

CACCC 2025

Side-event report:

**Advancing NDC 3.0
through Climate
Transparency Actions
and Regional Cooperation
in Central Asia**

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency – ICAT

Side-event report: Advancing NDC 3.0 through Climate Transparency Actions and Regional Cooperation in Central Asia

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Date: June, 2025

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PREPARED UNDER

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), supported by Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.



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Republic of Austria
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This report summarizes the event held within the framework of the Regional Hub for Climate Action Transparency in Central Asia Additional Financing (ReCATH Phase II). The meeting took place during the Seventh Central Asian Climate Change Conference (CACCC-2025) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and was organized by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) with financial support from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT).

This meeting was organized to facilitate dialogue among government representatives and international partners, advancing the preparation, development, and implementation of NDC 3.0. It also aimed to showcase technical support available for the region and strengthen regional cooperation on transparent climate action in Central Asia.

The event highlighted ReCATH's pivotal role in supporting Central Asian countries to advance their NDC development and meet their climate commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Background

NDC 3.0 represents a major step forward in global climate action. By 2025, all countries are due to submit their updated climate plans under this new round. This update gives nations a chance to build on past experience and set stronger, science-based targets.

In Central Asia, the ReCATH project is helping five countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - improve how they track and report their climate progress. This work aligns with the Paris Agreement's transparency requirements.

During its initial phase, ReCATH made important contributions. It helped countries strengthen their systems for measuring emissions and preparing national inventory reports - key elements for developing effective climate plans.

Now in its second phase (starting April 2025), ReCATH is expanding its support. The program will help countries develop more accurate inventory reports; assist with preparing NDC 3.0 updates and improve climate reporting overall

Specific activities include peer review of emission inventories, creating regional systems to track climate adaptation, developing green taxonomy principles, and working with other international climate transparency efforts.

Objectives

The primary objective of the session was to foster an open and constructive dialogue between government representatives of Central Asian countries and international development partners regarding the preparation and implementation of the third iteration of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0). Participants were encouraged to exchange views on how transparency mechanisms can enhance the effectiveness of NDCs and promote mutual accountability.

In addition to dialogue, the session aimed to provide an opportunity for countries to share their current progress, highlight achievements, and outline specific challenges they face in integrating transparency provisions into their updated NDCs.

Another major goal of the session was to introduce and clarify the types of technical support available from international organizations and development partners. The discussion focused on identifying how regional and global initiatives—such as ReCATH, CBIT, FAO, the Global Methane Hub, UNDP and the NDC Partnership—can align and coordinate efforts to support Central Asian countries in meeting their enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement.



Participants

The session was attended by high-level representatives from environmental ministries and hydrometeorological services of Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Representatives from ICAT, the Global Methane Hub, FAO, UNDP, and the NDC Partnership also participated.

The full list of participants is provided in Annex 1

Meeting minutes

The meeting commenced with an official opening by Mr. Gurbangeldi Allaberdyev, Head of the national BTR team, UNDP Turkmenistan. He expressed his gratitude to the organisers of the session and noted the high relevance of the topics discussed. Mr. Allaberdyev also emphasised the importance of discussing issues related to the timely updating of NDCs, enhancing transparency, and sharing experiences among countries in the region.

Following his remarks, Mr. Oleg Bulanyi, Senior Officer at ICAT, delivered a welcome

address. He emphasized in his remarks that this session marked the first time that the topics of NDCs and transparency were brought together in a single discussion. He highlighted that transparency, as outlined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, is often seen merely as a reporting obligation, whereas its true purpose is to foster effective communication, build mutual trust and confidence, and promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement's goals. Mr. Bulanyi noted that instruments such as Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) enable countries to monitor one another's progress, thereby supporting more effective communication and visibility of actions. He also pointed out that the updating of NDCs occurred separately from BTR preparations, and stressed the importance of integrating these processes. ICAT is committed to supporting countries in aligning their long-term development goals with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and in maximizing co-benefits through transparency efforts. He concluded by stating that updated NDCs should not serve as political declarations but should instead be realistic, achievable, and grounded in transparent processes.

