



## Outcome Report

### Second Technical workshop on the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Berlin, Germany

April 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

#### Overview

The COP decision adopting the Paris Agreement established “a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020” that “will support developing country Parties, upon request, in meeting the enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Agreement in a timely manner.”

Upon request by the COP, in 2016 GEF established and operationalized the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (from now, CBIT), including through voluntary contributions to support developing countries during GEF-6 and future replenishment cycles.

In 2017, with generous support by GEF, UNDP and UN Environment launched the first global CBIT project called the “CBIT Global Coordination Platform” (from now on, the CBIT GCP) with the purpose of bringing together practitioners from countries and agencies in order to: (i) enhance coordination and best practice sharing through the establishment of a web-based coordination platform; (ii) identify needs and gaps in national transparency systems and (iii) share lessons learned through regional and global meetings.

In the framework of such initiative a first Technical Workshop on the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency was held at UN City in Copenhagen, Denmark, on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with the purpose of presenting the capacity building initiative for transparency (CBIT) to developing countries.

This **Second Technical Workshop on The Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency** was co-organized by UNDP, UN Environment, UNEP DTU Partnership and the Global Support Programme (GSP) for NCs and BURs, with the additional support of GEF, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU), the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement. The workshop was held on April 25<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Berlin Germany with the purpose of providing an opportunity to share experiences of ongoing and existing MRV/transparency initiatives and to discuss efficient use and coordination of the CBIT programme with the goal of advancing in the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework set by the Paris Agreement.

75 participants attended, including representatives from developing and developed countries, international organizations and other institutions engaged in the enhanced transparency framework. The list of participants and trainers is at **Annex A**.

The workshop consisted of ten substantive sessions covering: (i) Opening and workshop objectives (ii) The enhanced transparency/ Monitoring Reporting and Verification framework; (iii) Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency; (iv) National CBIT projects (experiences and challenges) (v) Enhancing coordination on CBIT; (vi) Market Place- Support options and tools for transparency; (vii) Report back from day 1; (viii) Examples of peer to peer collaborations on MRV and Transparency; (ix) Breakout sessions; and (x) Next steps and wrap up. The sessions were carried out through presentations by trainers and national experts, breakout discussions and Q&A segments. The format was designed to encourage a participant-driven process in an interactive and facilitative setting. The agenda and presentations from the workshop can be accessed online at the [CBIT platform](#) on the [UNDP/UN Environment Global Support Program for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports](#) (from now on, the GSP).

### Opening and workshop objectives

Ms. Milena Gonzalez from GEF, Mr. Damiano Borgogno from UNDP, Mrs. Miriam Hinostroza from UNEP DTU Partnership and Mrs. Nicole Wilke from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany delivered opening remarks. Their remarks laid on the high country participation in the workshop, which highlights how developing countries are highly committed to enhanced transparency and willing to work together in establishing solid measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems to assess the impact of climate change actions and policies and to track the implementation of the Agreement. They also highlighted the role of the CBIT in the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement, as a milestone to improve transparency of action and support.

The Technical Workshop aimed to strengthening national transparency capacities by:

- (i) Presenting key objectives of national CBIT projects already approved,
- (ii) Identifying common approaches to existing challenges and;
- (iii) Presenting the support available through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform as well as through other initiatives and to enhance coordination between the numerous actors.

### Session 2-The enhanced transparency/ Monitoring and Verification(MRV) framework

Mr. Jigme, UNFCCC Secretariat, explained the link of MRV with the enhanced transparency framework and mentioned the main components of the existing MRV arrangements for developing country Parties under the convention. He highlighted some of the success factors in the development of the National MRV system as the inclusion of policy and decision makers and the stakeholders' engagement in all the process.

Mr. Damiano Borgogno, UNDP, presented the National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) submission status and their relevance for the enhanced transparency framework. He mentioned that most of the countries are working on the development of the 3NC (48 have already submitted) and that 41 countries have submitted the first BUR and 15 countries the second BUR. He

highlighted that there is still much work to be done on this due to the relatively low number of submissions so far.

### **Session 3-Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency**

Ms. Milena Gonzalez from GEF highlighted that the Paris decision (paragraph 84) established a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020. This initiative will support developing country Parties, upon request, in meeting enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Agreement in a timely manner. Aims of the CBIT, as per paragraph 85, are i) to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities ii) to provide relevant tools, training and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement; and iii) to assist in the improvement of transparency over time.

