



ORAL REPORT BY THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR
IMPLEMENTATION

AGENDA ITEM 4C

PROVISION OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

BY

CHIZURU AOKI

GEF SECRETARIAT

2 December 2019

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to provide a statement on the provision of financial and technical support by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The document FCCC/SBI/2019/INF.10 provides information on the status of resources provided for the preparations of national communications and biennial update reports from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

Countries continue to make good progress on these activities. During the reporting period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, the GEF has approved support for 22 national communications and 17 biennial update reports, for a total of \$19.3 million. We are pleased to inform you that since the report was submitted, additional projects have been approved. These include projects to prepare the national communication and biennial update report in Malaysia, Marshall Islands, and Samoa, and prepare the biennial update report in the Republic of Moldova.

The GEF continues to set aside financial resources for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports on the basis of agreed full-cost funding. Non-Annex I Parties receive up to \$352,000 for the biennial update report and \$500,000 for the national communication. Parties do not need to use their GEF

country STAR allocation. Resources above the agreed full-cost funding, if needed, may be provided from a country's STAR allocation.

To date, the GEF has supported a total of 187 biennial update reports in 130 countries and 487 national communications in 152 countries.

In addition, the GEF has supported the Global Support Program, jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP to provide additional technical guidance and backstopping for the development of these reports, including through training and sharing of best practices on greenhouse gas inventories and IPCC guidelines, vulnerability and adaptation, as well as mitigation assessments, and incorporating gender responsiveness. The five-year program started in late 2015 and has so far provided support to more than 120 countries. The Global Support Program has also supported the establishment of new South-South communities of practice in Latin America, the Caribbean, West Africa and a Portuguese-speaking cluster on monitoring, reporting, verification (MRV) and inventories.

The 57th GEF Council, which will take place from 17 December 2019, will consider a Work Program for approval, which contains a new phase of the Global Support Program as well as a national communication project.

The national reports play a significant role for Parties to fulfill their convention obligations and assist countries with capacity-building activities. They are linked to the preparations and tracking of action and needs included in the Nationally Determined Contributions. They are also foundations for countries to enhance their transparency, which the GEF is supporting through the Capacity-building Initiative on Transparency (CBIT).

The GEF has acted swiftly to establish and operationalize the CBIT per the Paris Agreement decision. For the GEF-7 period starting in July 2018, \$55 million have been notionally allocated to the CBIT from the GEF Trust Fund. This is in addition to \$58.3 million that Parties already accessed from the CBIT Trust Fund.

Since the CBIT was launched three years ago, the GEF has supported 58 projects totaling \$89.4 million. These projects are supporting 58 countries, including seventeen LDCs, eight SIDS and one LDC SIDS. The support is provided in a geographically balanced manner. Already, 29 of these CBIT projects are under implementation. These projects respond to nationally identified priorities and are thus specific to each country's transparency-related capacity-building needs.

The CBIT is also supporting four global projects for knowledge sharing, coordination, and capacity-building. The GEF Secretariat will continue to review and approve new CBIT project proposals in alignment with the programming directions and COP guidance, utilizing available set-aside resources.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm that the GEF will continue to provide resources as a priority for the preparation of biennial update reports and national communications. We are also committed to continue to undertake work to respond to guidance on supporting transparency reporting, received in COP 24.

Personnel from the GEF Secretariat are available for consultations with Parties on this subject as well as broader GEF support during the COP.

Thank you.