

## D14 - Meeting summaries for each meeting

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The Side-Event "*Lessons Learned from Reporting on Article 13 within the MLP programme in Eurasia, Central Asia and the Caucasus*" took place on **December 4th, 2023 in Azerbaijan Pavilion, COP-28, Dubai, the UAE.**

The main objective of this side-event is to **share lessons learned** from the Mutual Learning Programme for Enhanced Transparency Frameworks (MLP ETF) on Article 13 of the Paris Agreement by countries of Eurasia, Central Asia and the Caucasus, and to explore the opportunities for further collaboration.

Key take-away messages from the side-event are:

- The **Energy Sector** was selected as the main sector for the Mutual Learning Programme (MLP) to report under the Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The main reason of selecting this sector by participating countries is that it represents the **biggest share of GHG emissions** and has **a potential to continuously reduce them**. At the same time, the country-driven low-carbon policies and strategies are focusing at most on reducing the emissions in the Energy Sector by expanding the renewable energy sources and pursuing the energy efficiency. These documents contain the estimated data of potential assumption of emission reduction and serve as references for selected technologies.
- **MLP supported establishing basic understanding of how to fill the CTF** and triggered some thoughts beyond the CTF. For example, overcoming stress in filling in the CTFs, clarification on MPGs, start thinking about mitigation actions and methodologies, avoiding double counting in emission estimations, and use of English and Russian during the exercises are among a few examples of benefits of the MLP.
- **Common challenges** faced by all participating countries, are: inconsistency in data and reliability, access to data, planning of mitigation actions, weak institutional arrangements and coordination between the governmental organizations, and lack of technical capacity of the national experts. One of the lessons showed was that the **assessment of mitigation actions on RES is quite different** from the **assessment on EE measures** as they include a *high variety of different technologies across multiple sectors*.
- **Self-education, peer-to-peer learning, exchange** with the counterparts from other countries and regional networks, **mentoring** from high-quality experts and fulfilling the **practical exercises** on mitigation actions under the NDC tracking played a crucial role in capacity building of national experts, who will further apply the acquired knowledge and skills in developing the first BTRs.
- Based on the abovementioned, CBIT-GSP and IGES will **further continue their efforts in capacitating** the national experts on climate reporting (with a potential extension on Article 6 in addition to Article 13) by using the approach of **peer-to-peer learning** and **mentoring**. The exact countries and sectors are still to be determined and discussed but the way how the MLP is organized showed its effectiveness and practicality.

Side Event “Fostering South-South Learning: *The collaboration between Cuba, Chile, and Panama under the CBIT-Global Support Programme*” was held on the **December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, in the **5TH CAPACITY-BUILDING HUB**

This event showcased a cooperation between three countries from the Spanish-speaking Latin America transparency network which are Cuba, Chile, and Panama. This cooperation is based on a support request by Cuba, to exchange experiences and lessons learned with other countries in the region, especially with Chile and Panama in the area of AFOLU sector and GHG inventory management in general. During the side event representatives from each country shared their first-hand experiences from this cooperation, providing insights on the benefits of such a south-south learning approach. The key take aways from this event are:

1. Countries should not be afraid to ask for help from other countries directly or through support providers (“Don’t be scared to ask for help,” one of the panelists mentioned).
2. Speaking the same language is an important denominator for successful south-south learning, but even more important are the common challenges countries are facing where they can learn from each other and find common solutions, even if each country context is different.
3. Virtual meetings are an important and easy tool for south-south learning collaborations but should be coupled with face-to-face meetings to achieve most benefits.
4. All can benefit from collaboration even when more advanced countries are paired with less advanced countries.

The event encouraged countries worldwide to establish similar partnerships, aiming to gain direct knowledge of each other's climate transparency initiatives. These collaborations offer numerous advantages, such as learning from peers, sharing successful practices and challenges to avoid repeating errors, and importantly, creating trustful and educational partnerships for future climate actions. Hence, such mutual learning cooperations are viewed both by CBIT-GSP and the GEF as effective strategies for building capacity in climate transparency and climate change efforts.

The event was moderated by Esteban Bermudez from GEF and kicked off with opening remarks by Chizuru Aoki, also from GEF, who reflected on the establishment of the CBIT post-COP21 and highlighting the rapidly approaching BTR deadline in 2024. Fatima-Zahra Taibi, the global CBIT-GSP Coordinator, then emphasized that south-south learning is a crucial element of the CBIT-GSP and its Transparency Networks and is very much needed given the challenges. To set the scene for the event, she conducted a Mentimeter survey with participants to get their views and insights on south-south learning collaborations.

