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**INFORMATION NOTE ON THE FINANCING OF BIENNIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORTS
FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT**

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INTRODUCTION

1. Article 13 of the Paris Agreement establishes an enhanced transparency framework for action and support, and states that support shall be provided to developing country Parties for its implementation and for the building of transparency-related capacity of developing country Parties on a continuous basis.¹
2. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at the third part of its first session (CMA 1.3) adopted the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support.²
3. The CMA decided that Parties shall submit their first biennial transparency report (BTR) and national inventory report, if submitted as a stand-alone report, in accordance with these modalities, procedures and guidelines, at the latest by 31 December 2024 and that the least developed country (LDC) Parties and small island developing States (SIDS) may submit this information at their discretion.
4. The CMA urged and requested the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTR. The CMA also encouraged the GEF to consider options for improving the efficiency of the process for providing support for reporting under Article 13, in particular for addressing the challenges in the application process, including by potentially providing an avenue for Parties to apply for funding for more than one report through the same application in each replenishment period.
5. The CMA urged the GEF and its implementing and executing agencies and encouraged the GEF Council to consider options for improving the efficiency of the process for providing support for reporting under Article 13, including through better streamlining of the processes related to applications, implementation plans and signing of grant agreements.
6. At CMA 2, Parties reiterated their request to the GEF to adequately support developing countries Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTR under its seventh replenishment (GEF-7) and through its replenishment cycles.³
7. This information document has been prepared in response to the decisions taken at CMA 1 and CMA 2 for the preparation of BTR by developing country Parties to the Paris Agreement.
8. Two informal consultations on financial support for BTRs were held in June 18, 2020 and in November 17, 2020, with participation of national government representatives, members from the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the United Nations Framework Convention on

¹ Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Dec. 12, 2015, T.I.A.S. No. 16-1104.

² Contained in the annex to Decision 18/CMA.1

³ Decision 7/CMA.2

Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, and relevant GEF Implementing Agencies. Discussions from these informal consultations helped inform the development of the modalities for supporting the first BTR presented in this document.⁴

REPORTING FORMAT OF THE BTR

9. The modalities, procedures and guidelines adopted by the CMA describe the purpose, guiding principles, flexibility provisions, and reporting format of the framework for transparency of action and support.

10. The reporting format identifies the following information to be included in the BTR:

- (a) Each Party is required to provide a national inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases (GHGs);⁵
- (b) Each Party is required to provide the information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving its nationally determined contribution (NDC) under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement;
- (c) Each Party may provide information on climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement;⁶
- (d) Developed country Parties are required to provide information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support provided to developing country Parties. Other Parties that provide support may provide such information;
- (e) Developing country Parties may provide information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support needed and received.

11. Detailed modalities, procedures and guidelines for each of the sections above are further described in chapters II to VI in the annex to Decision 18/CMA.1.

12. In addition, at CMA 1.3, the CMA requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to develop, pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines, for consideration and adoption by the CMA in its third session (November 2020) common reporting tables and common tabular formats for electronic reporting, as well as outlines of the BTR, national inventory document and technical expert review report.⁷

⁴ GEF, 2020: [Event: Informal Consultation Meeting on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Climate Agreement](#) and [Event: Second Informal Consultation on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports](#)

⁵ The national inventory report may be submitted as a stand-alone report or as a component of a BTR.

⁶ Parties may submit an adaptation communication as a component of, or in conjunction with, a BTR. If that is the case, the Party should clearly identify which part of the report is the adaptation communication.

⁷ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CMA 3 (along with the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties or COP 26) was postponed to November 2021.

ELIGIBILITY FOR GEF SUPPORT

13. The Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session (COP 21) decided that the modalities, procedures, and guidelines of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement shall build upon and eventually supersede the measurement, reporting and verification system established by decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 40-47 and 60-64, and decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 12-62, immediately following the submission of the final biennial reports (BR) and biennial update reports (BUR).

14. All developing country Parties to the Paris Agreement, including LDCs and SIDS who may submit the information outlined in paragraph 10 above at their discretion, will be eligible to receive financing for the preparation of BTRs.

15. Parties to the Paris Agreement may continue to report a separate national communication (NC) every four years, or may choose to submit a single BTR/NC report in the years a NC is submitted, following the modalities, procedures and guidelines for BTRs and include:

- (a) Supplemental chapters on research and systemic observation and on education, training and public awareness, in accordance with applicable guidelines in 17/CP.8 or 6/CP.25;
- (b) An additional chapter on adaptation for Parties that have not included this information in the BTR, in accordance with applicable guidelines in 17/CP.8 or 6/CP.25.