She mentioned that 22 projects have been approved so far (20 at the national level and 2 global) for a total value of USD 28.5 million. 30 projects are under review for a total value of USD 49.1 million (USD 25.4 million above available GEF-6 resources). She noted that the highest priorities on the CBIT projects submitted were: 94% capacity building, knowledge sharing and training and 85% NDC transparency and policy design.

Several key points emerged during the discussion, including:

- The projects that are not accepted under this cycle may then be reviewed and eventually approved in GEF- 7. However, GEF-7 will most probably have new submission templates so the countries may need to work on amending accordingly the proposals.
- As more efficient coordination among organizations and countries it is expected, the CBIT global platform - <https://www.cbitplatform.org/> - and the active engagement of its members will be key for identifying synergies among the CBIT projects.
- CBIT is still a very new initiative and this workshop should be an opportunity for sharing lessons learnt and best practices.

### **Session 4-National CBIT projects (experiences and challenges)**

This session was focused on analysing key strategic components selected by countries as part of their CBIT proposal, as well as recommendations and results expected. It was realized through a series of five panel discussion on (a) Institutional Arrangements (Lebanon and Swaziland) (b) Tools to support National MRV systems (Mexico and Costa Rica) (c) NDC tracking (Serbia and Ghana) (d) Adaptation (Cuba and Liberia) and (e) Monitoring and reporting of support needed and received (Ethiopia and Georgia)

The participants agreed that CBIT will be instrumental for supporting countries on:

- Institutional Arrangements by developing a vision with goals and targets, building capacities and giving national ownership on MRV/ transparency, reviewing and updating climate strategies, establishing inter- ministerial coordination mechanism and launching MRV online platforms.
- Designing and implementing an MRV platform by creating a central entity to integrate and evaluate information and coordinate with parties involved, working on permanent capacity building, monitoring and accounting on public policies including NDC goals and enabling data-driven policymaking by supporting the legal framework and multilevel participation.

- NDC tracking by assessing the resources needed (inter alia, financial and institutional), identifying needs and gaps of relevant institutions, executing training programmes on NDC tracking and developing and implementing relevant guidelines.
- Monitoring and evaluating adaptation and impacts by establishing a coordination mechanism, identifying needs and gaps, creating an action plan and capacity- building program, defining appropriate indicators for monitoring and reporting progress towards achieving the NDCs and carrying out risk and vulnerability studies for future climate scenarios.
- Monitoring and reporting the support needed and received by elaborating tools for diagnosis of gaps between the actual activities and the climate goals defined and constructing data management system on transferred technology supporting the NDC implementation.

Following the panels, discussion included the following points:

- All countries present difficulties with data compilation and the development of institutional arrangements for improving the access to data. They agreed on the importance on convincing all the stakeholders on the added value of sharing information and transparency.
- Peer to peer exchange among countries is very valuable and helpful for sharing -for instance- IT tools and approaches to measuring and tracking NDCs.
- Countries tend to face sometimes a “fear of transparency” for being judged, so it is key that countries recognize the domestic value of measuring and reporting. For example, measuring can help countries to create public policies, save money and make sustainable economies.
- It is very important to Identify and take advantage of synergies with similar other capacity building initiatives in place

### Session 5- Enhancing coordination on CBIT

Ms. Ana Cardoso, from UNEP DTU Partnership, presented the CBIT platform as a web- based coordination platform on transparency, which is already operational and available at <https://www.cbitplatform.org>. The aim of this platform is to identify synergies between CBIT projects, inform about capacity gaps not addressed, identify possible cooperation between different support initiatives, provide space for practitioners to interact and it also includes a self-assessment tool for countries to evaluate the state of their national transparency systems developed and deployed.

Ms. Monica Echegoyen, from ICAT, provided an overview of ICAT, which aim is to help countries better assess the impacts of their climate policies and actions and meet their transparency provisions. ICAT’s main outcomes are guidance documents (tools for policymakers and stakeholders to assess the impact of policies and actions) and provision of capacity building to, initially, 20 counties, using ICATs tool box to improve their national MRV system. ICAT is looking forward to enhancing support on capacity building for transparency projects through in-country support for the identification of transparency needs and the development of CBIT proposals and by in-depth capacity building support through ICAT guidance dissemination under the Global Coordination Platform.

### Session 6- Market Place- Support options and tools for transparency

Support providers gathered in different parts of the room providing information on the backstopping they can provide to developing countries. Participants were invited to walk around and visited each “kiosk” to find about the support they can achieve.

### **Session 7- Report back from day 1**

Kahoot, an online game platform, was used to engage participants to highlight key points discussed in day 1.

