



## Outcome Report

### Coordination meeting on the launching of the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Global Coordination Platform 18 April 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark

#### Overview

The COP decision adopting the Paris Agreement decided to establish “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, the GEF has established and operationalized the CBIT, including through voluntary contributions to support developing countries during GEF-6 and future replenishment cycles.

The first set of projects has been approved by the GEF for implementation in Costa Rica, Kenya, South Africa and Uruguay, in addition to funding for a CBIT Global Coordination Platform, which UNDP, UNEP and UNEP DTU have started implementing to share lessons learned and engage with partners to enhance transparency. In particular, the platform will engage donors, countries, the GEF Partner Agencies, and other relevant entities and institutions to enhance partnership of national, multilateral, and bilaterally-supported capacity-building initiatives.

In the framework of such initiative, a coordination meeting with donors and key stakeholders alike was held at UN City in Copenhagen, Denmark, on April 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 with the objective of launching the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, including initial results and future expectations, to donors and implementing agencies alike.

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

The sessions were carried out through presentations by the supporting organizations and countries representatives, open 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 meeting can be accessed online at: <http://www.un-gsp.org/event/cbit-coordination-meeting>

## Session 1 - Opening- Introduction and meeting objectives

Mr. Jigme, from UNFCCC, opened the workshop welcoming participants to the first coordination meeting on the CBIT. He highlighted that within and outside the formal negotiation process, countries have very high expectations from the CBIT, as they associate it with a transformational change and with a significant development in the process of negotiation of UNFCCC - particularly in the implementation of MRV arrangements.

Mr. Jigme noted the importance of the large group of donor countries and agencies coming together and engaging in this dialogue, as it strengthens the coordination and collaboration needed to ensure efficient use of resources and technical support on the ground. Mr. Jigme then added that the CBIT global platform to be setup will provide a very useful tool to achieve such a coordination, which will depend largely on how actively donors, countries, and partner organizations participate in and contribute to this platform.

Mr. Dustin Schinn from GEF highlighted that it is important to keep up the momentum created by the Paris Agreement and that there is shared optimism that CBIT can be a milestone on that direction. As transparency is a pre-condition to raise ambition through NCDs, there is a need for meaningful and sound data and information. Further, through accurate and timely tracking and reporting of GHG emissions, at national and sub-national level, countries can better assess the impact of their climate policies, and see for themselves where there is still room for improvement. Enhanced transparency also provides a signal to the private sector in terms of what is needed to achieve a climate-friendly development pathway. At the moment, though, many developing countries still lack capacity to effectively monitor and report emissions and track progress of their NDC implementation and CBIT can be instrumental in facing those barriers.

Mr. Dusting informed that so far donors pledged over 55 million USD to the new CBIT trust fund and that the CBIT will soon become an integral part of GEF 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment. It is therefore important for GEF to work with countries and agencies to facilitate the submission of high quality project proposals. To support those goals, the global coordination platform should bring these projects together and to enable coordination and maximize learning opportunities.

Mr. Damiano Borgogno then presented the meeting objectives as follow: (i) discuss CBIT expected results, (ii) strength coordination among donors and implementing organizations and (iii) introduce the CBIT Global Coordination Platform.

The meeting consisted of the following substantive sessions: (i) An overview of the CBIT and the expected results; (ii) Fostering coordination in the implementation of transparency and CBIT activities and; (iii) Next steps: how do we move forward to improve coordination of transparency initiatives in practice- globally, regionally and nationally.

## Session 2- The Capacity building initiative for transparency and expected results

The UNFCCC Secretariat provided an overview of the enhanced transparency provisions in the Paris Agreement, relevant outcomes of COP-22 and implications for the National Communication and BURs submissions. Mr. Jigme emphasized the role of the CBIT in the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement, being instrumental toward improved transparency of action and support. He highlighted the core obligations of the Paris Agreement in terms of transparency (Article 13) through three points: reporting, technical expert review and multilateral facilitative consideration. For this, it is key to

have strong institutional arrangements, tools and methodologies and data & information. Thus, the CBIT aims is to strengthen the national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities; provide relevant tools, training and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement; and assist in the improvement of transparency over time.

Ms. Milena Gonzalez from GEF provided an overview of CBIT and the GEF's role: the Paris decision (paragraph 86) urged and requested GEF to make arrangements to support the establishment and operations of the CBIT as priority reporting related need, including through: voluntary contributions to support developing country Parties in the sixth replenishment of the GEF, and future replenishment cycles to complement existing support under the GEF. The GEF council will act as the CBIT Council, which will utilize the policies, procedures, and the governance structure of the GEF Council. Also, all GEF policies and procedures, such as M&E policies, reporting requirements, gender policy and environmental and social safeguards will apply to projects supported by the CBIT. She mentioned that 5 projects have been approved so far (four at the national level and one global) for a total value of USD 5.8 million and that USD 37.7 million remain available for future projects under the CBIT Trust Fund

Two representatives from government donors (the UK and Germany), provided their views and expectations on the CBIT. They agreed that transparency is a fundamental building block of the Paris Agreement as it tracks overall progress against high-level goals, showing progress against countries' NDCs, and feeds into the global stock take cycle. They also highlighted the ensuring transparency can be a complex, as it will require technical knowledge, access to data and methodologies, and Institutional and governance structures in which currently developing countries have different capacities.

Ms. Laura Aylett, from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of the United Kingdom Government, mentioned that CBIT is demand led and should be focused on meeting requirements of the developing countries. The UK also hopes that clear links will be made between transparency and NDC implementation, that innovative ideas to share learning, like south-south collaboration, may be undertaken and that a close alignment with the MPGs of the transparency framework will exist. Finally, she also wished that more donors will come forward and the long-term future of CBIT work will be secured under GEF 7.