During the session, representatives of Central Asian countries were invited to reflect on a set of key questions aimed at linking transparency efforts with the enhancement of climate ambition. In particular, participants were asked to elaborate on how their country ensures that each subsequent NDC reflects progress beyond the previous one, in line with the requirements of the Paris Agreement. They were also invited to share the current status of NDC 3.0 preparation, provide updates on the development of their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), and explain how the lessons learned through the transparency process are being integrated into the formulation of NDC 3.0.



The first intervention in response to the guiding questions was delivered by Ms. Aizada Barieva, Head of the Climate Policy Department at the Ministry of Natural Resources,

Ecology and Technical Supervision of the of the Kyrgyz Republic. Her speech focused on the country's ongoing efforts to prepare its NDC 3.0. She noted that the process had already been launched with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). One of the key lessons learned from the previous NDC cycle, she emphasized, was the critical importance of coordination and inter-institutional collaboration.

It was noted that high-quality data collection and the active involvement of all relevant government agencies are essential for effective monitoring of the implementation process of the NDCs. Previous Kyrgyz Republic NDC was ambitious, but it was not fully realised. To ensure effective progress tracking, Kyrgyzstan recognized the need not only for robust data collection but also for an institutionalized approach, it was emphasised that concrete measures for its implementation must be officially approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. In this context, a government order was issued to establish an interagency working group comprising representatives from line ministries, academia, and civil society organizations. Ms. Barieva also highlighted the importance of formal government approval of the NDC implementation plan, underscoring that such a decision would provide the necessary legitimacy and serve as a foundation for systematic monitoring and reporting.

She concluded by noting that NDC 3.0 will place particular emphasis on building a sustainable monitoring and reporting system, with the integration of lessons learned and results from the BTR and other related reporting processes.

The representative of Tajikistan, Ms. Parvina Saidjamolova, Head of the Meteorological Forecast Centre, Agency for Hydrometeorology, Republic of Tajikistan highlighted Tajikistan's high vulnerability to climate risks, particularly due to rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns. Despite its low emission levels, the country is actively working to enhance its climate ambition under NDC 3.0.

To support this effort, a dedicated NDC Implementation Center was established to coordinate an interagency technical group of 17 institutions.

Ms. Saidjamolova emphasized ongoing challenges related to limited funding and human capacity, stressing the need for international support. Tajikistan plans to present its updated NDC at COP30 in Brazil, using the BTR as a foundation, and is working toward a sustainable system for monitoring and adjusting climate policy.

The representative of Turkmenistan, Mr. Gurbangeldi Allaberdyev, highlighted Turkmenistan's target to reduce emissions by 20% compared to 2010 levels—an ambitious yet achievable goal. He stressed the importance of committing only to targets that are realistically attainable. Despite challenges such as high energy intensity and associated emissions, Turkmenistan remains committed to its climate goals.

Ms. Raisa Tariannikova, Head of the NDC preparation team of the Republic of Uzbekistan presented an overview of Uzbekistan's progress in preparing NDC 3.0. A broad interagency working group has been established, involving ministries, NGOs, and academia, with support from UNDP under the Climate Promise 2.0 initiative. Uzbekistan's main indicator is emissions intensity per unit of GDP, aligning climate action with economic growth.

She noted that the country successfully submitted its BTR in 2024, using the 2022 emissions inventory as a baseline for assessing progress. Work is ongoing to project emissions and GDP through 2035. Uzbekistan has also finalized its long-term decarbonization strategy to 2050 and is advancing sectoral and regional adaptation

plans.

Particular attention is being given to the financial dimension of the NDC, including needs assessments and potential funding sources. Ms. Tariannikova emphasized the importance of youth engagement, gender considerations, biodiversity, and transparent monitoring as integral elements of the updated NDC.

Ms. Nailia Timerkhanova, Regional Expert on Transparency in ReCATH opened second part of the session by emphasizing the importance of coordination between international agencies and national stakeholders. She noted that her dual role in both the ReCATH initiative and the Global Transparency Programme has enabled close cooperation with Central Asian countries.

Ms. Timerkhanova welcomed the visible progress countries in the region have made in preparing their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), noting that these reports serve as a critical analytical base for shaping the next generation of NDCs.

Mr. Oleg Bulanyi, Representative of the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), highlighted that a successful NDC must be rooted in a clear understanding of a country's current position in fulfilling its climate commitments. While ICAT does not directly support NDC preparation, it provides countries with tools for developing their MRV / inventory systems, emissions projections, and institutional frameworks.

