

Peer learning Workshop: Best Practices in Establishing Transparency (MRV) Systems

-- In-person Workshop--

Date: April 9-11, 2025 | **Venue:** [Badamdar Hotel & Residences](#), Baku, Azerbaijan

Background

The transition to robust, transparent climate action hinges on effective Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems. As part of international climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, countries are required to provide accurate and transparent reports on their greenhouse gas emissions, climate actions, and progress towards meeting their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Establishing reliable MRV systems is crucial for monitoring these efforts, ensuring accountability, and informing future climate policy decisions.

However, the development and implementation of MRV systems, particularly online platforms, present several challenges, including technical complexities, data management, coordination between multiple stakeholders, and the need for adequate financial and human resources. Many countries are at different stages of building these systems, with varying levels of capacity and resources. While some have successfully developed comprehensive MRV systems, others are still grappling with the design, structure, and integration of these systems into national frameworks.

Given the importance of transparency and the growing demand for real-time, accessible data, there is a significant opportunity for countries to learn from each other's experiences. By exchanging knowledge and best practices, countries can avoid common pitfalls, accelerate system development, and align with international standards. This workshop serves as a collaborative space where countries can share insights, discuss challenges, and identify innovative solutions to ensure that online MRV and transparency systems are effective, sustainable, and adaptable to future needs. Through this exchange, participants will be better equipped to implement systems that not only comply with global commitments but also contribute to enhanced climate action at the national level.

To date, several countries in Eurasia, South and Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Caucasus have made progress in developing these online MRV systems, aligning them with domestic climate monitoring processes to ensure data transparency, track progress toward NDCs, and enhance institutional arrangements for transparency and climate reporting more broadly.

To assist developing countries in meeting ETF requirements, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) offers support through initiatives like the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) and national projects such as Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs). At the global level, the CBIT Global Support

Programme (CBIT-GSP), implemented by UNEP-CCC, helps countries build the institutional and technical capacities needed for transparent climate reporting.

At the national level, Azerbaijan implements the projects such as "Azerbaijan: Enabling Activities for the Preparation of the Third Biennial Update Report (BUR3) and First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1)" and "Capacity Building for Azerbaijan to Meet the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework". Both initiatives are supported by GEF, implemented by UNEP, and executed by the Azerbaijan Branch of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (RECC). The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) is leading these efforts and is the main beneficiary of the CBIT project results.

Objective

The primary objective of this workshop is to facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in establishing transparency (MRV) systems, enabling countries to enhance their capacity for accurate climate reporting and accountability.

Other objectives:

- To create a platform for sharing real-world examples, experiences, challenges, and solutions in establishing and maintaining online transparency (MRV) systems and digital spaces for climate reporting.
- To explore key methodologies, technologies, and institutional arrangements that contribute to the successful deployment and operation of MRV systems.
- To draw on lessons learned and outcomes from the current CBIT-1 projects to inform the design and development of future CBIT-2 projects.
- To promote peer learning and strengthen collaboration between countries and experts, fostering the development of transparent and accountable climate reporting systems.

Target Audience and Language

This workshop is targeted towards the participants from **selected countries in Eurasia, South and Latin America, Africa, Central Asia and the Caucasus**, which are already having the established and fully operational transparency systems. Some selected participants from Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eurasia which are at the developing or planning stage of their transparency (MRV) systems, will also be invited, to facilitate mentoring and learning.

The event will be held in **English**.

Proposed Agenda

Day 1	April 9 th , 2025
Time	Session
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival and registration of the participants
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Session and Welcoming Moderator: Yashar Karimov, RECC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On behalf of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources - Alejandro Regatero Labadia, on behalf of UNEP-CCC
09:30 – 10:00	Ice-Breaker: Getting acquainted with each other and terminology of the workshop <i>Participants will be encouraged to introduce themselves interactively, guided by the following questions:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your name, country, and position? <i>Some basic definition questions:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. What are transparency themes? 3. What is a transparency system in the context of the Paris Agreement? 4. What is a transparency platform/portal? 5. What makes strong “institutional arrangements”? 6. What are “sectors” and how are they defined? <i>Workshop expectations:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. What are your expectations from the workshop? Moderator: Alejandro Regatero Labadia, UNEP-CCC
10:00 – 11:00	Session 1: Progress in Enhanced Transparency Frameworks (ETF) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) <i>This session will provide an overview of the progress made by participating countries in transitioning to the ETF and submitting their BTRs. The moderator will begin with a quiz to gather participants' insights on their ETF progress, with a particular focus on the mandatory parts of BTRs. This will be followed by in-depth presentations from selected countries, offering a deeper exploration of their experiences and achievements.</i> Moderator: Nailia Timerkhanova, CBIT-GSP Proposed speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Aslan Shikhaliyev, Azerbaijan (TBC) - Mr. Theodore Marguerite, Seychelles - Q&A
11:00 – 11:30	Group photo and Coffee-break

