

From Preparation to Review: Understanding and Learning the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) Cycle

-- Technical Webinars --

First Webinar: Preparation to Submission of the first BTR - Lesson learnt and Sharing of Experience

Time: 09:30 - 11:00 Bangkok Time | Date: April 15, 2025 | Format: Online

Second Webinar: Technical Expert Review Readiness in Asia: Essential Preparation and Regional Insights

Time: 09:30 - 11:00 Bangkok Time | Date: April 22, 2025 | Format: Online

Organized by the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP)

Background

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) established under the Paris Agreement represents a cornerstone for building mutual trust and confidence and promoting effective implementation of climate action. A key component of the ETF is the requirement for all Parties to submit Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), marking a significant evolution from previous reporting mechanisms and a crucial step towards greater accountability in global climate efforts. The deadline for the first BTR submission is fast approaching (by 31 December 2024), making this a critical period for countries.

As countries, particularly those in the Asia and Pacific regions, transition to this new framework and prepare their first BTRs, they encounter diverse experiences, challenges, and opportunities. This includes aligning national systems with detailed Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPGs), addressing potential data gaps, enhancing technical capacity for complex reporting areas (like GHG inventories, tracking NDC progress, and reporting support needed and received), ensuring robust institutional arrangements, and navigating the use of new reporting tools. The diverse economic, environmental, and institutional landscape across these regions add layers of complexity.

Sharing the initial lessons learned from countries that have successfully navigated the BTR submission process, alongside understanding the intricacies of the subsequent technical expert review, is invaluable. This knowledge exchange is crucial for mutual learning, capacity building, and enhancing the quality and efficiency of future reporting cycles across the region. This webinar aims

to facilitate this vital exchange, focusing specifically on the practical experiences of preparing and submitting the first BTRs and demystifying the technical expert review process.

Objective

This webinar series aims to facilitate knowledge exchange across the Asia and Pacific regions by showcasing firsthand experiences from countries that have successfully submitted their first Biennial Transparency Reports. Participants will gain valuable insights into common technical and methodological challenges encountered during BTR preparation, while learning about effective strategies and innovative solutions that have proven successful. The sessions will demystify the UNFCCC technical expert review process, providing clarity on timelines, procedures, and reviewer expectations. By identifying specific capacity-building needs and creating opportunities for regional networking, the webinar seeks to strengthen collaborative approaches to Enhanced Transparency Framework implementation, ultimately supporting countries at various stages of their BTR preparation journey.

Specific Objectives:

- To share firsthand experiences, insights, challenges, and successes encountered by countries in the Asia region during the preparation and submission of their first BTRs.
- To provide a platform for countries across the Asia and Pacific regions to learn from these early BTR submission experiences.
- To identify common technical and methodological challenges faced during BTR preparation (e.g., data acquisition, specific reporting tables, use of reporting tools).
- To highlight successful strategies, best practices, and innovative solutions employed by submitting countries.
- To offer clear insights into the UNFCCC technical expert review process for BTRs, including timelines, procedures, expectations, and common areas of focus.
- To understand specific capacity-building needs related to BTR submission and the subsequent review process.
- To foster regional collaboration, networking, and peer learning on ETF implementation, specifically concerning BTRs.

Webinar Structure

The webinar will be divided into two main segments:

Segment 1: Experiences and Insights from BTR Submitting Countries (Asia-Pacific Region)

- Presentations from selected Asian countries detailing their BTR preparation journey.
- Interactive Q&A session for participants from Asia and the Pacific to engage with the presenting countries.

Guiding Questions for Presenting Countries:

- What were the most significant institutional/coordination challenges encountered in preparing the BTR, and how were they addressed?
- Which specific chapters or reporting areas (e.g., GHG inventory, tracking progress towards NDC, climate change impacts and adaptation, support needed and received) posed the greatest technical difficulties?
- What data collection, management systems, or tools proved most effective or challenging?
- How did your country approach the integration of new reporting requirements under the ETF compared to previous reporting (e.g., BURs/NCs)?
- What strategies were used to ensure the quality and consistency of the reported information?
- How did you prepare for the submission process itself (e.g., familiarization with and use of the BTR reporting tools)?
- What is one key piece of advice you would give to countries currently preparing their first BTR?