The Side-Event "*Country Efforts in Transitioning towards ETF: Learning from the National and Global CBIT projects in Eurasia and the Caucasus*" was held on **December 5th, 2023 in Azerbaijan Pavilion, COP-28, Dubai, the UAE.**

The main objective of this side-event was to **present the country-based progress on climate transparency in Eurasia and the Caucasus** via support received from national and global CBIT projects and *share lessons learned from their journey towards ETF.*

Key take-away messages from the Side-event are:

- GEF supports the countries in their efforts towards establishing the lean transparency systems through the Initiative on Capacity Building for Transparency (National CBIT projects), Enabling Activities to report under the UNFCCC (National Communications/Biennial Update Reports and Biennial Transparency Reports), and through the global CBIT-GSP project. The countries are welcome to use this opportunity to accessing GEF funds and requesting the support based on their national priorities for capacity building. Those countries which have already completed their first national CBIT projects can apply for the second phase of the project.
- National and global CBIT projects play a critical role in enhancing the institutional arrangements for transparency, building the technical capacities of local experts and providing a solid platform for development of the first BTRs. Supporting the national governments to draft legal and normative frameworks for climate transparency, refining the national GHG Inventory and improving the quality of data, capacitating the local experts to report under the Article 13 are among a few common elements for the national CBIT projects.
- The countries made a good progress in achieving the project objectives. However, the common challenges are: a high turnover of the governmental staff, limited understanding of new reporting requirements under the Article 13 of the Paris Agreement by decision makers and sustainability of the project achievements. To overcome these challenges, the countries are doing their best to train young and junior specialists, institutionalize the climate policy actions, engage with municipalities on accessing the on-site data, improve the reporting channels, and implement the mitigation actions at the level of a sub-district.
- One of the main challenges however is still associated with reliance on external resources. There is a recognition that the allocation of state budget for climate reporting and transparency is very important for a smooth transition from a project-based process to a more sustainable system on transparency. There are some efforts in introducing the tools and approaches for climate finance budgeting and tracking but it will take time to assess its effectiveness and practicality.
- The synergy and complementarity of the national CBIT projects is well assured by other initiatives on climate change at the national level. For example, the projects on NAP development, Climate Promise and global CBIT-GSP were recognized as main contributors to achieve the significant results on formulating the climate policies and establishing the M&E and MRV systems to track the national mitigation and adaptation measures.
- All the countries recognized that the exchange on transparency efforts within the established regional networks of the CBIT-GSP is very important for mutual learning and capacity building. The countries welcomed the idea of sharing best practices and success stories on



the national CBIT projects, which have already been completed with other countries and networks, through the global CBIT-GSP **platform**.

The side event “*Together4Transparency Kick-off Session*” was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December in meeting room 36.

Transparency of climate action is a central pillar of the Paris Agreement. It is needed to track the progress and support of climate commitments. At COP28, the UNFCCC together with collaborating partners convened more than 50 different events – from including high-level events and policy dialogues, mandated events and progress reports, roundtables and capacity-building opportunities, hands-on training sessions and a live Transparency Clinic. Preceding these events, a high level kick off session was held where the curtain to the 60 events was unveiled. The purpose of this event was to continue mobilizing both governments and all groups of society to actively promote and implement climate transparency for climate action and support.

Besides the unveiling of the 60 events the session also included a high-level panel which focused on the key role of transparency of climate action and support as a means to build trust and confidence among Parties and across the global community. The panel members also touched upon the importance of supporting young people to ensure they have the capacity, tools and opportunities to navigate climate change information and data, advocate for greater ambition and develop professional paths in the field of climate change.

In practical terms panel members further shared insights on how transparency serves as a tool not only for countries but across society. How it is a common denominator, an essential component that cannot be overlooked when looking at the full picture of climate action. The key message from this event was transparency is the very core of the Paris agreement without robust and credible knowledge of our current emission levels, the impacts of our actions and the tracking of finance and support, we would be in the dark. When we have transparency, we know where we are, and we know what to ask for.

Side Event: Roundtable Exchange: *“Getting ready for the ETF: support opportunities”* was held on **December 6<sup>th</sup> in Meeting room 36.**

This side event was hosted by the UNFCCC secretariat, it provided space for open conversations on the financial and technical assistance available for and needed by developing countries, which is key for the preparation of their national reports under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The objective of the meeting was to offer an informal setting for exchange between support providers and developing country Parties with the aim of matching offers to the needs in the transition to the ETF.

The event brought together representatives from developing countries and support providers to discuss the availability of financial and technical assistance for the preparation of national reports under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. It focused on the transition to the ETF with the aim to match offers of support with the needs of developing countries.

The CBIT-GSP participated in the roundtable discussions, alongside representatives of different countries and other transparency support providers. The Key take aways from this event are:

1. Though there is a variety of support options available for developing countries, there are still significant capacity gaps in moving toward the ETF.
2. Persistent challenges involve institutional arrangements, gaps in terms of human resources and institutional capacity, technological and financial gaps, and difficulties in securing the necessary political buy-in.
3. Tailored technical and financial assistance, and bilateral and south-to-south cooperation could accelerate the readiness of developing countries to implement the ETF.