

Informal Consultation Meeting on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports

Date: June 18, 2020

(Thursday)

**Time: 8:00-11:00 Eastern Daylight Time
via Webex**

Background:

The modalities, procedures and guidelines 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 (COP24) and the third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1.3). 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). This request was reiterated at COP25 in December 2019 in the CMA's decision on Guidance to the GEF.

In response to this guidance, the GEF has started an analysis of its guidelines for the support of BTRs under the Paris Agreement, informed by support modalities in place for biennial update reports (BURs) and national communications (NCs) under the Convention.

Meeting Objective:

The GEF is organizing an *Informal Consultation Meeting on Financial Support for the BTRs* to discuss support needs, possible modalities, and timing for BTRs with partners. Participants will include government representatives, members from the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the UNFCCC Secretariat, and relevant GEF Implementing Agencies. The experiences of participants in the BUR and NC support will be sought to help inform the discussion.

The outcomes of this and further consultations are expected to help inform the development of modalities for the provision of support for BTRs and related reporting.

As negotiations are still ongoing for the development of the common reporting tables and formats to complement the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the Enhanced Transparency Framework by the CMA 3, this consultation will be carried out to ensure it will not prejudge the outcomes of the ongoing negotiations and to facilitate a timely response to the guidance received.

The key questions that will be explored at this meeting:

1. How do BTR components compare with NC and BUR contents?
2. How to avoid potential duplication between NCs and BTRs?
3. What are the minimum resources necessary to respond to each component of the report based on the adopted MPGs and agreed costs for NCs and BURs?
4. How can the GEF sequence its support for country's final BURs and first BTRs?
5. What are the resource implications for GEF-7 and beyond?
6. What is the experience of existing support modalities and how can these be enhanced?

Participants are also invited to discuss other issues, including efficiency and challenges in providing support for reporting and potential opportunities for streamlining.

Provisional Agenda (as of 8 June 2020)

Time	Agenda item
8:00-8:15	<p>Welcome remarks and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gustavo Fonseca, Director of Programs, GEF Secretariat</i>
8:15-9:30	<p>Understanding and costing BTRs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderated by Chizuru Aoki, <i>Lead Environmental Specialist, GEF Secretariat</i> • Overview of BTR and NC elements – <i>UNFCCC Secretariat</i> <p>The UNFCCC Secretariat will provide an overview of BTRs, including overlaps with the existing MRV framework (in particular NCs) as well as new elements and flexibility provisions. Common elements among NCs, BTRs, and BURs. What is new for BTRs?</p> <p>Learning from NC/BUR support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences from BUR and NC support – <i>UNDP and UNEP</i> <p>The UNDP and UNEP will present on the experience of countries with regards to the budgets for preparing NCs and BURs, including the use of the agreed full costs (i.e. \$500,000 and \$352,000, respectively) and for those cases where countries have utilized additional resources from their climate change STAR allocation.</p>

	<p>How to cost BTRs and minimize potential duplication?</p> <p>Based on presentations, participants are invited to share their views and suggestion on the costing of BTRs and how the potential duplication could be minimized.</p>
<p>9:30-10:45</p>	<p>Potential options for providing support for the first BTR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Moderated by Milena Gonzalez Vasquez, Climate Change Specialist, GEF Secretariat</i> <p>The GEF will provide an overview of the modalities currently available for providing support to BURs and other projects under the GEF, and how they could apply to support BTRs.</p> <p>The GEF will be seeking feedback from representatives of countries and institutions on envisioned sequencing and timing for supporting countries, as well as on how different modalities may suit country needs.</p>
<p>10:45-11:00</p>	<p>Closing: outcomes and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chizuru Aoki, Lead Environmental Specialist, GEF Secretariat</i>

Webex meeting information:

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Meeting password: TrWxZXcp388

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