

# GLOBAL TRANSPARENCY FORUM

TOKYO, 20-21 MAY 2024  
#Together4Transparency

ORGANISERS:



HOST COUNTRY:



## SHORT VERSION - SUMMARY REPORT

# Global Transparency Forum

*Addressing Challenges and Seizing Opportunities in the ETF Implementation*

# GLOBAL TRANSPARENCY FORUM

TOKYO, 20-21 MAY 2024  
#Together4Transparency

ORGANISERS:



HOST COUNTRY:





## Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FORUM'S OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SETTING THE SCENE.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>REFLECTIONS ON COP OUTCOMES AND TRANSPARENCY .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SUCCESS STORIES ON ETF IMPLEMENTATION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>BUILDING CAPACITY FOR ETF DELIVERY .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>DEEP-DIVE DISCUSSIONS ON CBIT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ELEMENTS FOR COUNTRY READINESS FOR ETF IMPLEMENTATION .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>DEEP-DIVE DISCUSSIONS ON ELEMENTS FOR COUNTRY READINESS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY IN RAISING CLIMATE AMBITION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>THE ROAD TOWARDS THE FIRST BTR: KEY ENABLERS FOR EFFECTIVE TRANSPARENCY SYSTEMS AND SUCCESS STORIES FROM COUNTRIES.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>TECHNICAL SUPPORT OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>DEEP-DIVE DISCUSSIONS ON SUPPORT FOR TRANSPARENCY.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>REFLECTIONS AND LOOKING AHEAD .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: 10 COUNTRIES RECOGNIZED FOR TRANSPARENCY ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS .....</b>	<b>14</b>



## Introduction

The first Global Transparency Forum, held on 20-21 May 2024, in Tokyo, Japan, marked a pivotal moment in international climate cooperation. With countries preparing to submit their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) by 31 December 2024 and their next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 10 February 2025, the Forum provided a vital platform for global collaboration on transparency in climate action.

Over 180 government officials, experts, and international representatives discussed the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement. The Forum emphasized transparency's role in tracking and boosting climate action, aligning efforts to maintain the 1.5°C temperature limit. Key outcomes included stronger commitments to climate transparency, strategies for ETF implementation, and enhanced international cooperation. The event highlighted the importance of robust data and transparent reporting to build trust and drive ambitious global climate actions.

Organized by the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) and hosted by Japan's Ministry of the Environment, the Forum was held at the United Nations University in Tokyo, with special participation from COP28, COP29, and COP30 presidencies. The timing of the Forum was strategic, designed to build momentum and share knowledge ahead of the first BTR submissions and to drive climate ambition as nations prepare their updated NDCs.

## Forum's Objectives

1. Highlight the urgency of preparing the first BTR and the next round of NDC in line with the stipulated timelines.
2. 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. Take stock of the progress made in countries to build capacity for transparency with CBIT support and to prepare BTR.
4. Take stock of countries' readiness for the ETF.
5. Explore how to foster synergies and partnerships to support countries to address challenges.



## Setting the Scene

At the opening of the Forum Ms. Masako Ogawa, Deputy Director-General for Global Environment Bureau, Japan, reaffirmed Japan's commitment to transparency and announced their first BTR submission before COP29. Ms. Chizuru Aoki, Lead Environmental Specialist at the GEF Secretariat, highlighted transparency as essential for trust and accountability, noting GEF's support for 96 projects and 147 BTRs worldwide.

Ms. Miriam Hinostroza, Head of Global Climate Action at UNEP, stressed the importance of robust data for transparency and climate risk management. Ms. Hideko Hadzialic, Director of UNDP in Japan, discussed the role of multilateral transparency systems and regional workshops at COP28, focusing on achieving the 1.5-degree goal and aligning with SDGs. Lastly, Ms. Fatima-Zahra Taibi, Global Coordinator of CBIT-GSP at UNEP-CCC, emphasized the critical link between BTR and NDC for maintaining transparency, highlighting their significance in global climate efforts.



## Reflections on COP Outcomes and Transparency

The first plenary session, led by Mr. Jigme from the UNFCCC, reviewed COP28 outcomes, emphasizing their significance for climate transparency ahead of COP29 and COP30. Key points included:

- **Global Stocktake and Adaptation Goal:** The session highlighted the need for transparent reporting to evaluate progress on the Global Stocktake and Global Goal on Adaptation.
- **Article 6 negotiations:** The outcomes of Article 6 negotiations were discussed, focusing on how market and non-market approaches enhance climate action transparency.
- **ETF reporting tool:** Mr. Jigme announced the near completion of the ETF reporting tool, set to launch in June 2024, to aid transparent and consistent reporting by countries.
- **Peer review processes:** The importance of peer review in promoting transparency, sharing knowledge, and best practices among nations was emphasized.

