

ICAT at SB62: Report of Activities

The June Climate Meetings—formally the 62nd session of the subsidiary bodies under the UNFCCC – SB62— was held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 26 June 2024. Climate delegates from around the world gathered alongside stakeholders from the public and private sector for two weeks of in-depth discussions on advancing climate action.

With the recent submissions of the first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and the 2025 deadline for the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), transparency has taken an increasingly prominent role. The ICAT Secretariat actively promoted transparency as the backbone of the Paris Agreement and a critical enabler of ambitious and effective NDCs. In this context, transparency not only supports national climate action but also helps align it with global climate goals and local development priorities.

Throughout the June Climate Meetings, ICAT hosted and contributed to a range of events and activities designed to strengthen transparency efforts. This report provides an overview and summary of these engagements.

Leading on official side events

Strengthening sectoral climate action through transparency

Wednesday, 18 June 2025

Sectoral climate action plays a critical role in achieving mitigation goals, and robust sectoral transparency frameworks are key to enhancing such action. These frameworks help break down silos, enable better coordination, and support countries in effectively implementing and strengthening their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

With case studies from Uganda and St Kitts & Nevis and the experience of Malawi, this event featured examples and best practices on the challenges and opportunities of establishing sectoral mitigation action through integrated transparency approaches to inform NDC planning, design, implementation and evaluation. **The session highlights included:**

● **Uganda** uses sectoral transparency to drive impactful change. With ICAT support, the country developed NDC tracking frameworks and data collection templates for the transport and waste sectors, and engaged a broad range of stakeholders. Looking forward, the country plans to scale up this approach and expand it to other sectors.

● **Lucy Iyango, Assistant Commissioner, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda:** “Let's ensure transparency frameworks are embedded in every sector, ministry, and community, making transparency the heartbeat of sectoral climate action. At its core, transparency is about people—ensuring every ton of carbon counted is a step toward justice and every data point builds trust.”

● **Saint Kitts & Nevis** developed transparency frameworks for the electricity and transport sectors, with country experts trained in the use of ICAT tools for NDC tracking, including GACMO and TraCAD. The country also drafted legal instruments to support the full institutionalisation of its transparency systems.

● **Sade Hanley, Programme Officer, Saint Kitts Climate Action, Ministry of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment:** “All of this supports our national vision, to become a sustainable island state: resilient, self-reliant, and globally engaged. The ICAT project has helped lay the institutional and technical foundation for that transformation, with real systems, real data, and real collaboration at its core.”

● **Yamikani Idriss, Environmental and Climate Change Specialist, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi:** “Malawi is ensuring sectoral experts remain engaged in national transparency efforts so that transparency data can be used for NDC planning, implementation, and reporting. Emphasizing the importance of making sure all sectors are working together, identifying the linkages between their actions, and exploring synergies.”

● **ICAT Director, Henning Wuester:** “Transparency is not just a reporting obligation. Mobilizing sectors is one of the biggest challenges that countries face. Transparency can be a key to overcoming this challenge. Creating awareness outside climate circles, working with the same data across ministries and sharing a common framework improves coordination, so that policies become more effective.”



Description: Sharing experiences on sectoral climate action and the importance of transparency. Uganda, St Kitts & Nevis and Malawi provided insights on lessons learned from the energy, waste and agricultural sector.

Strengthening NDCs through effective tracking frameworks

Saturday, 21 June 2025

Drawing on the experiences of El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan and Chile, this event highlighted the central role of tracking frameworks in the successful implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Data generated through the evaluation of NDC implementation provides a strong foundation for enhancing climate ambition and refining targets for the upcoming NDC 3.0 submissions. Countries at various stages in developing their Enhanced Transparency Frameworks shared their experiences, challenges, and solutions. The discussion emphasized how aligning NDCs with robust transparency frameworks supports effective monitoring, enables timely course corrections, and strengthens overall implementation. **The session highlights included:**

● **Henning Wuester, ICAT Director:** “NDC tracking provides the basis for evaluation, so that NDCs can be progressively strengthened to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Countries should seek to integrate tracking considerations already when designing the NDCs.”

