

GLOBAL TRANSPARENCY FORUM

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#Together4Transparency

ORGANISERS:



HOST COUNTRY:



SUMMARY REPORT

Global Transparency Forum

Addressing Challenges and Seizing Opportunities in the ETF Implementation



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Introduction

The first Global Transparency Forum, held on 20-21 May 2024, in Tokyo, Japan, marked a pivotal moment in international climate cooperation. As countries prepare for the first-ever submission of their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) by 31 December 2024 and their next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 10 February 2025, the Forum served as a crucial platform for enhancing global collaboration on transparency in climate action.

Bringing together over 180 government officials, experts, and representatives from international organizations, the Forum facilitated in-depth discussions on the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement. The high-level dialogue and various sessions highlighted the integral role of transparency in tracking and boosting climate action, with a focus on aligning efforts towards keeping the 1.5°C temperature limit alive.

Key outcomes from the Forum included strengthened commitments to climate transparency under the Paris Agreement, identified strategies for addressing challenges in ETF implementation, and enhanced cooperation among countries and support providers. The Forum underscored the necessity of robust data and transparent reporting to build trust and drive more ambitious climate actions globally. It addressed the urgent need for support and cooperation for the effective implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework as a bedrock for building mutual trust among nations in the multilateral response to climate change.

The Global Transparency Forum was organised by the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) implemented by the UNEP Centre on Climate Change, supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP Climate Promise. Hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Forum was held at the United Nations University in Japan's capital city with the special participation of representatives from the presidencies of COP28, COP29 and next year's COP30 (Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC).

The Forum's timing was strategic. On the one hand, it had been designed to catalyze momentum and exchange knowledge, successes, and lessons learned in preparation for the first generation of BTR, whose submission represent both challenges and opportunities in particular for developing countries. On the other hand, the Forum was conceived as a key driver for enhanced climate ambition as nations prepare their updated NDC, due for submissions by 10 February 2025.



Forum's Objectives

1. To highlight the urgency of preparing the first BTR and the next round of NDC in line with the stipulated timelines.
2. To explore the critical interlinkages of the BTR and NDC preparation processes and how to better synergize these processes, with the ultimate goal of raising ambition.
3. To take stock of the progress made in countries to build capacity for transparency with CBIT support and to prepare BTR.
4. To take stock of countries' readiness for the ETF.
5. To explore how to foster synergies and partnerships to support countries to address challenges.



Agenda Overview

With a comprehensive agenda and a lineup of knowledgeable panellists from developing countries, donors, and supporting agencies; the Forum not only aimed to discuss progress made so far but also to lay the groundwork for continued international collaboration in enhancing transparency and ambition in climate actions.

The Global Transparency Forum spanned over two days, with nine plenary sessions including a High-level Dialogue, three breakout sessions, and a Support Fair in the marketplace format with Support Providers and other Transparency Initiatives. 60 speakers from all around the world, mainly from the Global South, and also including 20 supporting organizations, agencies, and programmes, shared experiences and exchanged successes and lessons learned. In addition, ten countries from the 10 active CBIT-GSP linguistic and regional networks were recognised at an award ceremony.

Agenda overview:

Opening

Plenary 1: Reflections on COP outcomes & perspectives on the importance of transparency in the run-up to COP29, COP30, and beyond

Plenary 2: Success stories on ETF implementation

Plenary 3: Building capacity for ETF delivery: experiences, good practices and lessons learned

Breakout Sessions A: Deep dive Discussions on CBIT

Plenary 4: Elements for Country Readiness for ETF Implementation

Breakout Sessions B: Deep dive Discussions on Elements for Country Readiness

Plenary 5: High-level Dialogue

Plenary 6: The Road towards the first BTR: Key enablers for effective transparency system and success stories from countries

Plenary 7: Award Ceremony for Network Engagement and South-South Exchange

Plenary 8: Support Fair Session with Support Providers and Initiatives/Networking

Breakout Session C: Deep dive Discussions on Support for Transparency

Plenary 9: B: Reflections and looking ahead

Closing



Setting the Scene

The Forum commenced with an opening session facilitated by Ms. Mariana Castaño Cano. The session featured opening remarks from distinguished speakers who emphasized the importance of transparency in climate action. This is a summary of the highlights:

Ms. Masako Ogawa, Deputy Director-General for Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, welcomed participants and reiterated Japan's commitment to transparency and international cooperation. She announced that Japan will submit its first BTR before the upcoming COP29 (29th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC).

Ms. Chizuru Aoki, Lead Environmental Specialist and CBIT Manager at the GEF Secretariat highlighted transparency as the foundation of trust, cooperation, and accountability under the Paris Agreement. She shared that by the time the Forum took place, the GEF was supporting 96 projects in 88 countries and 147 BTRs in 104 countries.

Ms. Miriam Hinostroza, Head of the Global Climate Action Unit at UNEP, stressed the importance of data for ensuring transparency and accountability in climate action. She noted that effective climate risk management requires robust data collection and analysis.