**Andorra** and **Guyana** were highlighted as exemplary in their transparency efforts, having already submitted their BTRs, offering valuable lessons to other nations. The session reinforced that transparent reporting is essential for building trust, encouraging ambition, and ensuring global accountability in climate action.

## Success Stories on ETF Implementation

The second plenary session featured representatives from seven countries who shared their progress on Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) implementation.

Key outcomes and priorities included:

- **Fiji:** Finalizing its CBIT project and establishing a national database for GHG inventory, with challenges in stakeholder engagement and capacity building.
- **Guyana:** Submitted its first BTR, focusing on strong data in energy and LULUCF sectors and developing a Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT LEDS).
- **Panama:** Established five sub-systems under the ETF for managing GHG inventory and NDC tracking, focusing on international compliance and decision-making.
- **Moldova:** On track for its first BTR submission despite data collection challenges, with strong institutional support from CBIT-GSP and UNFCCC.
- **South Africa:** Nearing completion of its first CBIT project, enhancing data collection across provinces with peer-to-peer exchanges.
- **Mozambique:** Submitted two National Communications and its first BUR, developing a reporting system with ICAT support.



- **Malaysia:** Established a National GHG Centre and is building a national registry for NDC tracking and Article 6 approaches.

During discussions, priorities for ETF implementation were highlighted, including capacity building, data management, and stakeholder engagement. An interactive platform revealed common challenges across countries, underscoring the need for strong institutional arrangements and continuous capacity building for effective transparency and accountability in climate action.

## Building Capacity for ETF Delivery

Plenary 3 focused on building capacity for the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) through CBIT projects. It provided an overview of global access to GEF support and highlighted progress and gaps in ETF implementation.

### Presentations on ETF support:

- **GEF** discussed GEF's support in reporting, capacity building, and global programs, with 147 BTRs supported in 104 countries since 2020.
- **CBIT-GSP** introduced the Climate Transparency Platform and discussed key support modalities, including networks, training, and upcoming knowledge products.

### Perspectives from implementing agencies:

- **UNEP** emphasized the need for broader institutional arrangements beyond single ministries, supporting countries with peer learning and NDC reporting.
- **UNDP** focused on aligning transparency activities with national priorities and enhancing institutional arrangements for sustained transparency efforts.
- **FAO** highlighted the significance of LULUCF, supporting national CBIT and BTR/NC projects, with a focus on monitoring project impacts.

### Country perspectives:

- **Mongolia:** Prioritized updating regulatory structures and enhancing data management.
- **Colombia:** Focused on MRV mechanisms and reporting gender-specific GHG emissions.
- **Jamaica:** Aimed to build a robust MRV system and enhance stakeholder buy-in despite COVID-19 delays.
- **Sierra Leone:** Faced delays but emphasized peer-to-peer capacity building and private sector engagement.



- **Morocco:** Expanded transparency efforts beyond GHG inventory, improving MRV/Transparency platforms with CBIT support.

The session highlighted the importance of strong institutional arrangements, data improvement, and national ownership for transparency efforts. The transition from project-based to programmatic approaches was essential for sustained climate action.

## Deep-Dive Discussions on CBIT

The breakout session after Plenary 3 focused on deep-dive discussions about Phase 1 and Phase 2 of CBIT projects, addressing transparency support priorities, project design, and lessons learned.

**Priorities for transparency support:** Participants emphasized the need for capacity building, institutional arrangements, MRV systems, and addressing data gaps. They discussed best practices, sustainability, scalability, and stakeholder engagement, highlighting challenges like COVID-19's impact and lack of coordination. The session suggested transitioning CBIT from projects to programs and integrating transparency into national reporting.

**Designing CBIT Phase 2 projects:** Discussions stressed the importance of covering all ETF aspects and ensuring clear implementation arrangements in Phase 2. Extending capacity building to line ministries and fostering synergy and collaboration were key points. Learning from Phase 1 was deemed crucial for effective Phase 2 project design.

**Lessons learned and incorporating improvements:** Key lessons included prioritizing and allocating resources efficiently to enhance institutional arrangements and capacities. Participants identified improved capacities, national legislation, and more training opportunities as critical. They emphasized the need for coordinated support to avoid duplication and optimize resources.

**Enhancing technical and institutional capacities:** The session highlighted the importance of engaging sector experts and enhancing technical and institutional capacities. The use of NDC tracking tools and QA/QC processes was discussed, along with the need for relevant indicators and strengthened partnerships. Knowledge exchange and cooperation were considered essential for ongoing progress.

## Elements for Country Readiness for ETF Implementation

Plenary 4 was interactive and gathered 98 responses exploring the elements necessary for country readiness in implementing the ETF.