As an example, Mr. Bulanyi referred to ICAT's support to Kyrgyzstan in building an integrated MRV system in the energy sector, including improvements to the emissions inventory and emissions projections. This work enables the formulation of realistic, data-driven goals under NDC 3.0.

Dr. Walid Ali, Climate and Security Risk, UNDP, presented the Climate Promise as UNDP's flagship global initiative supporting more than 120 countries across all stages of NDC development and implementation. He outlined three priority areas of support: ambition, acceleration, and implementation.

Dr. Ali emphasized the need for inclusive stakeholder consultations to ensure transparency and broad engagement. He noted that UNDP assists countries in building reliable data systems, assessing mitigation potential, and formulating adaptation and decarbonization strategies. He also highlighted efforts to expand access to climate finance, including the development of domestic financial infrastructure and carbon pricing mechanisms. His remarks emphasized that UNDP's support extends beyond technical assistance toward systemic transformation of climate governance.

Ms. Evetta Zenina, Natural Resources Officer (Climate Change), FAO, outlined FAO's role as a technical agency supporting transparency in the agriculture and land use sectors. She noted the wide range of methodologies and tools available for data collection and institutional capacity building in these areas.

Ms. Zenina noted that the ultimate goal is to build sustainable national capacities rather than prepare reports externally. She cautioned against outsourcing reporting tasks to consultants without knowledge transfer, emphasizing that long-term capacity must remain within countries. Coordination remains a major challenge, as climate action is cross-sectoral and often lacks a single coordinating ministry. She called on international partners to reframe their approaches to prioritize systemic, country-owned solutions.

Ms. Olivia Azadegan, Senior Energy Manager, Global Methane Hub, presented the organization's support aimed at elevating methane as a standalone priority in national

climate agendas. She noted that methane is a potent greenhouse gas and that its visibility in policy frameworks must be strengthened.



Ms. Azadegan outlined the Hub’s multidimensional support, which includes funding, technical training, MRV development, and coalition-building. She emphasized the importance of data transparency, international collaboration, and targeted methane strategies. She also highlighted the Hub’s partnership with CAREC and its efforts to localize support through context-specific projects and cross-level cooperation. The organization’s work is structured around three pillars: data, finance, and policy.

Mr. Deo Gabinette, Regional Manager for Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, NDC Partnership, closed the session by underscoring that four out of five Central Asian countries are members of the NDC Partnership, a global coalition of over 200 countries and institutions. He noted the Partnership’s goal to provide targeted support for building MRV systems, tracking NDC progress, and developing digital platforms.

Mr. Gabinette referenced ongoing trainings in the region, including an upcoming GHG inventory workshop in Almaty. He shared experiences from the region in institutional and digital capacity development for transparent NDC implementation. He emphasized that the Partnership offers both technical and financial support, including through the Partnership Action Fund, which complements the work of other donors. He concluded with a call for Central Asian countries to actively utilize the Partnership’s resources in preparing for the next NDC cycle.

Key Outcomes

The session underscored the strong regional momentum for enhancing climate

transparency and scaling up ambition through the development of NDC 3.0. Government representatives from Central Asia shared national experiences that highlighted both progress and persistent challenges in institutionalizing climate commitments. Countries such as Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan emphasized the importance of structured inter-ministerial coordination and building integrated MRV systems, while Tajikistan and Turkmenistan stressed the need for realistic goal setting backed by data and institutional capacity. Across the board, countries reiterated that lessons learned from BTR preparation are instrumental in shaping the new generation of NDCs.

Development partners reaffirmed their commitment to supporting national efforts through technical assistance, policy advice, and capacity-building. Notably, ICAT, UNDP, FAO, the Global Methane Hub, and the NDC Partnership each outlined tools and mechanisms aimed at reinforcing data transparency, long-term planning, and access to finance. Panelists highlighted that transparency is not merely a reporting requirement but a strategic lever for effective policy implementation, mutual accountability, and informed decision-making.

The alignment between regional projects such as ReCATH and Central Asia Capacity building on methane emission reduction (CA CBMER) with national strategies was identified as a success factor. A shared understanding emerged that transparency systems and NDC implementation frameworks must be co-developed to ensure durability, inclusiveness, and alignment with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement.

