respondents reported difficulties in **providing information on Information on technology development and transfer** under Article 10 of the Paris Agreement.

Half of countries struggle to **report financial support received** under Article 9, and 45% faced challenges in reporting support received and needed under Article 13. The full overview of responses can be seen on the Figure 15 below:

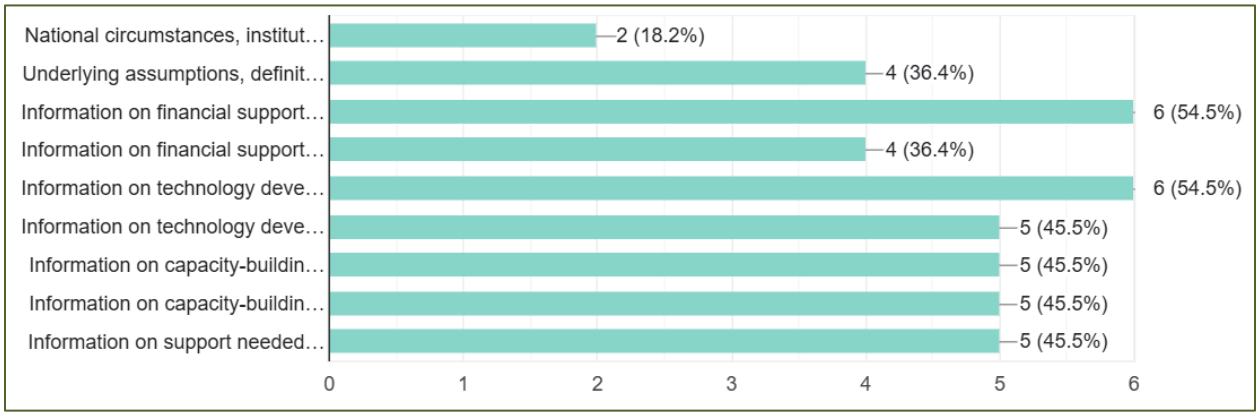

Figure15: Challenging MPG provisions on reporting support needed/received

To address these challenges, all countries indicated the need for support to enhance tracking and reporting on support needed and received. Additionally, some countries emphasized the **importance of exchanging good practices, experiences, and lessons learned in receiving financial and technological support.**

2.6 Gender Mainstreaming

Most of the countries in the Eurasia Network (73%) reported that they included or will include gender considerations in their climate reports extensively or to a greater extent. The remaining countries (17%) reported that they will only be including minimal gender integration in their reports.

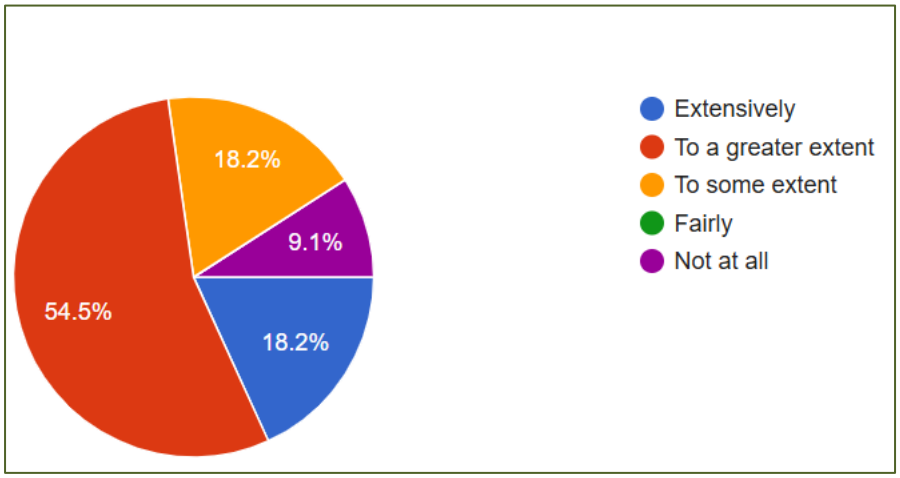

Figure 16: Inclusion of Gender considerations in NC, BTR and NDC

However, most of the countries **(54%) still need support** in mainstreaming gender in their climate reports. Specifically, some countries need **training on methodology for integrating gender issues** in Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs). For others (Montenegro) support is needed to **develop institutional capacities** to understand, analyse, and integrate the gender aspect of loss and damage in climate change policies, programs, and projects. This includes addressing both economic and non-economic losses related to quality of life, such as health, physical safety (including the risk of increased gender-based violence), mental health, education, and cultural practices.