Ms. Hideko Hadzialic, Director of the UNDP Representation Office in Tokyo, spoke about the critical role of a multilateral transparency system, regional workshops, and transparency clinics at COP28. She emphasized the collaborative efforts of climate working groups in achieving the 1.5-degree goal and aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms. Fatima-Zahra Taibi, Global Coordinator of CBIT-GSP at UNEP-CCC, greeted the 180 participants from 120 countries and representatives from over 20 international agencies. She underscored the vital connection between BTR and NDC for maintaining transparency in climate action, highlighting that the first BTR and the next cycle of NDC submissions are major events for all countries.



Reflections on COP Outcomes and Transparency

The first plenary session, presented by Mr. Jigme from the UNFCCC, provided a comprehensive review of the outcomes from COP28, emphasizing their relevance to transparency in climate action. The session highlighted the importance of transparency in shaping collective climate efforts as the international community prepares for COP29 and COP30.

- **Global Stocktake and Adaptation goal:** The session referred to the first Global Stocktake and the Global Goal on Adaptation, underscoring the importance of transparent reporting to assess progress and inform future actions.
- **Article 6 negotiations:** Outcomes from Article 6 of the Paris Agreement negotiations were also mentioned, highlighting the role of market and non-market approaches in enhancing climate action transparency.
- **ETF reporting tool:** Mr. Jigme announced that the ETF reporting tool, designed to facilitate transparent and consistent reporting by countries, is nearly complete and will be launched in June 2024.
- **Peer Review Processes:** The role of peer review processes in promoting transparency, knowledge sharing, and best practices among nations was emphasized.

The session concluded with audience participation, where various perspectives shared to underscore the **necessity of working collaboratively** to address challenges and leverage opportunities in implementing transparency. **Andorra and Guyana** were mentioned as **exemplary cases** in transparency efforts, as both have already submitted their BTR, providing valuable lessons for other nations. The session reinforced the idea that open and honest reporting mechanisms are essential for **building trust, encouraging ambition, and ensuring global accountability** in climate action.



Success Stories on ETF Implementation

The second plenary session featured a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Ranjila Devi Singh from **Fiji's** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. The session brought together representatives from six countries—Guyana, Panama, Moldova, South Africa, Mozambique, and Malaysia—to share their perspectives on their countries' progress towards meeting the provisions of the ETF.

These are the top tangible progress and outcomes put forward by the countries:

- **Fiji** (Ms. Ranjila Devi Singh): Fiji's CBIT project is in its final stage of implementation and a national database is under establishment for the greenhouse gases (GHG) inventory. Challenges remain in enforcing arrangements, and ownership by stakeholders' and more support is needed for capacity building and reinforcement of technical human resources.
- **Guyana** (Ms. Nasheta Dewnath): Guyana submitted its first BTR in April 2023, including the REDD+ annex. It has strong data on the energy and Land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors and is establishing the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT LEDS).
- **Panama** (Mr. Javier Martinez): The country is building on its experiences from the Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and established five sub-systems under the ETF to manage GHG inventory, NDC tracking, mitigation, and cooperative approaches under Article 6. Panama focuses on international compliance and internal decision-making needs.
- **Moldova** (Ms. Lilia Taranu): Moldova is on track to submit its first BTR on time, with strong institutional arrangements despite challenges in data collection due to territorial disputes. Capacity building and training, particularly from CBIT-GSP and UNFCCC, have been crucial.
- **South Africa** (Ms. Sandra Motshwanedi): The country has nearly completed its first CBIT project, focusing on hiring GHG experts and enhancing data collection and management across its nine provinces. Peer-to-peer exchanges with both developed and developing countries have been beneficial.
- **Mozambique** (Mr. Clemencio Nhantumbo): Mozambique has submitted two National Communications (NCs) and its first BUR with support from the Lusophone Cluster. The country has received assistance from ICAT to design a reporting system, which was adopted in April 2024.
- **Malaysia** (Ms. Zainorfarah Zainuddin): Malaysia has established a National GHG Centre to build technical expertise and institutional capacity. The country is developing a national registry to track NDC progress and cooperative approaches under Article 6.



Countries laid out their key priorities for ETF implementation:

- **Guyana:** Focuses on improving national capacities and identifying gaps in sectors like waste and adaptation. The country is prioritizing the use of available data and flexibility provisions where necessary.
- **Panama:** Priorities are guided by self-assessment and peer exchanges, aiming to identify gaps and improve upon the first BTR submission.
- **Moldova:** Needs enhancement of national technical capacity, particularly in using ETF reporting tools and GHG emissions forecasting.
- **South Africa:** Prioritizes the timely submission of the first BTR and sustainable bi-annual reporting. The National Climate Change Act is expected to strengthen institutional arrangements.
- **Mozambique:** Focuses on timely reporting and improving the national coordination system. The country is developing a plan to train experts and enhance data management systems.
- **Malaysia:** Aims to establish robust technical expertise and institutional capacity at both national and sub-national levels, particularly focusing on a comprehensive national registry.

