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Climate Change



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GEF Support for BTR Financing and Access Modalities

Time: **1.5 hours per webinar** | Dates: **see below** | Format: **Virtual**

This webinar is jointly organised by UNFCCC, the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) and the GEF.

Background

Through Article 13, the Paris Agreement established the **Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)** to regularly measure the progress made by countries to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. The objective of the new framework is to build mutual trust between countries, raise climate ambition and rigorously monitor public mitigation and adaptation policies. It aims to better track GHG emissions over time, assess the progress made by Parties in meeting their commitments on mitigation and adaptation, and assess collective progress toward the 2°C long-term pathway.

The modalities, procedures, and guidelines (MPGs) for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement were adopted in December 2018 at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24). The Global Environment Facility (GEF), as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, was requested to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports (BTRs).

The first Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA .1) decided that Parties shall submit their first BTR and national inventory report, if submitted as a stand-alone report, in accordance with these modalities, procedures and guidelines, at the latest by December 31, 2024, and that the least developed country (LDC) Parties and small island developing States (SIDS) may submit this information at their discretion.

For most developing countries, this presents a significant challenge due to stronger transparency requirements, increased scope of categories and gases to be reported on a mandatory basis, and an increase of data and information associated with different components of MRV that need to be collected and processed.

In 2020, the GEF organized two informal consultations^{1,2} to discuss support needs, possible modalities, and timing for BTRs with partners. Following the informal consultations, the information note on the [“Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement”](#) was submitted to the 59th GEF Council³, which met in December 2020. The GEF CEO then made the support

¹ Information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/events/informal-consultation-meeting-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports-under-paris>

² Information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/events/second-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

³ GEF, 2020, [Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement](#), Council Document GEF/C.59/Inf.19.



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modalities for the first BTR available and communicated them to all countries in February 2021. The early rollout of the BTR support was done to ensure sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the deadline of December 31, 2024. In response to CMA.3 guidance, the GEF updated the cost structure for BTR in 2022 as per the information note on the [“Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of BTRs for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement”⁴](#).

As of March 31, 2023, the GEF has provided support to 65 Parties to prepare their first and subsequent BTRs. With limited time left for the submission deadline for the first BTR, approximately 80 developing countries have yet to request support and are encouraged to apply for funding to prepare their BTRs to be able to report them by December 2024.

Objective

This webinar aims at informing developing countries on the access modalities and procedures of the GEF and its implementing agencies to apply for funding for the BTRs. The webinar includes speakers from UNFCCC and GEF, and its Implementing Agencies, e.g., UNEP, UNDP, and FAO, and allows for sufficient time for Q&A.

Detailed Objectives of the Webinar:

- Raise developing country Parties’ awareness on the timeline for BTR submission, as well as the requirements as per the MPGs.
- Inform countries about the financing support available from GEF for Enabling Activities to prepare their BTRs, while detailing the various available access modalities.
- Enhance capabilities of developing country Parties’ to be able to apply for BTR funding in a timely manner to meet the December 2024 deadline.
- Inform countries about the different procedures and processes for accessing support through the various GEF Implementing Agencies.
- Provide contact points for support in GEF and the implementing agencies for queries about the process.

Target Audience

The webinar will bring together coordinators of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports, GEF’s Operational Focal Points, national and international transparency experts and thematic experts for the different areas of transparency, i.e., greenhouse gas inventory, NDC tracking, adaptation and impacts, etc.

⁴ GEF, 2022, [Information Note on the Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of BTRs for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement](#), Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.15.

Format and Timeline

The webinar will be held **in English** with simultaneous translation provided for **the main languages in the different regions** (please see table below). The records will be shared with all participants after the webinars.

It is expected that the webinar will last both up to **1,5 hours** with sufficient time dedicated to discussion, information exchange and Q&A sessions.

Tentative Schedule

| Regional Transparency Networks | RCC Coverage | Targeted countries (without a BTR project yet) | Date | Time (in select locations in the regions) | Languages for Simultaneous Interpretation | Zoom link |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Asia & Pacific | RCC Bangkok | Afghanistan Bhutan China Indonesia Iran Jordan Lebanon Marshall Islands Micronesia Myanmar Nauru Niue Palau Papua New Guinea Philippines Samoa Sri Lanka Syria Thailand Timor-Leste Tonga Tuvalu Yemen | May 2 nd , 2023 | Kiribati, Fiji: 16:00 Niue: 17:00 Papua New Guinea: 14:00 Jakarta: 11:00 Bangkok/Hanoi: 11:00 Pakistan: 9:00 Iran: 7:30 Bonn: 06:00 Washington: 00:00 | English | https://unep.zoom.us/j/9123456789 |
| Eurasia Anglophone Africa Francophone Network Lusophone Cluster (in Africa) | RCC Kampala RCC Lome RCC Dubai | Europe and Central Asia Albania Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Kazakhstan North Macedonia | May 3 rd , 2023 | Rabat/Dakar: 10:00 Tunis: 11:00 Cairo:12:00 Johannesburg/ Montenegro: 12:00 Addis Ababa/Baghdad/ Kuwait/Riyadh: 13:00 | French, Russian, Portuguese, Arabic and English | https://unep.zoom.us/j/9123456789 |



| Regional Transparency Networks | RCC Coverage | Targeted countries <i>(without a BTR project yet)</i> | Date | Time (in select locations in the regions) | Languages for Simultaneous Interpretation | Zoom link |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|------|---|---|-----------|
| | | Paraguay Peru Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname Trinidad and Tobago Uruguay Venezuela | | | | |

After the conclusion the regional webinars, a **side event at SB 58** (June 5 to June 15, 2023) is proposed to further raise developing country Parties’ awareness on the GEF funding process for BTRs, and the capacity-building support available to improve over time. The side event also presents an opportunity for Parties to share their experiences and concerns in engaging in the process.



Proposed Agenda

Length of Webinar: 1 hour and 30 minutes

| Time | Session |
|--|---|
| 10 min (incl. a short buffer for people to arrive) | Opening and Welcoming Remarks <i>(Short Mentimeter Survey)</i> Moderator: UNFCCC/CBIT-GSP |
| 5 min | Transitioning towards the ETF and New Reporting Requirements Speaker: UNFCCC |
| 10 min | GEF Financing Support for BTR Development under the Paris Agreement Speaker: GEF |
| 15 min | Interaction and Q&A |
| 20 min | Access Modalities to GEF Funding from Implementing Agencies Speakers: UNEP, UNDP & FAO |
| 25 min | Interaction and Q&A |
| 5 min | Wrap-up and Closing Remarks |