● **Jessica Laguardia, Head of Ministerial Technical Unit, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources:** “Measuring the progress of NDCs is key, as it provides information for timely updates of policies and programmes for emission reduction, adaptation, and climate resilience.” With ICAT support, El Salvador strengthened institutional arrangements, enhanced capacity, and created a digital NDC tracking platform, enabling the country to effectively track and implement its climate commitments.

● **Zhamilia Dairova, Leading specialist, Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of Kyrgyzstan** shared about the country’s challenge in tracking NDC progress due to the absence of a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework. As Kyrgyzstan prepares its NDC 3.0 ahead of COP30, it is working with ICAT to develop NDC tracking systems and build national capacity for sustainable monitoring.

● **Camila Margarita Labarca Wyneken, Head of Mitigation Department at Division for Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Chile,** shared that the updated NDC will feature a chapter on transparency and on integrating adaptation and mitigation. Chile is working with ICAT to embed integration measures—addressing both mitigation and adaptation—into climate policy tools to support its NDC goals.

● **Matej Gasperic, Program Director at the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute,** an ICAT implementing partner, emphasized the need for strong national systems to meet Paris Agreement requirements. He noted growing country demand for support in developing policy frameworks and tracking mechanisms to close the gap between targets and implementation.



Description: The proud panelists after the official side event. From left: Henning Wuester (ICAT), Zhamilia Dairova (Kyrgyz Republic), Jessica Margarita Laguardia (El Salvador), Camila Wyneken (Chile), Matej Gasperic (GHGMI)

ICAT hosted events at SB62

Transparency as a Basis for NDCs: Overcoming Barriers, Making Connections and Unlocking Benefits for Climate Action

Monday, 23 June 2025

This workshop, co-organized with the NDC Partnership, explored how transparency has supported and continues to support the full cycle of the NDC process. This includes informing the design of the current round of NDCs (NDC 3.0) as well as supporting their implementation and financing. The workshop distilled lessons learned from countries' experiences, highlighted current gaps, and identified practical approaches to strengthening the alignment between climate transparency and national climate planning and reporting. ICAT, in collaboration with NDC Partnership, set the scene on the importance of transparency for NDCs while Cuba shared practical insights on their experience on how strong institutional arrangements for transparency support NDC preparation and implementation. The workshop featured table discussions among delegates from nine countries across four continents, promoting peer-to-peer learning and exchange. Participants engaged in focused discussions around four key topics:

- 1) Modelling GHG projections and setting NDC targets;
- 2) Defining policies and measures and NDC implementation;
- 3) Climate Finance Transparency as a basis for an NDC financing strategy;
- 4) Tracking progress on MRV arrangements.

By promoting closer integration of transparency—as outlined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement—into the NDC process, the event supported more effective and data-driven climate action. **The session highlights included:**

- Transparency helps coordinate and engage stakeholders across technical, political and sectoral levels, critical for NDC success.
- Countries evaluating previous NDCs as part of the NDC 3.0 development process have learned the importance of engaging stakeholders, and developing robust indicators and tracking frameworks concurrently with the NDC.
- The consistent use of models for greenhouse gas emission projections is vital for planning and reporting, supporting both the biennial transparency reports and the NDCs.
- Mainstreaming climate finance into national development plans and budgetary processes creates awareness among policymakers and enhances resource mobilization for NDC implementation.
- Constructive interaction between technical and political levels allows for data to actively inform decision-making, ensuring that NDCs include strong and realistically implementable commitments.
- Capacity-building efforts are necessary so countries can multiply national expertise and reduce reliance on external consultants.

For a full summary of key take-aways, please consult this [article](#).