During the interactive discussion with participants, **Georgia** inquired about Panama's integration of adaptation and mitigation co-benefits and Moldova's approach to completeness in reporting given territorial issues. Panama explained its comprehensive analysis of national emissions and vulnerabilities, enabling it to identify priorities and integrate different areas. Moldova confirmed coverage for the current cycle but expressed uncertainty about future cycles due to territorial disputes.

Through the Slido interactive platform, 77 participants shared their countries' experiences and challenges. Common themes included the need for strong institutional arrangements, capacity building, and effective stakeholder engagement.

In conclusion, the discussion during plenary 2 underscored the importance of **national coordination systems** and **enabling environments** for effective ETF implementation. The need for **robust data** collection, stakeholder engagement, and continuous capacity building were highlighted as critical factors in ensuring transparency and accountability in climate action.



Building Capacity for ETF Delivery

Plenary 3 focused on the efforts to build capacity for the delivery of the ETF through CBIT projects. The session provided a global status overview of countries' access to GEF's support for transparency and insights on the progress made and remaining gaps in ETF implementation.

PRESENTATIONS ON ETF SUPPORT

- **GEF** (Mr. Esteban Bermúdez Forn) highlighted that GEF provides support across reporting, capacity building, and global support programs. CBIT projects are accessible to all developing countries that have ratified the Paris Agreement, including eligibility for second projects. Since 2020 and up until the date in which the Forum took place, the GEF has supported 147 BTR in 104 countries.
- **CBIT-GSP** (Ms. Fatima-Zahra Taibi) discussed the CBIT-GSP project (2022-2026) and introduced the Climate Transparency Platform, a one-stop shop for transparency. Key support modalities include transparency networks, report reviews, and capacity-building trainings. Upcoming knowledge products include a Gender Toolkit and templates for National Inventory Documents (NID) and NDC tracking.

PERSPECTIVES FROM IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

- **UNEP** (Mr. Sudhir Sharma) emphasized that transparency efforts often start within a single ministry but require broader institutional arrangements. UNEP supports countries with CBIT projects, focusing on peer learning, integrating climate reporting into education, and supporting NDC and Article 6 reporting.
- **UNDP** (Ms. Thania Eloina Felix) supports countries, aiming to align transparency activities with national priorities, provide tools and training for Article 13 provisions, and enhance ownership of transparency processes. Emphasis is placed on creating strong institutional arrangements that extend beyond individual projects.
- **FAO** (Ms. Mirella Salvatore) highlighted the significance of LULUCF and noted that FAO supports national CBIT projects and BTR/NC (national communications) projects. The Global CBIT Forest project, currently in its second phase, focuses on monitoring project impacts and behavioural change to ensure alignment with BTR/NC (national communications) projects.

COUNTRY PERSPECTIVES ON CBIT AND ETF IMPLEMENTATION

- **Mongolia** (Ms. Bujidmaa Borkhuu): Noted the support from FAO and CBIT-GSP for BUR2. Key priorities include updating regulatory structures for NDC tracking and enhancing data management.



- **Colombia** (Ms. Laura Aranguren): Established MRV mechanisms since 2022, focusing on understanding flexibility provisions and reporting gender-specific GHG emissions. Priorities include strengthening internal administrative and technical support.
- **Jamaica** (Mr. Ajani Alleyne): Faced delays due to COVID-19 but aims to build a robust MRV system and stakeholder buy-in for sustainable data management. Emphasized the need for a project steering committee and national transparency working group.
- **Sierra Leone** (Ms. Lovetta Yatta Juanah): Encountered delays since 2020 but has put data management teams and private sector engagement plans in place. Priorities include peer-to-peer capacity building and sector-specific inventory enhancements.
- **Morocco** (Ms. Andalus Ben-Driss): Focused initially on GHG inventory but expanded to include other transparency areas. Established an MRV/Transparency platform in 2019, with further improvements funded by the CBIT project. Key priorities include technical tools and improved data acquisition processes.

Highlights from the moderator (Ms. Leya Zgheib): The session underscored the importance of **strong institutional arrangements, data improvement, and national ownership** for the longevity of transparency efforts. Successful implementation often requires stakeholder buy-in from various sectors, including the private sector, civil society organizations, and government agencies. The transition **from project-based to programmatic approaches** with national ownership was highlighted as essential for sustained transparency and effective climate action.

Participants take on CBIT status and uptake

During Plenary 3, participants engaged in an interactive discussion via Slido to address key questions regarding the CBIT projects. According to the responses, 75% of countries have an active CBIT project, while 26% do not. For those without a CBIT project, reasons for not requesting funding included being in the discussion or proposal preparation phase, completing the first CBIT project and initiating preparations for the second, lack of awareness, insufficient political will, and a lack of human and technical capacity to assemble a project proposal. Countries such as Ethiopia, Senegal, Kazakhstan, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Togo, Liberia, and Botswana provided specific insights into their current status and challenges in this regard.

