

7th Informal Forum of the Consultative Group of Experts

04 March 2025, 09:30–12:00 CET

Summary Report

I. Background

1. The [Consultative Group of Experts](#) (CGE), at its eleventh meeting agreed, as a part of its work plan, to organize its seventh annual informal forum in March 2025.
2. The informal forum was convened as a hybrid event, back-to-back with the [13th meeting of the CGE](#) and broadcasted on [YouTube](#).
3. The Paris Agreement mandated Parties to submit their first biennial transparency report (BTR) by 31 December 2024 under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF). While small island developing States (SIDS) and the least developed countries (LDCs) may submit information required for BTRs at their discretion. As such, it is crucial for developing country Parties to receive support to address current challenges and meet the reporting requirements outlined in the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs).
4. To that end, the objective of the 7th informal forum of the CGE was to sensitize the key stakeholders on its current and future work, as well as to engage with them to seek feedback and collectively brainstorm on collaboration and coordination of support in 2025 and beyond. The CGE also used the platform to showcase its key activities and seek feedback from the stakeholders on how its work be further reinforced to address the main challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties.
5. The call for registration was sent to national focal points and transparency experts, promoted via the CGE webpage, social media and other communication channels of the secretariat. A total of 145 participants joined the event, in-person and remote.
6. In addition, the [event recording on YouTube](#) has been viewed 41 times as of 13 March 2025.
7. This report contains a summary of the proceedings and discussions at the seventh informal forum of the CGE.

II. Proceedings and key takeaways

8. The event started with opening and welcoming remarks from Ms. Jenny Mager, CGE Chair, Ms. Julia Gardiner, SBI Chair, and Mr. Danielle Violetti, Senior Director of Programmes at the secretariat. SBI Chair, Ms. Julia Gardiner, reminded that the BTRs are a vital tool for understanding a country's NDC implementation and serve as a valuable input to processes like the Global Stocktake, ensuring transparency in tracking our collective efforts to reach the Paris Agreement goals. CGE Chair, Ms. Jenny Mager, further encouraged Parties to keep the momentum going on submitting BTRs whilst the Senior Director, Mr. Daniele Violetti, pledged the secretariat's full support to the CGE and Parties for BTR preparation.
9. **Session I** of the informal forum provided an update on the key activities and achievements of the CGE from 2024 and discussed the progress made by developing country Parties in preparing their first BTRs. The CGE highlighted the 2024 capacity-building needs assessment report that drew on the most recent national transparency reports and included an overview of the global and regional thematic areas and challenges developing country Parties face in implementing the MRV

and ETF arrangements. This was also the first instance that BTRs were included in the assessment. As of end of February, there are 97 BTRs submitted by the Parties.

10. **Session II** of the event focused on the lessons learned and experiences in preparing the first BTRs, and participants engaged among each other discussing the challenges they faced or continue to face, as well as needs and priorities. Representatives from South Africa (Ms. Sandra Motshwanedi), Maldives (Ms. Fathimath Raufa Moosa) and Kazakhstan (Ms. Aiman Yessekina) shared their experience and additional reflections in preparing their BTRs as well as national inventories.
11. **South Africa** reported on the challenges they faced in preparing the first BTR which included time pressure to submit the report by deadline, lack of formal arrangements with some stakeholders for data collection, and insufficient financial and human resources. However, they acknowledged that preparing the first BTR was a good learning experience to apply the MPGs, it allowed for creation of shared understanding between NDC3.0 team and Transparency team, and the participation in the technical expert review will help evaluate their capacity-building needs.
12. **Maldives** reported on challenges such as capacity constraints they faced including loss in institutional memory due to staff movements, and that geographical dispersion of stakeholders encumbers in-person engagement. However, they found that preparing the BTR allowed to build national capacity for reporting, improved stakeholder engagement and helped to establish a more permanent team working on climate reporting.
13. **Kazakhstan** provided insights into preparing their national inventory for submission with their BTR. They highlighted challenges such as the need for development of emission factors, the need to improve data collection, and the need for more capacity-building support. The experience of preparing the first BTR helped with enhancing the completeness of information for reporting and gaining the experience of using the ETF reporting tools.
14. After the presentations, a set of guiding questions was asked to the participants via Mentimeter exercise. The questions and summary of the feedback are presented below.

As you worked on or will work on your first BTR, what were the key challenges that you faced or anticipate to face?	How CGE can support you in addressing those challenges in a manner that transparency systems and arrangements gradually become sustainable?	What would be the priority capacity-building activities in 2025?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data related challenges, including availability, collection, verification. Use of ETF reporting tools, generating CTFs and CRTs Understanding the MPGs and flexibilities. Establishing institutional arrangements, lack of institutional memory. Coordination among stakeholders. Tight deadlines, work under pressure. Collecting information across various stakeholders (adaptation, GHG inventory, projections, support received, etc.). Lack of technical expertise in the country and lack of training. Identifying NDC indicators. Insufficient financial resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become "umbrella" to coordinate support tailored to country needs. Sustained capacity building for national experts. Collect and share lessons learnt and best practices. Support formulation of domestic MRV systems, including stakeholder engagement. Emphasize importance of timely submission and the need for continuous work. More workshops/trainings. Provide avenue for peer exchange and sharing of experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETF reporting tools, IPCC software. MPGs, MPGs for adaptation. TER process. Sharing of experiences and best practices. Data collection and analysis. Emissions projections. Use of AI in climate data analysis. NDC tracking. Support needed and received. Training of stakeholders. Preparation of NDC 3.0. Developing adaptation strategies.

15. **Session III** entailed a brainstorming session with support providers, guided by presentations from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The CGE engaged with the various support providers to explore opportunities for concrete collaboration areas as well as ideas to ensure that the efforts of each other complements and amplifies the impact and the following key points have been emphasized:
- The significance of the current year for transparency and the need for comprehensive support across key areas, such as NDC tracking, projections for GHG emissions and policy assessments;
 - Early and long-term planning is crucial and helps address challenges like access to finance, data availability, institutional coordination and technical capacity;
 - Continued and targeted support is essential for building long-term capacity, address gaps in technical expertise and share knowledge and experience;
 - Facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges between countries allows for sharing of best practices and, enhancing learning experiences and fostering regional collaboration;
 - For countries that prepared their first BTR, it is now important to support them as they navigate through the Technical Expert Review process.
16. Before closing, the CGE emphasized the importance of the preparation and submission of the BTRs, such that developing country Parties could learn from the experience and they serve as important inputs towards understanding the support needs countries are facing. The CGE also encouraged Parties that submitted their first BTRs to begin planning for the second BTR and effectively participate in the technical expert review process so that the outcomes can help them enhance their reporting over time.
17. The discussions also served as an input to CGE in developing its 2025 work plan and the progress report to SBI.