Description: Countries in engaged discussions sharing experiences and knowledge on how transparency can serve as a basis for effective NDCs.

ICAT Partner Reception

Friday, 20 June 2025

A key moment at SB62 was the ICAT Partner Reception, held on 20 June. The reception welcomed over 50 guests, including partner country representatives, development partners, and donors. This informal gathering was an opportunity to celebrate ongoing collaboration and strengthen connections across the

ICAT community. Guests were further introduced to the ICAT Just Transitions Monitoring Guide and the Climate Finance Transparency Guide.

● **Ursula Fuentes, Chair of the ICAT Donor Steering Committee and Head of Division, International Climate Policy, Federal Foreign Office of Germany**, emphasized that the world is off track in meeting the Paris Agreement's climate goals and highlighted the critical role of transparency in bridging the current ambition and implementation gap to advance climate action. She commended the efforts of countries to build nationally owned, strong transparency frameworks and reiterated that without transparency and sound data and analysis, it is not possible to advance effective climate action in the ambition required.

● **Henning Wuester, ICAT Director**, remarked that transparency is not just a technical requirement, but the backbone of the Paris Agreement. It is the essential driver to make NDCs effective, ambitious, implementable and ready for financing. He lauded the growing community of transparency champions, across ministries, academia and international partners, which advocate for and help build strong national transparency frameworks.



Description: *Gathering the transparency community: Technical experts, political representatives, implementing partners and the donor community spend a joyful evening with the ICAT team exchanging experiences and building connections.*

Events with ICAT participation

UNFCCC side event: International cooperation for ETF support: Leaving no country behind

Monday, 16 June 2025

The side event offered a platform to showcase success stories of international cooperation, and share insights and lessons learned with a view of harnessing low hanging fruits that will ensure more impactful support in the future. **The session highlights included:**

- While the number of BTR1 submissions is encouraging, many developing countries still face capacity gaps related to institutional arrangements, data systems and consistent application of IPCC guidelines. They are in need of tailored support to develop strong transparency frameworks. ICAT remains dedicated to supporting countries to leverage the power of data and transparency to develop effective climate action plans and policies.

- Good coordination among support providers is essential, enabling support to be delivered more successfully. But comprehensive and successful support also requires strong engagement of partner countries.

- **Henning Wuester, Director of ICAT**, asserted the importance of building a transparency framework with a long-term vision in mind, prioritizing aspects to enhance domestic climate action. National systems should be a basis for NDCs and reporting. He highlighted the example of GHG projections as the main gap in planning mitigation action. It is not possible to prepare meaningful emission reduction targets without solid projections. Implementation then requires strong engagement of national planning and line ministries, which is a key aspect of a functioning transparency framework.

- **Khetsiwe Khumalo, Senior Adviser, CBIT-GSP**, remarked on the importance of strong coordination with other support providers to avoid duplication and deliver more coherent support. She further positively noted the impact of the BTR roadmaps to improve strategic planning. However, challenges remain in dealing with institutional instability, appliance of ETF flexibility provisions and unclear expectations regarding adaptation reporting.



Description: ICAT and CBIT-GSP highlighting some key aspects of success of transparency efforts and emphasizing the importance for transparency support providers to coordinate activities and plan jointly to maximize the effect of initiatives with the strong engagement of host countries.

Commonwealth Side Event: Commonwealth BTR Review: Advancing Transparency and Capacity for Climate Action

Friday, 20 June 2025

This event focused on three key pillars for strengthening BTR processes: securing climate finance for BTR preparation, building capacity for robust transparency frameworks, and exploring available support mechanisms. A panel discussion featuring representatives from key institutions and countries explored these topics, to identify concrete pathways to supporting countries in effectively engaging in the ETF process and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. This session shared emerging insights from the first BTR reviews, emphasizing the need to integrate gender in national climate reporting.

