



6th Informal Forum of the Consultative Group of Experts

05 February 2024, 09:30–12:00 CET

Summary Report

I. Background

1. The [Consultative Group of Experts](#) (CGE), at its ninth meeting, agreed to organize its [sixth informal forum](#) as a hybrid event after COP28, as a part of its work plan for 2023.
2. The Paris Agreement mandates 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, many aim to submit by the deadline. 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).
3. To that end, the objective of the sixth 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 some of the key factors that are critical to successful implementation of the ETF.
4. The forum further aimed at showcasing the work of the CGE and seek feedback from the relevant stakeholders on how its work can be further reinforced in a manner that addresses the main challenges, constraints and needs of developing country Parties; hearing directly from the participants on any new and emerging areas that require technical assistance and support; and to exchange views on the support opportunities available on the ground via other support providers with a view to exploring how these efforts could complement each other.
5. The call for registration was sent to national focal points and participants of the 2022 and 2023 CGE training workshops and webinars, and was also promoted via the CGE main page, social media and other communication channels of the secretariat.
6. 30 experts participated to the event in-person and more than 120 experts worldwide participated remotely. In addition, the event [recording on YouTube](#) has been viewed 125 times as of 19 February 2024.
7. This report contains a summary of the proceedings and discussions at the sixth informal forum of the CGE.

II. Proceedings and key takeaways

8. The sixth informal forum of the CGE was convened on 5 February 2024, as a 2.5-hour long hybrid event, and broadcasted live on YouTube.
9. The event started with opening and welcoming remarks from Mr. Xiang Gao, CGE Chair, Mr. Nabeel Munir, SBI Chair, and Mr. Donald Cooper, Director of the Transparency Division at the UNFCCC. The speakers collectively highlighted the crucial role of transparency in climate action and support and critical the role of the CGE in providing technical support to developing



countries, especially during the transition to full implementation of the ETF. The discussion also touched upon challenges in meeting ETF requirements, the substantial need for technical and financial support, and the role of CGE in helping countries identify impactful areas for support needed. The UNFCCC secretariat reiterated its full support to the CGE and expressed readiness to collaborate based on the CGE's guidance.

10. **Session I** of the informal forum provided insights into recent CGE reports and surveys regarding the challenges and needs of developing country Parties in climate reporting. The presentation outlined the CGE's role and specifics on the key findings of the [2023 CGE transparency gaps and needs assessment](#), including highlights from the CGE biennial survey conducted in 2023. Key challenges and needs across various themes were underlined, notably emphasizing issues related to methodology and tools, institutional arrangements, and data and information concerning greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. This analysis underscored the broad range of support requirements across different areas of climate reporting.
11. **Session II** of the event provided a platform for the CGE to engage with experts and representatives from developing countries, focusing on their ongoing challenges, needs, and expectations regarding technical support. Through this platform, representatives from Andorra, Armenia and Ghana, shared country case presentations with valuable insights. Challenges in preparing the first BTR were highlighted, such as issues with sectoral data collection mechanisms, issues with timeliness and quality of cooperating organizations and staffing limitations. The recommendations and good practices included maintaining dedicated and permanent teams, internalizing communication tasks, streamlining reporting obligations by incorporating MPGs and ETF tools within national institutional arrangements. The presentations also underscored the importance of capacity building for all stakeholders, such as climate policymakers and national teams responsible for preparing GHG inventory. Additionally, lessons learned from the existing measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) were shared, emphasizing the importance of integrating the MRV and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, continuous capacity building, involving national statistics offices in data collection and continuous investment in transparency systems. Among critical success factors, all presenters underscored building and enhancing existing systems and arrangements, having a dedicated team for transparency, progressive improvements, allocating roles and responsibilities to line ministries to ensure long-term sustainability and ownership, incentivizing skill acquisition and career development, continuous capacity building and training for national teams.
12. After case presentations, a set of guiding questions was asked to the participants via Mentimeter exercise. The questions and summary of the feedback were as follows:
 - What capacities need to be built and maintained to facilitate implementation of the ETF? The areas highlighted on understanding the ETF and its MPGs; establishing institutional arrangements and robust systems for GHG inventory, NDC tracking and projections; data and information collection tools; use of CTFs and CRTs; application of flexibility provisions; accessing to GEF resources; financial support needed and received; stakeholder engagement and coordination; tools to report on loss and damage; methodologies to assess climate risks and monitor implementation of adaptation policies; sharing experiences and lessons learned in preparing BTRs.
 - In establishing national transparency arrangements, which specific areas or aspects would you most value the CGE's support to enhance your efforts? The feedback indicated several



areas and aspects, including on developing reporting standards, templates and annotated outline for BTRs; providing capacity building and support for upscaling existing MRV systems; organizing BTR planning and BTR writing workshops; sector specific trainings; capacity building activities on GHG inventory preparation, NDC tracking, financial and technical support needed and received, as well as on using common tabular formats (CTFs) and common reporting tables (CTFs); in country trainings (including to stakeholders from different sectors); sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned; and having training materials in multiple languages.