Mr. Alexander Fischer, advisor to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), also commended GEF for moving forward very quickly with the establishment and implementation of CBIT. He further mentioned that having a CBIT Global coordination platform will have a positive impact to foster coordination and to have a better idea on what all stakeholders are doing, ideally also feeding into the negotiation process.

During and at the end of the session a good number of questions and comments arose for discussion on the short and long term expectations on the implementation of the CBIT:

- The link between the transparency framework and the developing of NCs and BURs: the transition of NCs and BURs -it was reported- must be addressed in the political process, as in the PA there is a provision that defines the transparency framework will supersede the BUR/NC process.
- The continuous funding under GEF 7 will strengthen country capacities regarding the transparency framework under the Paris Agreement, but there is a need to ensure the relationships among different relevant initiatives to maximize synergies and resource efficiency.

- The Germany government highlighted the interest of having more proposals than funding, as if results come, then more funding could be easily achieved.
- CBIT coordination platform will allow interested countries to define their support needs and help donors countries to know and understand the countries difficulties and priorities.
- The importance of presenting data not only as international requirements, but from a domestic focus, will support transformational changes and make CBIT work more meaningful to countries.
- Transparency should not be the end but a tool to support NDC implementation.
- CBIT should work with different sectors such as CSOs, NGOs, academia and places/institutions to facilitate knowledge sharing and to overcome the challenges of keeping capacities over time and reduce turn over.

### **Session 3- Fostering coordination in the implementation of transparency and CBIT activities**

In this session, a moderated panel discussed about the provision of support (financial, technical and capacity- building) on MRV and the enhanced transparency framework. Several initiatives were presented, namely ICAT, the Partnership on Transparency, the GSPUNDP/ LECB and the MRV Group of Friends.

Mr. Lucas Bossard, from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), mentioned that the initiative's goal is to support improved transparency and capacity building under the Paris Agreement by generating methodological framework as a global common good, capacity building and platforms for learning.

The Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, represented by Ms. Kirsten Orschulok, aims at encouraging all countries to step up for enhanced transparency to achieve the global goal of keeping temperature increase well below 2° Celsius, and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°Celsius. The Partnership seeks to encourage transparency, communication, networking and trust between countries by providing capacity building and promoting a mutual learning process, identifying and disseminating good practices and lessons learnt.

The Global Support Programme (GSP) for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports, represented by Mr. Damiano Borgogno, presented the two main kinds of support offered: national as well as sub regional focus. He highlighted that all developing countries can request technical backstopping and the goal is to support countries to have a high-quality BURs/ NCs.

Mr. Yamil Bonduki representing the Low Emission Capacity Building Support Programme (LECB/ NDC) from UNDP highlighted the central role data management systems have in the PA implementation and the importance to support long- term planning, also for benchmarking, recognizing good practices and attracting international finance.

Ms. Toby Hedger presented the MRV group of friends as a group of organizations that are actively involved in supporting developing countries in the implementation of the existing MRV arrangements under the Convention as the basis to help countries get ready for participation in the transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. The purpose of the Group of Friends is to establish an informal coordination mechanism among engaged organizations to explore synergies, strengthen collaboration and improve effectiveness.

Following the panel presentations, Mr. Frederick Staun from UNEP DTU introduced the CBIT Global Coordination Platform (GCP) and explained the importance of having a virtual platform where information can be shared, as way to improve the global understanding of gaps and needs to facilitate the coordination of support provision.

An open discussion was held around the following questions: How is coordination working today? How can the platform be relevant for supporting decision making? How can the GCP contribute to solve coordination problems?

The following key points emerged:

- The Global Coordination Platform can be a unique opportunity to clarify concepts on transparency.
- The website is a useful tool, but it should go beyond the global coordination platform. Several platforms are going on, so a synchronization will be needed among them. This will include having in place the human resources to ensure information gatherings and dissemination on a regular basis, to promote coherency and clarity. The MRV/Transparency Group of Friends can be instrumental in this effort.
- The importance of providing countries and organization with clear guidance on the information that will be submitted to the platform and the allocation of resources needed so that each country uploads information on the website.
- Initial coordination could focus on key initiatives starting with a smaller scope, and then incrementally move forward to a more ambitious scope of work.
- There should be indicators that measure the efficiency and success of CBIT as a platform and a bridging tool, that connect different initiatives and projects at the global, regional and national levels.

#### **Session 4-Next steps: How do we move forward to improve coordination of transparency initiatives in practice-globally, regionally and nationally?**

Various new initiatives have been established since the Paris climate negotiations to build national capacity to meet new requirements. Funds have already been mobilized for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) to provide policymakers around the world with tools and capacity building support to measure and assess the effects of their climate actions. The meeting has been an opportunity to put on the table barriers that Parties may face to ensure transparency and to discuss how coordinated efforts could be strengthened to potentially overcome such barriers.

Thus, the establishment of a global coordination platform together with supporting global workshops shall ensure an efficient coordination of donor support initiatives both globally and domestically. The platform further allows developing countries to share best practices and explore synergies to facilitate the development of capacities and transparency systems to track the implementation of their NDCs.

During the final discussion of the meeting, the following key points emerged:

- Having a website to move forward can be very useful if the participants feel motivated to share the information. However, participants and countries should find a value in participating in information sharing to make their efforts useful in the context of the NDC and Paris Agreement implementation.

- Keep the MRV Group of Friends as a space and support structure for the functioning of the platform, as this will be instrumental for the success of the coordination.
- UNDP-DTU will work to put all information together, using the existing platforms. Also, participants highlighted the importance that this information have a link with the other communities or relevant databases/platforms.
- The global coordination is more than the website and engaging participants is a priority. Thus, a focal point in charge of uploading the information in each country could be a useful approach.