● **Henning Wuester, Director of ICAT**, emphasized ICAT's support to use tools and methodologies strategically to build national frameworks and targeted sectoral climate action. The Director remarked that tools, such as GACMO, the Climate Finance Transparency Guide and Sustainable Development Methodologies are only as good as the data provided for them, highlighting the need to develop a robust data base and management system.

● **Nancy Omolo, Climate Finance Gender Advisor, Commonwealth** brought to the audience's attention the need to move beyond the BTR and advocate for broader gender integration across climate instruments, such as NDCs and NAPs. Nancy remarked that persistent gaps prevail with only 4.9% of NDCs including dedicated gender budget lines.



Description: On point remarks and valuable insights. ICAT was invited to share experiences on the use of tools and methodologies to support national frameworks and targeted sectoral action.

Belize and Greenwerk Side Event: NDC 3.0 investment planning – quantifying investment needs and mobilizing climate finance

Wednesday, 25 June 2025

This event presented methodologies for assessing NDC investment needs and shared practical experiences from country applications, offering valuable insights for effective climate finance planning and mobilization. **The session highlights included:**

● **ICAT Director, Henning Wuester:** “Transparency plays a central role in enabling climate finance both from domestic and international sources, as it enables engagement of stakeholders of all sectors and builds trust and credibility with partners and investors. It is fundamental to translate targets into investment through strategic planning. This includes defining the action, estimating the impact and quantifying the costs of climate action.”

● **Michel Köhler, Founder of Greenwerk:** “Having supported several countries in their NDC and LTS investment planning, I notice that aligning the NDC development process with investment planning is a key success factor for developing ambitious yet also achievable NDCs.”

● **Edalmi Romero, Chief Climate Change Officer of Belize:** “Embarking on a bottom-up process with extensive stakeholder engagement was key for ensuring broad support for our NDC3.0 across sectors.”

● **Kevin Moull, DEval - German Institute for Development Evaluation** observed that “there was little alignment between official development assistance and the targets set out by countries in their first and second NDCs”.

● **Leya Zgheib, Environmental Consultant and Project Coordinator, UNDP,** reflected on Lebanon’s experience and how it uses its Green Investment Facility (LGIF) as the central platform for matching incoming climate finance with its climate projects, thereby providing a shopping list for donors and ensuring alignment and support for NDCs.

● **Ravneeth Dewan, Principal Climate Change Officer, Fiji,** highlighted that the country has an ambitious strategy for mobilizing climate finance from a variety of sources, including its private sector by “using public resources to enhance the conditions for access to capital for climate action”.



Description: The ICAT Director provided opening remarks highlighting the importance of translating targets into implementation and investments and how climate finance transparency can support this effort.

Beyond Side Events: Advancing Transparency and NDC Implementation

The ICAT Secretariat went beyond organizing official side events and workshops by actively engaging in other events of SB62. These efforts aimed to promote transparency as the foundation for effective NDC implementation and to remain informed about the latest developments in the dynamic field of transparency for climate action. Most notably, ICAT participated in the following:

Standard Finance Committee 37: Technical expert session on available information, data, sources and approaches to monitor the new collective quantified goal on climate finance

The UNFCCC Standard Finance Committee presented the report requirements for its biennial report on collective progress as outlined in the decision 1/CMA.6 on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance. The meeting brought stakeholder data procedures and practitioners together for an informal exchange to discuss the technical scope, latest information and available data sources as well as existing information and data gaps. With reference to its Guide on Climate Finance Transparency, ICAT highlighted the role of national climate finance transparency frameworks as a source of data and BTRs submitted by developing countries.

4th Interagency meeting with Development and Implementation Partners supporting NDCs 3.0.

The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Secretariat, Simon Stiell, convened the 4th Interagency Meeting to discuss the transition from NDC development to implementation in the light of current geopolitical developments. The meeting facilitated a practical dialogue among implementing partners to gather insights and recommendations on the next steps to support the transition from NDC development to implementation.

