



Outcome Report

Meeting on Enhancing Coordination on Climate Transparency

Berlin, Germany

April 24th, 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 coordination meeting with donors and key stakeholders alike was held at the UN City in Copenhagen, Denmark, on April 18th, 2017 with the objective of launching the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, including initial results and future expectations, to donors and implementing agencies alike. **This second coordination meeting** 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 and the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement. The meeting was held in Berlin, Germany, on April 24th, 2018 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.

35 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 the [CBIT platform](#) and on the [UNDP/UN Environment Global Support Program for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports](#).

Opening

Mrs. Nicola Wilke, from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany and Germany's focal point at UNFCCC, opened the workshop welcoming participants to the second coordination meeting on the CBIT. She highlighted 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. Damiano Borgogno, on behalf of UNDP, presented the meeting objectives as follow:

- (i) Provide a space for discussing CBIT implementation,
- (ii) Strengthening the coordination among donors and implementing organizations through different mechanisms such as the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and the MRV/Transparency Group of Friends

The meeting consisted of the following substantive sessions; (i) Initial inputs on CBIT; (ii) The launch of new support initiatives as well as the ongoing implementation of existing projects widen opportunities for access by developing Countries while increasing the need for enhanced coordination; (iii) How should we make use of existing tools and opportunities to enhance impact of actions while streamlining coordination?

Session 1- Initial Inputs on CBIT

Ms. Milena Gonzalez from GEF provided an overview of CBIT and 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-7.

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 and 30 projects are now under review for a total value of USD 49.1 million (USD 25.4 million above available GEF-6 resources). The projects that will not be accepted through GEF-6 resources may then be considered under GEF- 7, which will start in July 2018. 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.

Session 2- New support initiatives and ongoing implementation of projects increase the need for enhanced coordination

In this session, selected presenters 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 CBIT Global Coordination Platform and the MRV Group of Friends.

Mrs. Monica Echegoyen, from ICAT, provided an overview of the project, which aims 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 the provision of capacity building support in 20 countries, using ICAT's tool box to improve their national MRV system.

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 and, by this, contributing to achieving the global temperature goal as set up in article 2 of the Paris Agreement. 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.

Mr. Frederik Staun, from UNEP DTU, presented the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, available at <https://www.cbitplatform.org>. The purpose of this platform is to facilitate coordination, maximize learning opportunities and enable knowledge sharing to facilitate transparency enhancements. The platform will engage countries, GEF Partner Agencies and other relevant entities and institutions with related programming activities to enhance partnership of national, multilateral and bilateral supported capacity- building activities.

Mr. Jigme, from UNFCCC, presented the MRV Group of Friends, established in 2016, as an informal network of support providers to developing countries in the area of MRV/transparency. The purpose of the Group of Friends is to establish and maintain an informal coordination mechanism among engaged organizations to explore synergies, strengthen collaboration and improve effectiveness through yearly gatherings on the margins of SBs/COPs and through continuous exchange of information on events and technical resources through the common access to a shared cloud platform.

Session 3- How should we make use of existing tools and opportunities to enhance impact of actions while streamlining coordination?

As various new initiatives have been launched since COP 21 in Paris to build national capacities to meet the enhanced transparency requirements, this session was 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, an open discussion was held around the following questions:

- What are the main challenges and opportunities delivering support to developing countries in a coordinated manner? How can some of the existing tools, such as MRV/transparency Group of Friends and CBIT Global Collaboration platform, assist in overcoming some of the challenges and achieving stronger results?
- How can GEF implementing agencies further collaborate among themselves to support a streamlined provision of support to Countries?

- How can ICAT and NDC Partnership get further engaged with CBIT projects and/or with the work done by other stakeholders on the MRV/Transparency framework?

The following key points emerged:

- Coordination among all interested organizations has a valuable benefit, however this may face several barriers. For instance, the coordination can be done on different levels: by each country, regional (e.g. not overlapping in the workshops done), and global level (e.g. guidelines or any other technical material elaborated).
- For enhancing coordination, it is also recommendable to consider and understand each organization and each country's framework and background. For instance, each organization may have its own methodologies and different scopes, as well as developing countries may have diverse starting points on MRV/transparency, with different gaps and needs and capacities on tracking and coordinating the resources and support received. These can be viewed as an opportunity for bringing together and linking the organizations with the countries, as needed.
- While the CBIT Coordination platform [website](#) is a useful tool, several other transparency websites exist, so synchronization efforts will be needed. This will include having in place the human resources to ensure information gatherings and dissemination on a regular basis, to promote coherency and clarity without making this process too complex. The MRV/Transparency Group of Friend can be instrumental in facilitating this effort.
- A continuous work and an active participation of all members of the MRV Group of Friends and the CBIT platform will permit a collaborative work on mapping all the initiatives, decreasing the overlapping between projects, supporting the identifications of need and gaps for each country and thus increasing the efficiency in the work done by all the organizations.
- It will be important to provide stakeholders with clear guidance on the information that will be submitted to the platform and the allocation of resources needed so that each country uploads appropriate information, in a continuous manner, on the website.
- The NDC partnership could be invited to work on collaboration with the other two platforms (CBIT coordination platform and MRV/ Transparency Group of Friends) since there is a clear link between the NDCs and the other MRV initiatives.
- The continuous funding under GEF-7 for CBIT will strengthen country capacities regarding the enhanced 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.

Annex A- List of Participants

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