For countries with active CBIT projects, the primary contributions to their national transparency systems include strengthening and formalizing institutional arrangements for national Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems, enhancing access to national climate information, and improving data quality. Other significant contributions highlighted were capacity building of local government agencies, integration of MRV and ETF, establishment of climate information management systems, and the creation of national platforms for data sharing and transparency reporting. Examples from countries like Tanzania, Panama, Brazil, South Africa, and the Philippines emphasized the importance



of these projects in building technical expertise, strengthening institutional frameworks, and ensuring comprehensive climate action and reporting.

Deep-Dive Discussions on CBIT

The breakout session following Plenary 3 focused on deep-dive discussions regarding various aspects of the CBIT projects, specifically Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects. The sessions were aimed to address the priorities for transparency support, design ideas for CBIT projects, and the key lessons learned from existing CBIT project implementation.

PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPARENCY SUPPORT

Participants highlighted the need for capacity building, institutional arrangements, MRV systems, and addressing data gaps as top priorities. Best practices, sustainability, scalability, and stakeholder engagement were also emphasized. Challenges such as the impact of COVID-19 and lack of coordination were discussed, with suggestions to transition CBIT from projects to programs and mainstream transparency in national reporting.

DESIGNING CBIT PHASE 2 PROJECTS

Discussions revealed the importance of covering all aspects of the ETF and ensuring clear arrangements for implementation in Phase 2 projects. Capacity building for project staff under CBIT Phase 1 should extend to line ministries in Phase 2. Participants stressed the need for synergy, collaboration, and guidance to design effective Phase 2 projects. Learning from Phase 1 experiences was deemed crucial for the success of subsequent projects.

LESSONS LEARNED AND INCORPORATING IMPROVEMENTS

Key lessons from CBIT projects include the importance of efficiently prioritizing and allocating resources to enhance institutional arrangements and capacities. Improved capacities, national legislation, and more training opportunities were identified as critical areas. Participants highlighted the need for guidance to avoid duplication and ensure coordinated support from various agencies, emphasizing resource optimization.

ENHANCING TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

Improved engagement of sector experts and the enhancement of technical and institutional capacities were noted as significant outcomes of CBIT projects. The use of NDC tracking tools and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) processes were also discussed. Participants called for relevant indicators, strengthened internal partnerships, and the availability of new information. Knowledge exchange and regional and international cooperation were considered essential for ongoing progress.



Overall, capacity building, institutional arrangements, and MRV systems remain top priorities for CBIT projects. The sessions underscored the importance of harmonizing CBIT, BTR, and NDC processes at the national level to ensure cohesive and effective governance structures. Learning from Phase 1 experiences is vital for designing and implementing Phase 2 projects, promoting country ownership, and fostering a whole-of-government approach.



Elements for Country Readiness for ETF Implementation

Plenary 4 was an interactive session conducted via the Slido platform, focusing on the elements necessary for country readiness in implementing the ETF. The session involved audience participation, gathering 98 responses with insights on the domestic benefits and key elements of national transparency systems.

Participants were first asked, "**What do you think are the main domestic benefits from implementing a national transparency system?**" The responses highlighted several benefits, including improved planning for data collection and mitigation actions, enhanced communication on support provided and needed, and better prioritization of national policies. Participants noted that a national transparency system informs the development and review of domestic policies, raises awareness about NDC, and ensures sustainable information for policy improvement. The system also quantifies progress on national commitments, strengthens reporting requirements, and improves institutional capacity.

Additional benefits mentioned included the ability to track policy impacts, disclose data, and build confidence in the reported information. Participants emphasized the importance of creating synergies among ministries, capturing and validating indicators, and ensuring compliance with UNFCCC reporting. They also highlighted the role of robust, credible, and peer-reviewed data in enhancing coordination among stakeholders, improving data quality, and strengthening NDC tracking systems. Overall, a national transparency system was seen as crucial for the effective implementation of national action plans, fostering mutual trust, and enhancing institutional arrangements.

The second question posed to the audience was, "**What do you think is the most important element of your national transparency system?**" Responses focused on the importance of enhanced MRV frameworks, robust and reliable data, and consistent reporting. Participants highlighted the need for clear institutional arrangements for reporting and data flow, emphasizing that institutional settings with fully funded resources are essential for sustainability. The coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, along with the openness and accessibility of data, were also identified as critical elements.

Quality data and consistent reporting were repeatedly mentioned as fundamental components of a national transparency system. Participants stressed the significance of having a functional MRV system based on a robust database and institutional mechanisms, as well as the need for legislative arrangements to support these systems. Other important elements included NDC tracking, ensuring data flows, and institutionalizing reporting mechanisms. The session underscored the necessity of simplifying data operations and fostering a cooperative environment to enhance the overall effectiveness of national transparency systems.



In summary, Plenary 4 provided valuable insights into the domestic benefits and key elements of national transparency systems. The interactive format allowed participants to share their experiences and perspectives, highlighting the importance of robust data, clear institutional arrangements, and enhanced MRV frameworks in achieving transparency and accountability in climate action.