Segment 2: Understanding the BTR Technical Expert Review Process

This session will delve into the crucial phase following BTR submission – the Technical Expert Review. Experts (e.g., from the UNFCCC Secretariat, seasoned reviewers) will provide a comprehensive overview of the TER's mandate, objectives, and procedures as outlined in the MPGs. The presentation will clarify the review timeline, the composition and role of the Technical Expert Review Team (TERT), and the step-by-step process, from initial assessment to the final review report. Emphasis will be placed on the facilitative nature of the review, which aims to assess the BTR's consistency with ETF requirements, identify areas of improvement, and highlight capacity-building needs, rather than being solely an audit. Key aspects like the review of the GHG inventory, information necessary to track progress towards NDCs, support needed and received, and areas of flexibility will be discussed.

Building on the procedural overview, this part will focus on practical guidance for countries. It will cover how countries can effectively prepare for the review, including organizing national teams, preparing supporting documentation, and understanding the interaction modalities (e.g., during the review week, responding to questions). Insights into common findings, potential technical challenges identified during reviews, and areas frequently requiring clarification will be shared to help countries anticipate and address issues proactively.

A dedicated Q&A session for participants to seek clarification on any aspect of the TER process.

Duration and Registration

It is expected that the webinar will last 1.5 hours with sufficient timing dedicated to discussion and Q&A sessions. The exact time of the network meeting in your country can be seen below:

Countries	Time (24 hour)
Denmark	04:30 - 06:00
Iran	06:00 - 07:30
Afghanistan	07:00 - 08:30
Maldives, Pakistan	07:30 - 09:00
India, Sri Lanka	08:00 - 09:30
Nepal	08:15 - 09:45
Bangladesh, Bhutan	08:30 - 10:00
Myanmar	09:00 - 10:30
Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam	09:30 - 11:00
Brunei Darussalam, China, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore	10:30 - 12:00
Palau	11:30 - 13:00
Papua New Guinea	12:30 - 14:00
Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia	13:30 - 15:00
Fiji, Nauru, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tuvalu	14:30 - 16:00
Niue, Samoa, Tonga	15:30 - 17:00
Kiribati, Cook Islands	16:30 - 18:00

To participate in first webinar, please register using [this link](#).



Agenda - First Webinar – 15.04.2025

Bangkok Time	Session
09:30 - 09:40	Opening session and welcoming remarks Moderator: Mr. Jaypalsinh Chauhan, Asia Network Coordinator
09:40 - 09:50	Stocktaking on climate reporting in the Pacific Speaker: Mr. Noim Uddin, Pacific Network Coordinator
09:50 - 10:00	Group Photo, Discussion/Q&A Session, Mentimeter survey
10:00 - 10:45	Interventions from countries based on guiding questions Key Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maldives ▪ Cambodia ▪ Sri Lanka (TBC) ▪ Malaysia (TBC) ▪ Brunei Darussalam (TBC) ▪ Philippines (TBC) ▪ Vanuatu (TBC)

10:45 - 10:55	Open Discussions, Q&A and Interventions from countries Moderator: Mr. Jaypalsinh Chauhan, Asia Network Coordinator
10:55 - 11:00	Mentimeter Survey, Wrap-up and closing remarks

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Agenda - Second Webinar – 22.04.2025

Bangkok Time	Session
09:30 - 09:40	Opening session and introduction to the Webinar Moderator: Mr. Jaypalsinh Chauhan, Asia Network Coordinator
09:40 - 10:10	Overview of the Technical Expert Review (TER) Process Speaker: UNFCCC/ UNEP CCC (TBC)
10:10 - 10:15	Group Photo, Discussion/Q&A Session, Mentimeter survey
10:15 - 10:45	Insights into the Review Process from the International Reviewers and Countries Key Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead Reviewer from Developed Country ▪ Lead Reviewer from Developing Country ▪ Maldives ▪ Singapore
10:45 - 10:55	Open Discussions, Q&A and Interventions from countries Moderator: Mr. Jaypalsinh Chauhan, Asia Network Coordinator
10:55 - 11:00	Mentimeter Survey, Wrap-up and closing remarks