3. Conclusions and support needs

The survey revealed that institutional capacities to manage and technical domestic capacities to develop, report, and submit on each of the proposed Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) reporting areas are **strongest in the area of GHG inventory**. This indicates a relatively well-established system for developing and reporting GHG inventories. Some capacities in NDC tracking and reporting exist, but there is room for improvement to ensure accurate and comprehensive tracking of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). According to the survey, the arrangements and capacities related to **impact and adaptation are the weakest among the ETF areas**, with significant gaps in institutional arrangements and technical capacities, underscoring the need for targeted support and capacity-building efforts. Overall, the state is far from optimal, and all countries indicated a need for technical support to address these challenges.

As per ETF areas, the countries stressed the following support needs:

GHG Inventory: Despite being the strongest area among the Eurasian countries, there are still specific support needs, particularly in **data management** (collection and access), using the appropriate method (**tier level**), and **inventory recalculation** in accordance with IPCC guidance. There is also a need for the development and elaboration of **QA/QC plans** and procedures, as well as performing **uncertainty analysis**. Additionally, countries need support in **compiling Common Reporting Tables (CRTs)** and using **ETF Reporting Tools**. Specific country requests include:

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: Training on **recalculation** of time series and application of **higher tiers.**
- **Montenegro:** Support in **modeling tools** to quantify emissions reductions, assess potential losses and damages under different scenarios, and integrate loss and damage assessments into NDCs, including methodologies for quantifying economic and non-economic losses.
- **Serbia:** Support in prioritizing the **application of higher tier** methodologies for key categories (KC) to improve the accuracy and reliability of their GHG inventory.

NDC Tracking and Reporting: While some capacities in NDC tracking and reporting exist, most countries noted significant room for improvement to ensure accurate and comprehensive tracking of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Specifically, support is needed in: Identifying **information necessary to track progress toward achieving NDCs**, including reporting on mitigation policies, measures, actions, and plans, including those with co-benefits for adaptation and economic diversification plans for implementation of their NDCs. Also, support is needed in projecting and summarizing GHG emissions and removals. Additionally, specific support requests from some countries include:

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Training on identifying **information necessary to track NDC** progress.
- **Montenegro:** Support in aligning **economic diversification strategies with climate objectives** and assessing and integrating the economic and non-economic benefits of adaptation actions into economic diversification plans.

- **Georgia:** Workshop on different **projection tools** to discuss their advantages and limitations, functionalities, and applications to better understand which tools are most suitable for specific cases or scenarios.

Adaptation, Impact, Loss/Damage: Arrangements and capacities related to impact and adaptation are estimated to be the **weakest among the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) areas for Eurasian countries**, with significant gaps in institutional arrangements and technical capacities. These challenges may be attributed to the **newly framed reporting methodology** within the MPGs for these areas, which is more detailed and focused compared to previous reporting requirements. This underscores the need for targeted support and capacity-building efforts. Specifically, support is needed for reporting information related to **loss and damage**, as well as on reporting on the **monitoring and evaluation** of adaptation actions and processes. Additionally, support is required for **developing systems to track and report on progress** in the implementation of adaptation. Some specific needs expressed by countries include:

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: Training on **monitoring and reporting on loss and damage**.
- **Montenegro:** Exchange of good **practices, experiences, and lessons learned related to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage** associated with climate change impacts. Also, they need support in modeling tools to quantify emissions reductions/mitigation effects to **assess potential losses and damages under different scenarios** and for assessing and integrating the **economic and non-economic benefits of adaptation actions** into economic diversification plans.

Support Needed and Received: Participating countries reported several challenges in reporting on support needed and received. Specifically, they indicated the need for support to develop **domestic mechanisms to compile the necessary data and information**. Additionally, some countries require support to improve **institutional arrangements to enhance coordination** among agencies responsible for receiving or managing support, thereby avoiding risks of double counting. Training in filling CTF tables for support needed and received is also necessary. Furthermore, **Montenegro** expressed the need for an **exchange of good practices, experiences, and lessons learned** in receiving financial and technological support.

Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Reports: While most Eurasian countries reported including gender considerations in their climate reports, they still need support in this area, especially regarding the provisions of the Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPGs).

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Needs training on methodologies for integrating gender issues in Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs).
- **Montenegro:** Requires support to develop institutional capacities to understand and integrate the gender aspect of loss and damage in climate change policies, programs, and projects.