Deep-Dive Discussions on Elements for Country Readiness

Breakout Session B provided an in-depth examination of the key elements necessary for country readiness in the implementation of the ETF. The session focused on three thematic areas: Institutional Arrangements, Policy Coherence and Political Buy-In, and Technical Capacities. Each group discussed guiding questions and shared their insights and experiences.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Priorities for institutional arrangements: Participants emphasized the creation and execution of legal instruments, early involvement of data agencies and stakeholders, and the use of user-friendly templates and tools for reporting. Improving institutional arrangements at all levels—national, sub-regional, and local—was identified as crucial for ensuring a transparent and accountable ETF process.

Key barriers: The main barriers to improving institutional arrangements included a lack of political commitment, weak mandates, and insufficient resources. Limited coordination among key counterparts and low mandates of responsible agencies were also highlighted as significant challenges.

Good practices: Good practices shared by participants included building trust through informal and voluntary institutional arrangements before formalizing them, legalizing national mandates for reporting, and employing full-time staff dedicated to transparency tasks. Peer-to-peer learning and state-budgeted institutions were also noted as effective strategies.

Key messages:

- It is essential to improve institutional arrangements to ensure a transparent and accountable ETF process.
- Involving stakeholders, including decision-makers, in transparency actions is critical.
- Learning from existing CBIT projects and integrating these lessons into future transparency efforts is necessary.
- Flexibility in capacity-building exercises is important to address ad-hoc learning and training needs.

POLICY COHERENCE AND POLITICAL BUY-IN

Assessment of policy coherence and political buy-in: Participants assessed the level of policy coherence and political buy-in for transparency in their countries, recognizing the



need for strong political support to ensure the success and sustainability of transparency efforts.

Key enablers and barriers: Key enablers included clear communication of the importance of transparency, involvement of high-level political figures, and integration of transparency efforts into broader national policies. Barriers included a limited understanding of transparency benefits, competing political priorities, and a lack of dedicated resources.

Strategies to increase policy coherence and political buy-in: Participants suggested enhancing awareness and understanding of transparency's importance at the political level, securing commitments from high-level officials to support transparency initiatives, and aligning transparency efforts with national development goals and policies.

TECHNICAL CAPACITIES

Key technical capacities required: Skills for data collection and analysis, modelling and projection capabilities, and quality assurance and control skills were identified as essential technical capacities. Ensuring these capacities are available in-house is crucial for effectively guiding national transparency and reporting processes.

Examples of technological tools: Participants shared examples of technological tools developed with CBIT funding, such as online platforms for climate information management, national MRV systems, and NDC tracking tools.

Key enablers and barriers: Enablers included strong national institutions, dedicated technical staff, and continuous capacity-building initiatives. Barriers included high staff turnover, insufficient in-house technical expertise, and lack of sustainable funding for technical capacity development.

Strategies to strengthen technical capacities: Participants recommended investing in continuous training and development programs for technical staff, fostering partnerships with national research institutions and academia, and securing long-term funding to ensure the sustainability of technical capacities over time.

Overall, Breakout Session B highlighted the critical need for strong institutional arrangements, policy coherence, political buy-in, and technical capacities to enhance country readiness for the ETF. The session emphasized the importance of learning from existing CBIT projects and integrating these lessons into future transparency efforts.



The Importance of Transparency in Raising Climate Ambition

The High-Level Dialogue, which was also broadcast online, began with opening remarks from several senior representatives. **Mr. Yutaka Matsuzawa**, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, emphasized Japan's commitment to submitting its first BTR by the end of the year and highlighted the link between enhanced transparency and increased climate finance.

Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, stressed the need for NDC 3.0 to align with the 1.5°C limit, be implementable, and build resilience, underscoring the role of transparency in building trust and confidence among parties.

Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, Lead Negotiator of COP29 Presidency, and Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, reiterated the significance of COP29, emphasizing ambition and enabling action through finance.

Ms. Cassie Flynn, Global Director of Climate Change at UNDP, highlighted the role of BTR in delivering ambitious climate actions and making NDC more investable.

Ms. Chizuru Aoki from GEF discussed the alignment of CBIT support with enhanced ambition and the integrity of climate reporting.

In a presentation, **Mr. Jigme** from UNFCCC highlighted the interlinkages between BTR and NDC preparation processes, emphasizing the feedback loop of planning, implementation, reporting, and the Global Stocktake (GST), which collectively drive higher national ambition. He noted the importance of realistic and implementable targets based on lessons learned from the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) process.

A panel discussion, moderated by **Mr. Donald Cooper** from UNFCCC, included representatives from the COP Presidencies, countries, and key support providers.

COP TROIKA

From COP29 Azerbaijan Presidency, **Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev** emphasized transparency as a priority, highlighting its role in assessing collective progress and identifying gaps. He discussed the dual pillars of enhancing ambition and enabling action through finance, and the importance of integrating NDCs with national development strategies.

On behalf of COP28 UAE Presidency, **Ms. Iman Ustadi** emphasized the significance of timely BTR submission and the troika approach in maintaining momentum for transparency and ambition.



Representing COP30 Brazil Presidency, **Mr. Tulio Andrade** highlighted the collective leadership of the troika, the role of transparency in meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and the importance of institutional strengthening and innovation.