Conclusion

The session reaffirmed a strong and growing commitment among Central Asian countries to develop and implement ambitious and realistic Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), supported by robust climate transparency systems. Discussions demonstrated that countries in the region are increasingly aware of the importance of embedding transparency not only as a reporting obligation, but as a cornerstone for long-term climate policy planning, implementation, and accountability.

Participants also emphasized the importance of ensuring continuity of technical expertise at the national level, formalizing interagency coordination structures, and integrating lessons learned from BTRs into the preparation of updated NDCs. The role of international partners was highlighted as critical, not only in providing financial and technical support, but also in facilitating peer learning, coherence, and strategic alignment among ongoing initiatives.

The outcomes of this session will inform future activities under ReCATH Phase II and strengthen the foundation for a coherent regional approach to climate reporting and policy alignment

Annexes

- Annex I. List of Participants
- Annex II. Concept and agenda of the event



WORKING TOGETHER FOR RESILIENT REGION

ЦЕНТРАЛЬНО-АЗИАТСКАЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ИЗМЕНЕНИЯ КЛИМАТА
Достижение глобальной цели в области климатического финансирования
через региональные и национальные действия в Центральной Азии

CENTRAL ASIA CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
Achieving the Global Climate Finance Goal through Regional and National Actions in Central Asia

CENTRAL ASIA CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
“Achieving the Global Climate Finance Goal through Regional and National Actions in Central Asia”
May 13-15, 2025 | Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Concept Note for the Parallel Session at the CACCC-2025



Advancing NDC 3.0 through Climate Transparency Actions and Regional Cooperation in Central Asia

Date:	May 14, 2025
Time:	11:00 - 12:30
Session (panel or parallel):	Parallel Session #2
Moderators:	Oxana Kravtsova, Programme Specialist, ReCATH Nailia Timerkhanova, UNEP-CCC, CBIT-GSP
Proposed speakers¹:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shattyk Tastemirova, Acting Director of the Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan 2. Aizada Barieva, Head of Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic 3. Parvina Saidjamolova, Head of the Meteorological Forecast Centre, Agency for Hydrometeorology, Republic of Tajikistan 4. Batyr Ballyyev, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan, TBC 5. Sayyora Abdullaeva, Head of the Centre of Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan, TBC 6. Mr. Oleg Bulanyi, Senior Officer, ICAT 7. Olivia Azadegan, Senior Energy Manager, Global Methane Hub 8. Deo Cabinete, Regional Manager for Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, NDC Partnership 9. Evetta Zenina, Natural Resources Officer (Climate Change), FAO 10. Dr. Walid Ali, Policy Specialist – Climate and Security Risk, UNDP

¹ Please note that the proposed speakers must attend **in person** due to potential limitations in live or virtual participation.

Background:

The Paris Agreement established a universal framework for addressing climate change, with **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** as its cornerstone. **Transparency is a fundamental principle** embedded within this framework, ensuring accountability, mutual trust, and informed decision-making among Parties. **NDC 3.0 marks a pivotal moment** in the global climate agenda, with all Parties expected to submit their updated commitments by 2025. This iteration provides an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned from previous submissions and incorporate higher levels of ambition aligned with the latest scientific findings.

NDC 3.0 must not only outline enhanced emission reduction and mitigation efforts but also ensure that these commitments are transparent, actionable, and reflective of national circumstances. In NDC 3.0, transparency emerges as a critical enabler for enhancing ambition, fostering international cooperation, and driving effective implementation.

The Climate Action Transparency Hub in Central Asia (ReCATH), established in 2021 under the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), and hosted by the Regional Environment Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) plays an important role in improving climate reporting and MRV systems throughout Central Asia. During its first phase, ReCATH provided technical support for national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, developed methodologies, and strengthened national experts' capacities. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan have already submitted their first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), marking significant progress in developing their ETF systems, improving the reporting process under the ETF, and meeting their Paris Agreement commitments.

In 2025 the *ReCATH Phase 2* was launched to support the countries of Central Asia to refine their transparency practices and to support their embodiment into new NDC 3.0. Based on the ReCATH achievements and institutional set-up, a new additional project named: *Capacity Building for Methane Emission Reduction (CA CBMER)* started in February 2025 to support the countries of Central Asia in reducing their methane emissions in oil and gas sectors by providing capacity building training and technical expertise. Both projects are strongly complementary as both *strive to improve the climate reporting quality, increase the reliability of data and refine the national climate policy* aligned with the ambitious NDC 3.0, Paris Agreement and Global Methane Pledge.

