

## Streamlining Reporting Processes: Synergies Between UNFCCC and GovReg Reporting Requirements

### Webinar Concept Note

#### Background

The Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) aims to provide streamlined support and capacity-building at the national, regional and global levels to assist developing countries in responding to the reporting provisions under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). To support developing countries in the transition to the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and fulfil their reporting obligations to the UNFCCC, the Programme has organised numerous webinars, regional in-person workshops, and provided direct in-country support.

Countries of the Eurasian Network have already initiated activities related to the development of their first BTRs. Simultaneously, these countries are required to report on climate and energy under the European Union (EU) Regulation 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action (GovReg). This is recognized as an opportunity to align the two processes and reduce the reporting burden of the countries by utilising established tools for data collection to facilitate both reporting processes.

Within the EU, the GovReg forms the foundational legislative framework for reporting on energy and climate action. Aligned with the Paris Agreement, this regulation aims for reliable, inclusive, and cost-efficient governance. It supports the Energy Union's 2030 and long-term objectives by fostering cohesive efforts among Member States while reducing administrative complexity.

In 2021, the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community adopted the GovReg, expanding climate and energy reporting obligations to encompass the Energy Community. This international organization unites the EU with its neighbours to establish an integrated pan-European energy market. It consists of nine Contracting Parties, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, North Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine.

To support the Energy Community's Contracting Parties in the reporting process, the EEA implements a project mirroring its role under the GovReg for EU Member States. The EEA provides IT infrastructure, technical support, quality control procedures, and assistance in preparing reporting data on climate change mitigation, adaptation, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. Through various means like webinars and in-person training sessions, the EEA aims to enhance the Contracting Parties' reporting capabilities.

#### Expected outcomes

- Comprehensive understanding of the overlap between UNFCCC and GovReg reporting requirements, enabling aligning the reporting templates for the two processes.
- Exchange of lessons learned and best practices among participants regarding reporting under both reporting obligations.

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<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- Good understanding of what actions the EEA are planning to take to align the reporting templates of the GovReg to facilitate exchange of information between the two formats.
- Collaborative identification and exploration of opportunities to streamline and enhance reporting procedures.
- Empowerment with knowledge and strategies to optimize reporting efficiency and accuracy for both UNFCCC and GovReg reporting mandates.

### Format

The workshop will take place during the second half of February and will last for 2.5 hours, following the structure below:

Duration	Segment
10 minutes	Introductions
45 minutes	Presentation of the status of the preparation of National Communications, Biennial Update Reports, and BTRs, as well as GovReg reporting, and assessment of synergies between the UNFCCC and GovReg reporting requirements. This session will also highlight potential solutions that serve both reporting processes and support their streamlining.
50 minutes	Breakout sessions (20 minutes each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understanding the reporting process</li> <li>- Challenges and barriers to reporting</li> </ul>
10 minutes	Break
25 minutes	Plenary discussion
10 minutes	Questions and answers, and wrap up

### Breakout session questions

- **Understanding the reporting process:** Participants will provide an overview of their reporting process at the national level. The session aims to offer participants a general understanding of how other countries conduct their reporting activities. It identifies similarities and differences, providing an opportunity to learn from others and potentially identify activities that could help strengthen their own reporting process.
- ☐ Provide 2-3 statements briefly describing how the reporting process takes place within your national context for the following GovReg dataflows: National systems for GHG PaMs and projections; GHG PaMs; Climate Adaptation; and Climate Finance. **Please provide information about at least one dataflow.** (e.g., established institutional set-up for reporting, is it the same for GovReg and UNFCCC, identifying reporters and contributors/technical experts, setting deadlines for receiving input, coordinating planning and check-in workshops or meetings, data input in Reportnet, submission, etc.)
- ☐ What activities have made a significant difference in successfully gathering your data through Reportnet comparing to UNFCCC process?
- ☐ Are there activities that you have not applied but think would be helpful in fulfilling the reporting?
- ☐ What overlaps in reporting to UNFCCC and GovReg do you recognize? Can you utilise your data reported in Reportnet for the BTR?

- **Challenges and barriers to reporting:** In this session, participants will discuss the difficulties typically faced in their reporting processes, including encountered obstacles and strategies for overcoming them or envisioning workable solutions. Apart from offering an overview of challenges faced by other countries, this session provides an opportunity for participants to learn about potential solutions within their own contexts. Additionally, the discussion will assist organizers in compiling a gap analysis to better target assistance and leverage additional support if needed.
  1. What challenges have you faced in gathering data and inputting it into Reportnet/UNFCCC reports?
  2. What solutions or problem-solving activities have you implemented or plan to implement to overcome these reporting challenges?
  
- **Plenary brainstorming:** Plenary discussion and activities to define opportunities for aligning the reporting templates for UNFCCC and GovReg reporting processes. Facilitators will lead the conversation and gather input from participants on combining the two reporting processes and streamlining report drafting. This includes exploring the feasibility of using national reporting systems to collect data for both reporting requirements.
  1. Would a streamlined reporting process, where Contracting Parties use a standard tool for data collection for both reporting obligations, facilitate the reporting process?
  2. Is there a national system for climate data in your country for any of these fields:
    - a. Greenhouse gas Policies and Measures, and Greenhouse gas Projections
    - b. Climate Adaptation
    - c. Climate Finance? If yes, does it have the potential to cover data fields addressing the reporting requirements of both reporting obligations (UNFCCC and GovReg)? If not, is there a plan to develop such a platform or system?
  3. Do you foresee an opportunity to leverage the work you have done under one reporting obligation (e.g., UNFCCC) to fulfil the other reporting obligation (e.g., GovReg)? How do you envision this happening (i.e., requesting information from the same stakeholder group/leveraging an existing expert network that is familiar with the reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement and either one or both reporting obligations)?