**Domestic benefits of a national transparency system:** Participants identified several key benefits, including improved data collection and mitigation planning, enhanced communication on support needs, and better policy prioritization. A national transparency system was seen as crucial for informing and reviewing domestic policies, raising awareness about NDCs, and ensuring sustainable information for policy improvement. It also strengthens reporting requirements, tracks policy impacts, and builds confidence in reported data. Participants emphasized the importance of synergies among ministries, robust data validation, and compliance with UNFCCC reporting to enhance coordination and data quality.

**Key elements of a national transparency system:** Responses highlighted the importance of enhanced MRV frameworks, robust and reliable data, and consistent reporting. Clear institutional arrangements for data flow and reporting, fully funded resources, and stakeholder collaboration were seen as essential. Participants stressed the need for a functional MRV system supported by a robust database and legislative backing. Other critical elements included NDC tracking, ensuring smooth data flows, and institutionalizing reporting mechanisms. The session emphasized simplifying data operations and fostering cooperation to improve the effectiveness of national transparency systems.

## Deep-Dive Discussions on Elements for Country Readiness

During Breakout Session B, participants dived deeper into key elements necessary for country readiness:

**Institutional arrangements:** Participants stressed the importance of creating legal frameworks, involving data agencies early, and using user-friendly reporting tools. Barriers included lack of political commitment, weak mandates, and insufficient resources. Good practices involved building trust through informal arrangements, legalizing mandates, and dedicating full-time staff to transparency tasks. The session emphasized the need to involve stakeholders and learn from existing CBIT projects to improve transparency efforts.

**Policy coherence and political buy-in:** Participants assessed the need for strong political support for transparency. Enablers included clear communication, involvement of high-level officials, and integrating transparency into national policies. Barriers were a limited understanding of transparency benefits and competing political priorities. Strategies to enhance political buy-in included raising awareness of transparency's importance, securing commitments from political leaders, and aligning transparency efforts with national development goals.

**Technical capacities:** Essential technical capacities identified included skills in data collection, analysis, modeling, and quality control. Participants shared examples of tools



developed with CBIT funding, like online climate information platforms and MRV systems. Barriers included high staff turnover and lack of sustainable funding. Strategies to strengthen technical capacities included continuous training, partnerships with research institutions, and securing long-term funding.

## The Importance of Transparency in Raising Climate Ambition

The High-Level Dialogue emphasized the critical role of transparency in enhancing climate ambition. Mr. Yutaka Matsuzawa from Japan highlighted the country's commitment to submitting its first BTR, linking enhanced transparency to increased climate finance. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema of UNEP stressed the importance of aligning NDC 3.0 with the 1.5°C limit and building trust through transparency. Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, representing COP29 Azerbaijan, focused on the event's emphasis on ambition and enabling action through finance. Ms. Cassie Flynn from UNDP underscored the role of BTR in driving ambitious climate actions and making NDCs more investable. Ms. Chizuru Aoki from GEF discussed the alignment of CBIT support with enhanced ambition and integrity in climate reporting. Finally, Mr. Jigme from UNFCCC highlighted the feedback loop of planning, implementation, reporting, and the Global Stocktake (GST) as key drivers of national ambition.

The panel discussion highlighted key points from the COP Troika, with representatives from COP29, COP28, and COP30 Presidencies emphasizing the importance of transparency in assessing progress, integrating NDCs with national strategies, and maintaining momentum. Countries and support providers also shared insights: Trinidad and Tobago underscored the need for MRV systems and socio-economic modeling for future NDCs; China discussed challenges in BTR preparation and the role of CBIT support; Chile emphasized transparency's role in trust-building and decision-making; Nepal highlighted the necessity of sufficient support and institutional setup for BTR preparation; and UNEP and ICAT focused on the value of South-South collaboration, innovation, and strengthening NDCs.

The High-Level Dialogue underscored the necessity of high-level political buy-in, transparency as fundamental to multilateral climate action, and the importance of creating synergies between BTR and NDC processes. Integrating NDCs with national development strategies was deemed essential for effective implementation. The session called for coordinated efforts to enhance transparency frameworks and raise global climate ambition.



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

Plenary 6, moderated by **Georgia**, focused on identifying key enablers for effective transparency systems and sharing success stories from various countries.

- **Montenegro:** Emphasized the importance of data management for bi-annual transparency reporting, building a strong foundation through national climate and sustainable development policies.
- **Saint Lucia:** Highlighted barriers like the need for political will and a supportive legislative framework. The 2024 Climate Change Bill and improved MRV system were crucial for their progress.
- **Solomon Islands:** Shared their approach as an LDC and SIDS, including creating incentives for data acquisition and integrating a web-based MRV tool for comprehensive tracking.
- **Mauritania:** Stressed the involvement of national experts and sector focal points, ensuring continuity and inclusiveness in transparency reporting.
- **Colombia:** Success attributed to technical teams and resource optimization, with future steps focused on MRV system implementation and capacity building.
- **Namibia:** Focused on enhancing institutional capacities and integrating climate action into national planning, fostering stakeholder collaboration.
- **Indonesia:** Aims to establish formal arrangements for GHG emissions reporting, resource mobilization, and climate adaptation, with plans to develop a national registry system for carbon trading.