- What would be the preferred capacity-building activities in 2024? Preferred capacity-building activities for 2024 included training on ETF reporting tools, use of CRTs and CTFs; tracking progress of implementing the NDCs (and monitoring of NDC indicators); national GHG inventories; reporting on adaptation; BTR writing; technical expert review process and peer review of BTRs; as well as producing knowledge products and conducting webinars on preparing the BTRs; online buddy program to share experiences and consider solutions to address challenges.

13. **Session III** entailed a brainstorming session with support providers. 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. This discussion was guided by presentations from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) executed by UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC). The session emphasized the transformative potential of agriculture in addressing climate change, 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. Additionally, alignment with country priorities, improvement of MRV and transparency systems, access to financial resources, as well as capacity development through training and knowledge exchange were highlighted as crucial aspects of support provided. Lastly, the importance of collaboration and the CGE's role in facilitating coordination among stakeholders were underscored, with plans for future forums to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing.

14. After presentations from the support providers, a set of guiding questions was asked to the participants via Mentimeter exercise. The questions and feedback provided were as follows:

- How do the challenges, needs and priorities highlighted in the previous session align with your mandate and programming? Key highlights underlined that the support provided by various support providers are aligned or overlapping; coordination would be instrumental to create synergies, not duplicate efforts and to improve impact; CGE could play a role in identifying synergies and possibilities for collaboration among the different support initiatives and addressing the challenges, needs and priorities; it is important to ensure that the support is provided to the right people who would contribute to addressing challenges in their country.
- What could be the key collaboration areas with the CGE to complement the efforts with a view to amplifying the impacts? Key collaboration areas were indicated as supporting and joining the CGE regional workshops; organizing joint planning activities to complement each other; strengthening the dialogue, communication and coordination; prioritizing the



needs and working systematically to improve efficiency and effectiveness; support providers to help with raising awareness of CGE materials and activities; organizing workshops for countries with similar national circumstances; identifying key needs and challenges to guide work of partners coherently.

15. During the question-and-answer session, the focus centered on experience from Andorra's preparation of its first BTR. Specific inquiries were made to further elaboration of various aspects, including the application of flexibility provisions, approach of NDC tracking process, as well as challenges faced in meeting the MPGs.
16. Before closing, the CGE expressed expectations regarding the anticipated number of BTRs by the end of 2024, emphasizing the importance of progress updates from agencies involved in providing support to Parties in preparing BTRs. The group also recommended incorporating peer review exercises into capacity-building activities for implementing agencies to better understand the review process and ensure effective training.
17. The discussions will serve as an input to CGE in developing its 2024 work plan and the progress report to SBI.

ANNEX. Programme of the CGE 6th Informal Forum

Time	Item
09:30-09:35	Opening and housekeeping rules
09:35-09:50	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gao Xiang, CGE Chair; Mr. Nabeel Munir, SBI chair; Mr. Donald Cooper, Director, UNFCCC Secretariat
09:50-10:00	Session 1 - Scene setting presentation by the CGE, (Ms. Sandra Boitumelo Motshwanedi, CGE member, South Africa) This session will provide a summary of the key findings from the latest CGE report and stocktake survey on problems, constraints, lessons learned and capacity-building needs of developing country Parties in preparing NCs, BURs and BTRs.
10:00-10:40	Session 2 – Focused discussion on gaps and needs This session will serve as a space for the CGE to engage with the experts and representatives from developing countries on the challenges they continue to face, needs and priorities, and their expectations of the CGE in terms of the technical support and advice. In order to set the scene for the discussions, the participants will be invited to address the following questions. Case presentations (5 minutes each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Carles Miquel (<i>with the support of Ms. Anna Boneta, Ms. Meritxell Cuyàs, Mr. Albert Gomà</i>), Andorra • Ms. Ani Ghukasyan, Armenia • Mr. Daniel Akwetey Lamptey, Ghana
10:40-11:00	Health break
11:00-11:40	Session 3 – Brainstorming session with the support providers In this session, the CGE will engage with various support providers with a view to exploring opportunities for concrete collaboration as well as ideas to ensure that the efforts of each other complements well and amplifies the impact. Presentations by the panelists (3 min each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mirella Salvatore, FAO • Mr. Henning Wuester, ICAT • Mr. Richemond Assie, UNDP • Ms. Fatima-Zahra Taibi, UNEP-CCC
11:40-11:50	Q&A Session
11:50-12:00	Summary of key takeaways and closing