16. Accordingly, the GEF will make available three modalities for supporting the preparation of the first BTR. As modality 1, countries can access up to \$484,000 for the preparation of a stand-alone BTR. As modality 2, countries can access up to \$517,000 for the preparation of a combined BTR and NC. As modality 3, countries can access additional (top-up) financing of \$200,000, maximum, to an ongoing EA project.

17. Table 1 shows indicative costing of the stand-alone BTR (modality 1), while Table 2 shows indicative costing for the combined BTR/NC (modality 2).

18. Modality 1 and modality 2 will be rolled out from January 2021. Modality 3 will be rolled out in January 2023, in the GEF-8 period. Further information on each modality, eligibility and timing of requesting support under each modality are made available on the GEF website.^{8,9}

⁸ GEF, 2020. [Possible Modalities and Costing for Biennial Transparency Report Support](#). Discussion document.

⁹ Additional information on BTRs and support modalities will be regularly updated and made available on the GEF website.

19. Countries can access resources at full cost for the BTR preparations, from the climate change focal area set-aside resources. If countries require additional resources, they can utilize resources from their respective STAR allocation.
20. Parties that choose to prepare a separate NC can access up to \$500,000 from the climate change focal area set-aside. The GEF Secretariat, however, will minimize duplication of resources for common elements across reports supported.
21. BUR support for Parties to the Paris Agreement will be phased out on January 1, 2022.
22. Following existing practices, the GEF will provide support for the first BTR upon submission of a country's last GEF-supported BUR to the UNFCCC. Support for the first BTR combined with a NC will be made available upon submission of a country's last GEF-supported NC to the UNFCCC Secretariat.
23. Non-Annex I Parties to the Convention that are not Parties to the Paris Agreement will continue to be eligible to receive financing for the preparation of NC and BUR at the agreed full-cost basis of \$500,000 and \$352,000, respectively. These Parties may use the modalities, procedures and guidelines contained in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, as relevant, in lieu of guidance adopted under the Convention.

SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

24. All project proposals and submissions to the GEF Secretariat are made directly to the GEF Portal. The current enabling activity request template can be accessed on the GEF website.¹⁰
25. BTRs and BTR/NCs are defined as Enabling Activities at the GEF and follow the applicable GEF policies and guidelines.¹¹
26. In response to the guidance summarized in paragraph 5 regarding the potential provision of an avenue for Parties to apply for funding for more than one report in each replenishment period, the GEF Secretariat also plans to make a proposal as part of the Programming Directions for the climate change focal area for GEF-8 (July 2022 to June 2026), to be discussed as part of the GEF-8 replenishment negotiations for second and subsequent BTRs, informed by the experience in supporting the first BTR.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

27. The GEF Secretariat plans to notify all Operational Focal Points (OFPs) about the provision of support for the preparation of the first BTR, including available modalities, indicative costing, envisaged timeline of access to support, as well as the deadline of the first

¹⁰ Templates can found on the GEF website: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/templates>

¹¹ GEF policies and guidelines can be accessed at the GEF website: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/policies-guidelines>

BTR submission of December 2024. This notification is expected to take place by January 2021, providing a sufficient lead time to countries to consider support options to enable them to meet the deadline.

28. The GEF Secretariat will also provide information about its BTR support on the GEF website. Information about the provision of BTR support will also be included in regular GEF outreach efforts, including national dialogues, upstream country discussions, and extended constituency workshops.

Table 1. Indicative Cost Table for BTR

BTR Components	Indicative Budget (US\$)
I. National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases	160,000
II. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement	120,000
III. Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement	100,000
IV. Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement	20,000
V. Other relevant information (e.g. gender)	10,000
VI. Publication and submission of report, and other project execution support	30,000
Sub Total BTR	440,000
Project management cost (10%)	44,000
Total	484,000

Table 2. Indicative Cost Table for Combined BTR/NC

BTR/NC Components	Indicative Budget (US\$)
I. National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases	160,000
II. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement	120,000
III. Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement	100,000
IV. Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement	20,000
V. Other relevant information (e.g. gender) including supplemental NC chapters (research and systemic observation; and, education, training and public awareness)	40,000
VI. Publication and submission of report, and project execution support	30,000
Sub Total BTR/NC	470,000
Project management cost (10%)	47,000
Total	517,000