COUNTRIES AND SUPPORT PROVIDERS

- **Trinidad and Tobago** (Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh) highlighted the support from ICAT in establishing an MRV system and the need for socio-economic modelling for future NDC.
- **China** (Ms. Fang Hou) discussed the preparation of its first BTR, the challenges of institutional arrangements, and the role of CBIT support.
- **Chile** (Ms. Camila Margarita Labarca Wyneken) stressed the importance of transparency for trust-building and decision-making, supported by international assistance.
- **Nepal** (Mr. Shiva Khanal) emphasized the need for sufficient support and institutional setup for effective BTR preparation.
- **UNEP** (Ms. Dechen Tsering) highlighted South-South collaboration, innovation, and the role of the Climate Transparency Platform.
- **ICAT** (Mr. Henning Wuester) discussed NDC strengthening and ambition realization.

The key messages from the High-Level Dialogue emphasized the critical role of high-level political buy-in and the collaborative troika approach in **keeping 1.5°C alive**. Transparency was highlighted as fundamental for **building trust in multilateral climate action** and as the backbone of the Paris Agreement. The dialogue underscored the importance of creating synergies between BTR and NDC processes, with BTR providing the foundation for future NDC. It was noted that the support provided by various initiatives is well-aligned with countries' needs and is making a significant impact. Furthermore, integrating NDC with **national development strategies** was deemed essential for ensuring their effective implementation. Overall, the dialogue highlighted the necessity of transparency in raising climate ambition and called for coordinated efforts to enhance transparency frameworks and climate action globally.



The Road Towards the First BTR: Key Enablers for Effective Transparency Systems and Success Stories from Countries

Plenary 6 focused on identifying key enablers for effective transparency systems across various national contexts and sharing success stories from both developed and developing countries. Moderated by **Georgia** (Mr. Kakhaberi Mdivani), the discussion revolved around the guiding questions related to key enablers, barriers, good practices, and next steps in transparency efforts.

Montenegro (Ms. Jovana Drobnjak): Montenegro emphasized the importance of better management of data, which is crucial for transparency reporting every two years. The country has gained valuable experience in the development and execution of national policies that support climate and sustainable development. This has created a robust foundation for their transparency efforts.

Saint Lucia (Ms. Maier Sifflet): Saint Lucia highlighted several barriers to effective ETF implementation, including the necessity of political will and a supportive legislative framework. The enactment of the Climate Change Bill in 2024 marked a significant milestone. The country also underscored the importance of climate finance tracking and enhancing the reporting capacity through an improved MRV system.

Solomon Islands (Mr. Henry Tufah): As a Least Developed Country (LDC) and Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the Solomon Islands shared ongoing efforts to improve transparency reporting. They have created incentives for data acquisition where formal arrangements are lacking. The integration of a web-based MRV tool covering GHG, NDC, finance, and SDG tracking has been a key achievement, aligning transparency efforts with other national priorities.

Mauritania (Mr. Alioun Fall): Having submitted two BUR and moving towards their first BTR, Mauritania emphasized the involvement of national experts and sector focal points. This approach has ensured continuity and inclusiveness in transparency reporting. Early involvement of working groups in project development has been crucial in aligning sector priorities with transparency goals.

Colombia (Mr. Leonardo Pineda): Colombia's transparency success is attributed to the establishment of technical teams and the optimization of resource use among entities and projects. The involvement of decision-makers, institutions, and academia has been pivotal in improving various aspects of their transparency efforts. Future steps include implementing an MRV system, building national capacity, and tracking mitigation and adaptation actions.



Namibia (Mr. Reagan Chunga): Namibia’s efforts focused on enhancing institutional capacities and integrating climate action into national planning. They have developed technical expertise and fostered collaboration among various stakeholders to strengthen transparency systems.

Indonesia (Mr. Rizaldi Boer): Indonesia aims to establish formal arrangements for reporting on GHG emissions, MRV, resource mobilization, and climate adaptation and mitigation. They are interested in developing a national registry system for carbon trading and considering the development of a climate-related taxonomy.

The interactive session with the audience provided additional insights and reinforced the importance of key enablers such as political commitment, legal instruments, and capacity building. Good practices highlighted included early stakeholder involvement, formalizing reporting mandates, and leveraging existing resources and expertise. The session underscored the need for countries to prioritize the creation of sustainable institutional arrangements and to foster a collaborative approach to transparency reporting.

The plenary concluded with a consensus on the critical role of robust institutional arrangements, political will, and technical capacity in achieving effective transparency systems. Sharing success stories and lessons learned from different countries provided valuable insights and inspiration for all participants, highlighting the collective effort needed to enhance climate transparency and ambition globally.



Technical Support Overview

Scene-Setting Presentation: Current Landscape of Support

UNFCCC (Mr. Jigme) opened the session with a presentation on the current landscape of technical support available to countries for transparency efforts. He emphasized that challenges faced by countries present opportunities for improvement and progress. Significant bilateral efforts and interventions have made a difference on the ground. The overview included various sources of support:

The presentation highlighted the importance of raising awareness about the benefits of ETF implementation, ensuring support reaches all countries, generating global momentum for timely BTR submissions, and operationalizing support for LDC parties. Lessons learned included navigating GEF modalities and applications, project development, and sustainable capacity building and institutional arrangements.