The session emphasized the importance of political commitment, legal frameworks, capacity building, and collaboration for effective transparency systems. The plenary concluded by highlighting the critical role of robust institutional arrangements, sharing success stories to inspire global efforts in enhancing climate transparency and ambition.

## Technical Support Overview

Mr. Jigme from UNFCCC outlined the current landscape of technical support for transparency efforts. He highlighted the opportunities for improvement despite challenges and the impact of bilateral interventions. Key points included the importance of raising awareness about ETF benefits, ensuring support reaches all countries, and operationalizing assistance for LDCs. Lessons learned involved navigating GEF modalities, project development, and sustainable capacity building.



Mr. Rob Sturgiss from IPCC TFI TSU discussed tools for GHG inventory development, emphasizing the role of transparency and the support provided by IPCC software. He highlighted examples from Australia and Thailand, noting that the software enhances credibility, streamlines processes, and archives results. Resources include IPCC guidelines and a user handbook, with further support through a help desk and workshops planned for 2024.

The session underscored the importance of utilizing available resources, sharing information, and the complementarity of tools like the Climate Transparency Platform to enhance global transparency efforts.

## Deep-Dive Discussions on Support for Transparency

Participants discussed successful support examples for transparency, highlighting the role of GEF in enabling activities like National Communications, BURs, and National Inventory Reports, as well as CBIT projects for capacity building and establishing transparency systems. They emphasized the value of sharing experiences through Transparency Networks and the Climate Transparency Platform. However, common technical gaps were noted, such as limited technical capacity for ETF tools, data management issues, and incomplete UNFCCC ETF Reporting Tools. Concerns were raised about the tight BTR submission deadline (December 2024) and language barriers, especially the lack of tools in French and Arabic.

**Coordination from support providers' side:** Effective coordination examples included committees for mainstreaming transparency and regional coordination to align donor priorities. Challenges included conflicting priorities, aligning support with national needs, and complicated access modalities. Participants stressed the need for clearer and better-aligned support mechanisms with national priorities.

**Coordination from countries' side:** While coordination of support within countries was generally good, challenges like fund allocation and legal issues were noted. Participants suggested centralized coordination mechanisms, better synergy among support providers, and clearer, simplified procedures for accessing support.

In conclusion, support for transparency has advanced capacity building and system establishment, with a strong emphasis on experience sharing. However, technical gaps in data management, tight deadlines, and language barriers remain challenges that need addressing.



## Reflections and Looking Ahead

Plenary 9 concluded the Global Transparency Forum by summarizing key discussions on support access, country readiness, and technical support. Fatima-Zahra Taibi (CBIT-GSP) highlighted the main takeaways, followed by a panel discussion with representatives from UNFCCC, GEF, UNEP, UNDP, and various countries.

The panel emphasized the shared goal of submitting the first BTR by the end of 2024, with flexibility for LDCs and SIDS. Investing in national transparency systems for long-term planning was underscored, along with the importance of strong national teams and institutional arrangements for quality BTR reporting. Country representatives, including those from South Africa, Australia, India, Paraguay, and Papua New Guinea, discussed the role of CBIT projects in overcoming challenges and the importance of continuous improvement and capacity building.

Implementing agencies highlighted the first BTR's role in building confidence and stressed the need for practical tools. The Forum successfully facilitated the sharing of best practices and identified key actions, including enhancing cooperation, coordinating team efforts, and ensuring timely BTR submissions. The session called for complementarity between support agencies and countries and noted the positive trend of increasing reliance on domestic resources.

The plenary concluded with a strong call to action, emphasizing that transparency should drive climate action to meet Paris Agreement goals, with a focus on the 1.5°C target and the central role of people in these efforts. The Forum closed with remarks from Ms. Yoshihiro Mizutani (Japan) and Ms. Miriam Hinostroza (UNEP), acknowledging the progress made and the collective commitment to advancing climate transparency.

## Celebrating Excellence: 10 Countries Recognized for Transparency Achievements

The Global Transparency Forum honored 10 countries for their exceptional progress in implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement. Countries were recognized in three categories:

- **Dedicated Learner:** Uzbekistan, Bhutan, Togo, Seychelles
- **Excellence in Knowledge Sharing:** Georgia, Lebanon, Belize, Fiji, Brazil
- **Platform Champion:** Colombia

These countries were celebrated for their outstanding efforts in climate transparency, setting a benchmark for others and contributing to global climate action.



## 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.