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## PRESS RELEASE

### **New GEF fund gives boost to Paris Agreement implementation**

#### ***Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency will support openness and delivery of national climate plans***

**MARRAKESH, Wednesday November 16, 2016** – Implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement received a welcome boost today with the launch of a new fund to help build mutual trust and confidence among countries.

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), a new trust fund hosted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), was declared “open for business” by GEF CEO and Chairperson, Naoko Ishii, here at the COP 22 climate talks in Marrakesh.

“Increasing transparency and enhancing countries’ capacity for monitoring and evaluation are lynchpins for the Paris Agreement,” Ishii said. “The CBIT will allow us to see early action on the ground, and help countries scale up their efforts to deliver their national climate plans, or NDCs.”

Ishii said she was “very happy that GEF was able to respond quickly to the request from Paris COP21 to establish the CBIT” and noted that a number of donors have already lined up to support the initiative. It is “equally important”, she said, that we have already received requests for support from developing countries, “which reflects the importance that many countries attach to this issue.”

Eleven donors have pledged more than \$50 USD million to the CBIT, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Walloon Region (Belgium).

Others, including Japan, have publicly declared their intention to support the fund (See attached the joint statement from the donors, including amounts pledged).

At the same time, the first set of projects have been approved by the GEF for implementation in Costa Rica, Kenya, and South Africa. Also, a global co-ordination platform that will share lessons learned and engage with partners to help deliver more country projects.

Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said: “This is yet another positive and progressive initiative launched here in Marrakesh that underlines the way donor countries are raising support for the climate action aspirations of developing ones”.

“Confidence and cooperation are going to be key to the success of the Paris Climate Change Agreement—now and over the years and decades to come. This initiative supports these twin aims as the world looks to build a climate secure future,” she added.

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Transparency is the foundation of the Paris agreement's "ambition mechanism", a unique way that allows countries to ratchet up their ambition. Regular global stock-takes evaluate whether the world is on track to limit warming to 2 or 1.5 degrees; countries can then submit more and more ambitious national climate plans (NDCs).

Many developing countries lack the capacity to effectively monitor and report their progress vis-à-vis national greenhouse gas emission reduction, and track progress made in their NDC implementation. They may also face challenges in getting credible information on adaptation and resilience to cope with the effects of climate change.

To help developing countries in their efforts to build institutional and technical capacity for enhanced transparency, Parties requested the GEF at COP 21 to support the establishment and operation of a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT).

<http://www.thegef.org/topics/capacity-building-initiative-transparency-cbit>

The CBIT Trust Fund is now operational, and the first set of projects have been approved for implementation.

Costa Rica's project will enhance capacity for the nationwide climate actions inventory and further develop an MRV methodology framework. The efforts in Costa Rica are seen as models that may be shared with others in the region.

Kenya aims to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities. The project also seeks to enhance methodological frameworks for estimating land based emissions, which account for over 70% of Kenya's greenhouse gas emissions and thus is a priority.

South Africa seeks to enhance capacity building and implementation of its National Climate System, through coordination with academic institutions to address capacity needs.

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<https://www.thegef.org>, @theGEF, GEF at COP22: <http://www.thegef.org/events/unfccc-cop22>

16 November 2016

## **Joint Statement on the donors' pledge of \$55.3M USD to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency**

The text of the following statement was released by the Governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Walloon Region (Belgium).

Today in Marrakesh, we are pleased to announce pledges totaling \$55.3 million USD[1] to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), hosted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Today's announcements of intentions for support show that there is a growing coalition of donors for this important initiative.

CBIT was a key outcome from the Paris Agreement, as it assists developing countries in meeting the enhanced requirements for transparency of action and support under the Paris Agreement. For example, it supports national institutions to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor policies, strategies and programs to enhance transparency, and report on progress made in implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). CBIT also provides access to tools and applications to facilitate the use of improved methodologies and guidelines, as well as country-specific training. In addition it facilitates activities like peer exchange programs to help share experiences and expertise between countries.

Building capacity for an enhanced transparency system takes time, and we applaud the GEF's significant efforts to establish CBIT in 2016. In particular, we commend GEF for having already funded three developing countries' applications and a global co-ordination platform less than a year after COP-21 concluded.

The following pledges to CBIT support the priorities identified by recipient countries, which are essential for building transparency related capacity:

- Australia pledges to contribute 2 million AUD (\$1.5 million USD).
- Canada reaffirms its pledge to contribute 5 million CAD (\$3.8 million USD) to CBIT.
- Germany will contribute 10 million Euro (\$11 million USD) to CBIT in 2016.

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- Italy reaffirms its commitment to enhance capacity building for developing countries, pre- and post-2020. To this end it is ready to contribute to CBIT with 4 million Euro (\$4.4 million USD).
- Japan supports the work of CBIT and is seriously considering contributing to the initiative.
- The Netherlands pledges to contribute 1 million Euro (\$1.1 million USD).
- New Zealand has pledged to support CBIT, and is pleased to see the progress that the GEF has made.
- Sweden pledges to contribute 30 million SEK (\$3.4 million USD) to CBIT.
- Switzerland will contribute 1 million CHF (\$1 million USD) to CBIT and is in the course of finalizing its contribution agreement.
- The United Kingdom reaffirms the pledges to contribute 10 million GBP (\$12.3 million USD) from the International Climate Fund and 1 million GBP (\$1.2 million USD) from the Scottish Government's Climate Justice Fund to CBIT.
- The United States of America reaffirms its pledge of \$15 million USD to CBIT.
- The Walloon Region (Belgium) is pleased to announce a contribution of 400,000 Euro (\$441,000 USD) in 2017 to CBIT.

[1] All conversions to USD are based on OECD monthly average exchange rates for October 2016.