<p>11:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>Session 2: Exchange of Experience in Establishing the Institutional Arrangements and the Role of Transparency (MRV) Systems in Their Establishment</p> <p><i>This session will facilitate an exchange of experiences among countries at different stages of developing institutional arrangements for transparency (MRV) systems. Countries will share insights on governance structures, coordination mechanisms, and best practices. Through peer learning and collaboration, the session aims to support the design of effective and sustainable transparency systems that align with national priorities and international reporting requirements.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Kirsten May, Aether UK</p> <p>Proposed speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Simangele Mahlinza, Eswatini - Mr. Hakan Aydogan, Turkiye - Q&A
<p>12:00 – 13:00</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>13:00 – 13:10</p>	<p>Energizer</p> <p>Moderator: Kirsten May, Aether UK</p>
<p>13:10 – 15:00</p>	<p>Session 2: Exchange of Experience in Establishing the Institutional Arrangements and the Role of Transparency (MRV) Systems in Their Establishment - cont.</p> <p>Moderator: Justin Goodwin, Aether UK</p> <p>Proposed speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Thuso Tserane, South Africa - Ms. Elene Panchvidze, Georgia - Discussion <p><u>Guiding questions for presenters and discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How have participating countries managed to secure the resources needed to gather data and produce outputs/reports for the transparency system? Short term (e.g. for BTR and NDC reports) and long term building capacity for sustainable future data gathering and resourcing. 2. How do you cover/manage the cross cutting resources needed for the transparency system output production and stakeholder engagement e.g. A. Team leadership and coordinator (resourcing, recruitment, engagement); B. Systems data flow management, QAQC and reporting; C. IT systems and data tools; D. Communications and PR for the transparency system. 3. How do your institutional arrangements manage resources needed to support the data gathering, compilation and QA&QC across the thematic (GHG inventory and projections, risks and vulnerability analysis, mitigation and adaptation action and support tracking) and sectoral e.g. A. Agriculture - Livestock and Crops (including fisheries and Forestry); B. Water; C. Health; D. Industrial production, product use and manufacturing; E. Waste and circular

	<p>economy; F. Energy production and consumption; G. Transport systems; H. ANY OTHER roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>4. How have participating countries approached the development of institutional arrangements for transparency (MRV) systems, and what lessons can be learned from their experiences?</p> <p>5. What role do transparency (MRV) systems play in shaping effective institutional arrangements, and how can they be aligned with national priorities and international reporting requirements?</p>
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee-break
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Break-out Session 3: Challenges and Opportunities Towards Establishing Transparency (MRV) Systems</p> <p><i>In this breakout session, participants will identify and discuss key challenges and opportunities in establishing Transparency (MRV) systems for the countries, which are still in process of developing such systems. Through a structured SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats), groups will assess the selected countries' national context, highlighting barriers to implementation and potential solutions.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Alejandro Regatero Labadia, UNEP-CCC and Justin Goodwin Aether, UK</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group 1 - Group 2
17:00 – 17:15	<p>Evaluation of Day 1 and Wrap-up</p> <p>Moderator: Nailia Timerkhanova, CBIT-GSP</p>
17:15 – 17:30	End of the Day 1

Day 2	April 10th, 2025
Time	Session
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival of the participants
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Energizer and key take-aways from Day 1</p> <p>Moderator: Nailia Timerkhanova, CBIT-GSP</p>
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Session 4: Methodologies and Technical Set-up of Transparency IT Systems</p> <p><i>This session will explore the methodologies and technical setup required for effective transparency (MRV) IT systems. Participants will discuss key approaches for data collection, management, and reporting, along with the tools and technologies that enhance system efficiency.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Kirsten May, Aether UK</p> <p>Proposed speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNDP Digital4Climate (a pre-recorded presentation)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Theodore Marguerite, Seychelles - Mr. Justin Goodwin, Aether UK - Ms. Simangele Mahlinza, Eswatini - Mr. Alejandro Regatero Labadia, UNEP-CCC - Q&A <p><u>Guiding questions for presenters and discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How was the functional scope established and what basic functional requirements were identified? 2. What data flows and data structures have been employed to design the IT systems? 3. What was the thematic scope (GHG inventory and projections, risks and vulnerability analysis, mitigation and adaptation action and support tracking) and is there flexibility to expand the data model to broader sustainability themes? 4. What IT platforms have been tested and considered and what have been the pros and cons experienced? 5. What IT skills are needed to build and maintain the system and what costs are envisioned?
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee-break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 5: Approaches to Populating Transparency (MRV) Systems <i>This session will focus on effective strategies for populating Transparency (MRV) systems with accurate, comprehensive, and timely data. Participants will explore approaches for structuring and managing data inputs, ensuring consistency across sectors, and integrating key reporting elements.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Justin Goodwin, Aether UK</p> <p>Proposed speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Elene Panchvidze, Georgia - Ms. Simangele Mahlinza, Eswatini - Q&A
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:10	Energizer: Nailia Timerkhanova, CBIT-GSP
13:10 – 15:00	<p>Session 5: Approaches to Populating Transparency (MRV) Systems – Continue</p> <p>Moderator: Kirsten May, Aether UK</p> <p>Proposed speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Thuso Tserane, South Africa - TBC, Azerbaijan - Discussion <p><u>Guiding questions for Discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do participants envision the data flows from data provider to IT system and outputs for reports being generated? Consider what data already exists