ICAT highlighted its **country-tailored approach** to support developing countries in **scaling NDC implementation**, emphasizing a role of a sectoral focus of transparency for effective climate action, and highlighting the ICAT suite of tools. Further, ICAT emphasized its continuous strong support to position the **ETF Group of Friends** as a **central planning platform for transparency support** providers to ensure the effective use of resources, avoid duplication of efforts and support countries accessing in-demand technical and financial assistance.

External event: Technical session on financing buildings through Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Taking advantage of the gathered expertise, GIZ organized and hosted a session at their headquarters to discuss a white paper on methodologies for developing projects under Article 6, covering potential project types, methodologies, and recommendations. ICAT provided critical input and recommendations to continue developing the methodological work of GIZ and highlighted the use of [ICAT's Buildings Efficiency Methodology](#) as a tool for stakeholders to assess the greenhouse gas impacts of the building sector.

Informal Meeting of Support Providers

ICAT hosted an informal meeting of the global ETF Group of Friends (GoF) bringing together representatives from the UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP, GEF, PATPA and GHGMI who explored ways to further

harmonize their approaches and strengthen collective support for countries of key transparency service providers and organizations. Established in 2016 and coordinated by UNFCCC, the GoF serves as a platform to strengthen coordination among transparency support providers to streamline the assistance to countries implementing the Paris Agreement's transparency requirements.

Over the last year, with support from the ICAT Secretariat, the GoF has made notable progress in enhancing coordination among transparency support providers. Efforts have moved towards more structured information exchange, laying the foundation for improved alignment and collaboration. The next phase, discussed during the meeting, will focus on joint planning to maximize the efficiency of resources and ensure complementarity of support initiatives. ICAT remains committed to these efforts and will continue to help countries access targeted, coherent and effective support to establish robust ETF systems to drive impactful climate action.



Description: Hosted by ICAT, representatives of transparency support providers met on the margins of the June Climate Meetings to advance coordination, build connections and find solutions to maximize the effectiveness of the support.

Bilateral meetings

Throughout the two weeks of the SB 62, the ICAT Secretariat held bilateral in-person meetings with representatives from many of its partner countries and other organizations to discuss the progress of ongoing ICAT activities and preparation of new projects and collaborations. ICAT held **29** meetings with **28 countries** to strengthen partnerships, assess progress and explore new opportunities with representatives of: Brazil, Burundi, Chad, Chile, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe.

Meetings were also organized with representatives of the following partners: Climate Policy Radar, Commonwealth International, World Resource Institute, and The Greenwerk, and with representatives of several potential donors.

Bilateral Highlights

● The ICAT Secretariat signed a memorandum of understanding with Tajikistan to enhance the country's technical and institutional capacity to develop and regularly update greenhouse gas projections, establish robust institutional and data framework and track the implementation of climate actions. These

efforts will inform Tajikistan's NDC 3.0, supporting evidence-based climate action aligned with national priorities and integrated into long-term development and sectoral planning.



Description: Mr. Abdullo Qurbonzoda, Director of Tajikistan's Agency for Hydrometeorology of the Committee for Environmental Protection, and Dr. Henning Wuester, Director of ICAT, signed the memorandum during a meeting at the United Nations in Bonn, Germany.

● ICAT met with Dr Nkiruka Maduekwe, the Special Presidential Envoy on Climate Change of Nigeria and DG/CEO of the National Council on Climate Change Secretariat, along with her team on the sidelines of the UNFCCC SB62s to discuss the implementation of MRV systems. ICAT will continue to support Nigeria in enhancing its MRV framework and ensure comprehensive capacity building across all levels of government.



Description: The bilateral meetings offered unique opportunities to engage in strategic discussions with key partners. Dr Nkiruka Maduekwe (third from left) and her team engaged in fruitful discussions with ICAT on how to promote transparency for climate action in Nigeria.