Tools Provided by the IPCC for Inventory Development

IPCC TFI TSU (Mr. Rob Sturgiss) discussed the tools provided by the IPCC to support countries in developing their GHG inventories. He emphasized the critical role of transparency and the practical help offered by inventory tools and software, such as the IPCC tool, in managing data and reporting. He provided examples from the Australian GHG Emission Information System (AGEIS 2005) and the Thai Greenhouse Gas Emission Information System (TGEIS, 2019).

The IPCC Inventory Software replaces manual Excel calculations, enhances credibility and confidence in applying IPCC methods, and archives results. Its interoperability allows it to populate the ETF tool, streamlining processes. Resources provided include IPCC guidelines, sector-specific guidelines, and a user handbook, with support available through a help desk and downloadable software. Planned activities include a presentation at SBSTA in June 2024 and a demonstration workshop in August 2024.

The session concluded with an emphasis on the consistent support received, the complementarity of tools like the Climate Transparency Platform (CTP), and the need for countries to share information and utilize available resources to the fullest extent possible.



Deep-Dive Discussions on Support for Transparency

SUCCESS STORIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Participants discussed successful examples of support for transparency, with all countries recognizing the enabling activities provided by the GEF for developing National Communications, BUR, and National Inventory Reports (NIRs), as well as CBIT projects for capacity building and establishing transparency systems, institutional arrangements, MRV systems, and NDC monitoring. The importance of sharing experiences and good practices through the Transparency Networks and the Climate Transparency Platform was highlighted. However, countries noted common technical gaps, including a lack of technical capacity to handle ETF tools, issues with data sharing, availability, and quality, and the incomplete status of UNFCCC ETF Reporting Tools. They also pointed out the tight deadline for submitting the first BTR (December 2024) and language barriers, particularly the unavailability of certain tools in French and Arabic.

COORDINATION FROM SUPPORT PROVIDERS' SIDE

Good examples of effective coordination among support providers included the establishment of committees to mainstream transparency and enhance communication among support providers, as well as regional coordination to identify common priorities for donors. However, challenges remain, such as conflicting priorities between countries and support providers, aligning support with national priorities and circumstances, and simplifying the modalities for accessing support. Enhanced clarity of these modalities and better alignment with national priorities were seen as essential steps forward.

COORDINATION FROM COUNTRIES' SIDE

Participants acknowledged that coordination of support in their countries was reasonably good, with some challenges. Participants expressed challenges in fund allocation, complicated procedures, and legal issues. To address these issues, participants suggested establishing centralized coordination mechanisms, synergizing priorities among support providers, timely auditing, and well-defined plans. Enhanced communication among national stakeholders and support providers, promoting alignment of synergies and priorities, and increased clarity and continuous simplification of modalities and procedures for accessing support were seen as crucial for improving coordination.

In conclusion, support for transparency has been particularly successful in enhancing capacity building, and establishing systems, institutional arrangements, and platforms. Countries recognize the importance of **experience sharing** and **peer-to-peer learning**. Despite progress, some technical gaps still need to be addressed, notably in data

GLOBAL TRANSPARENCY FORUM

TOKYO, 20-21 MAY 2024
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management, availability, and quality, as well as the limited deadline for BTR submission and language barriers.



Reflections and Looking Ahead

Plenary 9 served as the concluding session of the Global Transparency Forum, summarizing the main discussions and outcomes from the two-day event, which covered access to support, country readiness, and technical support. The session began with a presentation by Fatima-Zahra Taibi (CBIT-GSP), who provided an overview of the key takeaways from the plenaries and breakout sessions. This was followed by a panel discussion featuring representatives from UNFCCC, GEF Secretariat, UNEP, UNDP, and various countries.

In the panel discussion, organizers and partners emphasized the common goal of all participating countries to submit their first BTR by the end of 2024. Flexibility in the submission process in particular for LDC and SIDS was acknowledged as crucial for accommodating different national contexts. The importance of investing in national transparency systems for long-term planning was highlighted, with in-country support proving to be more effective. Panelists stressed the necessity of having a strong, well-capacitated national team and excellent institutional arrangements to ensure the continuity and quality of BTR reporting.

Country representatives, including South Africa (**Ms. Sandra Motshwanedi**), Australia (**Ms. Laura Allison**), India (**Mr. Ajay Raghava**), Paraguay (**Ms. Stephanie Petta Noldin**), and Papua New Guinea (**Mr. Jason Paniu**), shared their experiences and challenges. They underscored the critical role of CBIT projects in overcoming challenges related to compiling information for the first BTR. The discussions also highlighted the importance of continuous improvement in transparency actions, learning from each BTR submission, and building on existing capacities.