	<p><i>in the report (e.g. BTR, NAP, NDC, Adaptation Communication) Was there a bulk upload starting point?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. How is unstructured or multi differently structured data consolidated and joined together into the system? 3. Who is expected to contribute/manage the data? 4. How can sectoral stakeholders be encouraged to take ownership and engage and be motivated to stay involved in keeping the transparency system up-to-date? 5. How have participants tackled the difficulties of engaging a wide range of contributors with different skills, knowledge, authorities and time availability? 6. How can we train contributors in both the content and tools they need to support transparency systems?
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee-break
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Break-out Session 6: Developing Transparency Systems Roadmaps</p> <p><i>This session will create a platform for countries with operational transparency systems to engage with those still in the process of developing such systems within their national initiatives. The primary objective is to collaboratively design a system <u>roadmap</u> for these developing countries, with guidance and support from experienced, championing peers. The countries will present their system roadmaps by the end of the session.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Alejandro Regatero Labadia, UNEP-CCC and Justin Goodwin, Aether UK</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group 1 - Group 2
17:00 – 17:15	<p>Evaluation of Day 2 and Wrap-up</p> <p>Moderator: Nailia Timerkhanova, CBIT-GSP</p>
17:15 – 17:30	End of the Day 2

Day 3	April 11th, 2025
Time	Session
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival of the participants
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Energizer and key take-aways from Day 2</p> <p>Moderator: Nailia Timerkhanova, CBIT-GSP</p>
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Panel Session 7: Navigating from National CBIT-1 Lessons Learned to National CBIT-2</p> <p><i>This Session will focus on the lessons learned from the CBIT-1 projects, which have played a pivotal role in strengthening transparency and establishing transparency (MRV) systems in participating countries. Participants will have the opportunity to</i></p>

	<p><i>learn from real-world experiences, identify best practices, and explore how these lessons can inform future initiatives to enhance the effectiveness of Transparency (MRV) systems.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Justin Goodwin, Aether UK</p> <p><u>Proposed panel speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBC, Azerbaijan - Mr. Mario Jiménez, Uruguay (TBC) - Ms. Elene Panchvidze, Georgia - Discussion <p><u>Guiding questions for Discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>How can national capacity-building efforts be strengthened to support the effective use of transparency systems and tools?</i> 2. <i>What communication and marketing strategies can help promote transparency systems and encourage their sustainability?</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee-break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 8: Fostering Transparency: Support, Best Practices, and Capacity Development</p> <p><i>This session will explore what support mechanisms are available to participating countries, highlight the recognition of best practices in global and regional forums, and analyze how capacity needs assessments can inform effective policy development for enhanced national transparency frameworks.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Kirsten May, Aether UK</p> <p><u>Proposed speakers and panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keynote Speaker: Alejandro Regatero Labadia, UNEP-CCC - Mr. Hakan Aydogan, Turkiye - Mr. Thuso Tserane, South Africa - Mr. Theodore Marguerite, Seychelles <p><u>Guiding questions for panelists:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>How can countries access and make the best use of available support mechanisms to strengthen their national transparency systems?</i> 2. <i>In what ways can capacity needs assessments help shape effective policies and encourage the recognition of best practices in global and regional forums?</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:30	<p>Session 9: Key Learnings and Workshop Evaluation</p> <p><i>This session will focus on reflecting on the main insights gained throughout the workshop and evaluating its effectiveness. Participants will discuss key takeaways, share how the knowledge gained can be applied in their own contexts, and provide feedback on the workshop's structure and content. The evaluation will help identify areas for improvement and ensure that the session outcomes contribute to advancing transparency and reporting systems.</i></p>

	Moderators: Kirsten May, Aether UK and Nailia Timerkhanova, CBIT-GSP
13:30 – 14:00	Closure of the Workshop and Final Remarks Moderator: Yashar Karimov, RECC <ul style="list-style-type: none">- On behalf of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (Yashar Karimov)- On behalf of UNEP-CCC (Alejandro Regatero Labadia)