### **Session 8- Examples of peer to peer collaborations on MRV and Transparency**

On this session representatives from Chile, Côte d’Ivoire and FYRO Macedonia, representing respectively the Latin America Network on GHG Inventories, the West African Network on MRV and the Balkan Cluster on Gender and Transparency, presented their experiences and lessons learnt.

The participants agreed that these networks:

- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge on MRV/ Transparency by peer to peer learning through sharing best practices
- Support capacity development activities among members by providing common tools, training and assistance
- Create awareness within national institutions responsible for data collection, inventory compiling and inventory archiving
- Provide successful experiences which can be adopted by neighbouring countries
- Identify co- financing opportunities and coordinate with other projects (i.e. NAP/ CBIT) on synergies and scope

The Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, represented by Ms. Hanna Reuter, aims at promoting ambitious climate action through practical exchange on enhanced transparency. The partnership seeks to foster transparency, communication, networking and trust between countries, provide capacity building and promote mutual learning process with regions (Asia- Pacific Regional Group, African Anglophone Regional Group, Cluster Francophone, Latin America and Caribbean Region, and Lusophone Cluster) and among practitioners on a global scale and identify and disseminate good practices examples and lessons learnt.

The following are among the key points raised during the panel:

- Using non-English material in countries that use other UN languages (e.g. French) helps countries to share experiences and resources
- Training and remote support provided by global projects can be used to build regional and national capacity and empower local talent to support, customize and implement the projects
- Participants consider important to have a platform for sharing on-going experiences, to show their projects and their needs, as well as a space where they can find guidance to take the correct decisions
- The interest is clear to keep working on regional cooperation and peer learning for example through south- south exchange

### **Session 9- Breakout Session**

Participants were divided in three working groups (Spanish speakers, representatives of Africa and English speakers from Asia and Balkans) to discuss: (i) Sharing best practices on MRV and transparency: how can countries learn from each other? (ii) The CBIT Global Coordination platform as a useful tool (iii) Roadmaps for a potential phase 2 to expand the CBIT Coordination Platform

Several key points emerged during the discussion, including:

- Participants can learn from each other by sharing information on database management systems, ideas of efficient involvement of data holder and statistical offices, supporting each other in the development of a legal framework, complementing existing structures and doing peer to peer on inventory review
- Countries gave some suggestion to make the CBIT GCP, in its present and future phase, as useful as possible:
  - For platform management: (i) It is important to have a focal point in each country for registering activities and inputs, (ii) the platform should be seen, both at the national and international level, as a community of practice, for sharing information and best practices among members.
  - For the platform content: (i) the platform should be interactive and easy to use and access (overcoming the language barrier) (ii) Countries would like to find tools and guidance on vulnerability and mitigation assessment, success stories and lessons learned on transparency, gender mainstreaming in MRV, and country level emission factors and indicators.
- Participants were very interested in clarifying the purpose of the self-assessment questionnaire(SAQ), and its relationship with the CBIT project and the GEF tracking tool. Thus, countries will like to receive more information on the SAQ's objectives, scope and the role and responsibilities of the countries focal points that will elaborate their SAQ.
- Countries aim to link appropriately the CBIT phase 2 with the CBIT phase 1 by building on what they are currently implementing. They are keen to continue working on targeting policy makers, creating awareness on the MRV process, receiving country direct support as trainings and building a national pool of experts on MRV.

### Session 10-Next steps and wrap up

Mr. Jigme closed the workshop and delivered remarks. He highlighted that number of developing countries are making significant efforts to advance the MRV and transparency agenda at the national level, including enhancing institutional arrangements and making structural adjustments, exploring opportunities to link MRV and transparency into a broader national development plan and to enhance their capacities. At the same time, the international community, including bilateral and multilateral partners, are increasing their efforts to deliver support that responds to the needs of developing countries in a targeted manner.

The participants were actively involved in providing concrete achievements and lessons learned. They are highly motivated on keep on learning from each other, sharing experiences, lessons learned and

knowledge products aligning with prevailing political environment. There is also a clear interest to make the MRV/transparency process gender sensitive and find synergies among the CBIT projects in the different regions.

When CBIT conceptualized in Paris as a part of the Paris Agreement package, it was seen as a game-changer. From what countries have to say, it seems to be living up to its expectation by being able to address issues and areas which were not possible through the enable activities funding window for NCs and BURs.

### **Annex A - List of Participant**

**The list of participants contains personal identification data and hence is not published.**