The Parallel Session will provide a platform to discuss the anticipated updates that Central Asian countries will incorporate into their NDC 3.0. It will also examine how transparency practices and tools are being integrated into the new NDC 3.0. Additionally, the session will explore opportunities for development and transparency partners to support countries in the region by offering technical expertise, capacity-building training, and innovative tools and solutions for transparency, climate reporting, and the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions.

Rationale:

The outcomes of this parallel session will contribute to the broader discussion on advancing NDC 3.0 formulation and implementation in Central Asia. The session will also explore how various initiatives—such as ReCATH, the Global Methane Hub, the NDC Partnership, FAO, CBIT-GSP, UNDP and others—can support the region in transitioning towards enhanced transparency frameworks and in promoting low-carbon strategies, and implementing NDC 3.0.

Objective:

The primary objective of the session is to **facilitate a dialogue among government representatives** and international partners to advance NDC 3.0 implementation, enhance technical support, and promote regional cooperation on transparent climate actions in Central Asia.

Other objectives include:

- To explore available technical support for the successful implementation of NDC 3.0 and the transition to a low-carbon future.
- Promote strategies for methane mitigation, climate reporting, and regional cooperation on transparency.

Agenda and Timeslots:

Opening of the Parallel Session

Welcome Remarks (10 minutes):

- Gurbangeldi Allaberdyev, Head of the national BTR team, UNDP Turkmenistan
- Mr. Oleg Bulanyi, Senior Officer, ICAT

Session: Advancing NDC 3.0 and transparency actions in Central Asia

Proposed speakers:

- Aizada Barieva, Head of Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic (7 min)
- Parvina Saidjamolova, Head of the Meteorological Forecast Centre, Agency for Hydrometeorology, Republic of Tajikistan (7 min)
- Gurbangeldi Allaberdyev, Head of the national BTR team, UNDP Turkmenistan (7 min)
- Raisa Tariannikova, Head of the NDC preparation team of the Republic of Uzbekistan (7 min)

The speakers will prepare two slides based on the following guiding questions:

- 1. As per the Paris Agreement, each successive NDC shall represent a progression from the previous NDC. How is your country addressing this and what is the current status of NDC 3.0 preparation in your country?*
- 2. What is the status of your first BTRs and how lessons learned from transparency are integrated into NDC 3.0 development?*

Panel Session 2: Support in Climate Transparency Actions and Regional Cooperation in Central Asia

Proposed discussants (TBC):

- Oleg Bulanyi, Senior Officer, ICAT (5 min)
- Deo Cabinete, Regional Manager for Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, NDC Partnership (5 min)
- Dr. Walid Ali UNDP Regional office (TBD) (5 min)
- Olivia Azadegan, Senior Energy Manager, Global Methane Hub (GMH) (5 min)
- Evetta Zenina, Natural Resources Officer (Climate Change), FAO (5 min)

Guiding questions for panel discussants:

- 1. How do international partners support Central Asian countries in advancing their NDC 3.0 policies, particularly in enhancing transparency and climate reporting under the Paris Agreement?*
- 2. What emerging opportunities in mitigation and low-carbon development can Central Asian countries leverage to advance their NDC 3.0 commitments?*

Wrap-up and closure (2 min)

Key Takeaways and Recommendations

1. Central Asia's region stays committed to the Paris Agreement by ensuring that their updated commitments (Nationally Determined Contributions - NDC 3.0) are ambitious, actionable and aligned with Enhanced Transparency Frameworks (ETF).
2. The dialogue among governments and international partners will continue, fostering technical support, sharing best practices, and mobilizing financial resources to assist Central Asian nations in transitioning to a low-carbon future while enhancing climate reporting mechanisms.
3. Advancing climate transparency actions and reducing methane emissions are highlighted as cost-effective and impactful approaches to achieving NDC targets at the regional level, leveraging capacity-building support from ReCATH Phase 2 and CA CBMER.

Additional Information

N/A

Administrative Information:	
Expected Number of participants:	40
High-level participant (Y/N)	Yes
Language	English-Russian
Simultaneous translation (Y/N)	Yes