Representatives from implementing agencies discussed the significant impact of the first BTR on building confidence among countries to improve their reporting over time. They emphasized that systems and tools must be practical and usable to be effective. The Global Transparency Forum successfully gathered practitioners and experts who shared best practices and tools that can be adopted by other countries. Key actions identified included completing the first BTR via enhancing cooperation and partnership, coordinating team efforts in compiling BTR chapters, continuing collaboration and fundraising efforts, and encouraging their timely submissions with the support of the COP29 Presidency.

Discussions highlighted the need for complementarity and coordination between support agencies and countries to maximize support and reduce duplication of efforts. The commitment of countries to the transparency process was clear, with finance available for capacity building. The flexibility embedded in the ETF reporting requirements allows countries to adapt their first BTR to their specific contexts. The increasing reliance on domestic resources and capacities, as opposed to international expertise, was noted as a positive trend.



The plenary session ended with a strong call to action, emphasizing that transparency efforts should not only focus on reporting but also drive climate action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The interconnectedness of NDC and BTR was underscored, along with the urgent need to aim for the 1.5°C limit. The role of people at the center of transparency efforts and the impact on humanity were highlighted as key considerations moving forward.

The 2-day Forum concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Yoshihiro Mizutani, Director for International Cooperation for Transition to Decarbonization and Sustainable Infrastructure, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, and Ms. Miriam Hinostroza, Head of Global Climate Action, UNEP, acknowledging the organisers and the host country's efforts in making the Forum possible and highlighting the significant progress made and the collective commitment to advancing climate transparency and action.



Celebrating Excellence: 10 Countries Recognized for Transparency Achievements

The Global Transparency Forum included a special recognition ceremony to honour countries that have demonstrated exceptional commitment and progress in implementing the ETF under the Paris Agreement. This ceremony aimed to highlight the successes of these countries, inspiring others to follow suit in their transparency efforts.

The recognition ceremony was designed to acknowledge the efforts of countries that have made significant strides in enhancing their climate transparency systems. The methodology for selecting the recognized countries involved evaluating their progress in preparing their BTR, establishing robust MRV systems, and demonstrating strong institutional arrangements and capacity-building initiatives.

The following countries were honoured for their outstanding achievements in climate transparency in three different categories:

Dedicated Learner

Uzbekistan, Bhutan, Togo, and Seychelles

Excellence in Knowledge Sharing

Georgia, Lebanon, Belize, Fiji, and Brazil

Platform Champion

Colombia

These countries were celebrated for their exemplary work in enhancing transparency, which plays a crucial role in building trust, fostering international cooperation, and driving ambitious climate actions globally. The recognition ceremony served as a testament to the collective efforts of these nations in advancing the goals of the Paris Agreement and setting a benchmark for others to emulate.



Conclusions

- **Enhanced transparency and global collaboration:** The Global Transparency Forum underscored the critical importance of transparency in climate action, emphasizing its role in building trust, enhancing accountability, and driving more ambitious climate commitments. The Forum facilitated global collaboration, bringing together over 180 participants from 120 countries and over 20 international organizations and support providers to share experiences and lessons learned.
- **Key enablers for effective transparency:** Success stories from various countries highlighted the significance of robust institutional arrangements, political will, technical capacity, and stakeholder engagement. Countries like Guyana, Panama, and South Africa demonstrated how these enablers support the development and implementation of comprehensive transparency systems.
- **Challenges and solutions:** Common challenges identified included lack of technical capacity, data management issues, and coordination among support providers. Proposed solutions focused on continuous capacity building, harmonizing national and international processes, and improving the coordination of support both within countries and among donors.
- **Support mechanisms:** The role of the CBIT and other support mechanisms like those provided by the GEF, UNEP, and UNDP was highlighted as crucial in enhancing national transparency efforts. The need for flexible and sustainable support to accommodate different national contexts, especially for LDC and Small Island SIDS, was emphasized.
- **Strategic planning for BTR and NDC:** The Forum stressed the importance of strategic planning for the timely submission of BTR and NDC. The integration of BTR with national development strategies was deemed essential for ensuring effective implementation and continuous improvement in transparency efforts.
- **Peer learning and knowledge sharing:** Participants recognized the value of peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of best practices through platforms like the Transparency Networks and the Climate Transparency Platform. These interactions are vital for addressing technical gaps and enhancing the overall effectiveness of transparency systems.
- **Political commitment and policy coherence:** High-level political buy-in and policy coherence were identified as critical for sustaining transparency efforts. The Forum highlighted the need for clear communication of the benefits of transparency and securing commitments from political leaders to support transparency initiatives.
- **Moving forward:** The Forum concluded with a call to action for continued collaboration and enhanced support to ensure the successful implementation of the ETF. The commitment to submit the first BTR by December 2024 was reaffirmed, with an emphasis on leveraging these reports to drive future climate actions and maintain momentum towards achieving the Paris Agreement goals.



- **Recognition of progress and efforts:** Closing remarks from the Japanese Ministry of the Environment and UNEP acknowledged the significant progress made during the Forum and the collective commitment of participating countries to advance climate transparency and action. The Forum's outcomes provide a strong foundation for continued international cooperation and the successful implementation of the ETF.