



Summary Report

Africa Dialogue on the Enhanced Transparency Framework Africa Climate Week 2022

31 August – 1 September 2022

Libreville, Gabon

Background

A key element of the Paris Agreement is the establishment of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under Article 13, aimed at building mutual trust and confidence, and promoting effective implementation of climate action and flow of necessary support both nationally and internationally. It is the backbone of the Paris Agreement and crucial in achieving effective climate action, including by formulating and implementing ambitious nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The next three years (2022-2024) is a critical phase for the UNFCCC process and the Paris Agreement, as the ETF will enter in full implementation mode. The process will witness a scaled-up transition by Parties from the existing measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) arrangements to the ETF, which requires all Parties to operate under the same operating procedures, formally referred to as “Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines”, with flexibility to those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities. Currently, Parties are at different stages in terms of their capacity to effectively implement the existing MRV arrangements and prepare for transitioning to the ETF. Therefore, transitioning from the existing MRV arrangements towards the implementation of the ETF will be a key milestone in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, but also a major challenge for many developing country Parties.

To facilitate a successful transitioning from the existing MRV arrangements and achieving universal participation in the ETF, political momentum is needed to mobilize all necessary resources and support, generate political buy-in and enhance the visibility of transparency. Broad stakeholder engagement plays a fundamental role in mobilizing necessary support resources, facilitating more ambitious climate actions, and helping achieve the national climate targets and the Paris Agreement’s goals. In parallel, targeted, and adapted capacity-building is essential in order to support developing country Parties to build and advance the institutional arrangements needed to implement the Paris Agreement, all while advancing national sustainable development priorities.

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The UNFCCC secretariat, the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and, as regional partners, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), in collaboration with other transparency support providers, joined forces to offer a regional platform for policy dialogue and peer-to-peer engagement on the ETF and climate transparency.

Objectives

The objectives of the regional dialogue were the following:

- (a) Engage a broad range of stakeholders, including senior officials and experts from the public and private sector, in a policy discussion about climate transparency and the ETF, to increase understanding of transparency-related obligations and opportunities and promote embedding the ETF into national planning processes, as an integral part of the national planning tools;
- (b) Enhance awareness and understanding among transparency practitioners, on ways and steps needed to build and advance their transparency frameworks in preparation for the ETF, providing information on domestic benefits of effective transparency and the different support options available, facilitating networking and peer-to-peer exchange;
- (c) Facilitate strengthened engagement and networking between country officials and experts, the private sector and international organizations with a view to enhanced engagement and improving access to financial and technical support, and the development of a community of practice in each region.

The dialogue was convened over the course of two days with the first day focusing on policy dimension and the second day promoting peer-to-peer exchange. The following section provides a summary of key messages resulting from the discussions on day one.

31 August 2022 - Policy Dialogue

Summary of key messages

High-level discussion on Visioning of Implementation of the ETF in Africa

High-level representatives, including Ministers from the region¹ and other regional and international leaders², laid out their vision for ambitious implementation of the new transparency arrangements. They underlined the importance of accountability and transparency of climate action and support.

In addition to fulfilling the international climate obligations, transparency provides to national leaders an opportunity to make data-based decisions and enhances the access to financial and capacity-building support. This will help countries to strengthen their mitigation and adaptation plans, formulate and implement ambitious nationally determined contributions (NDCs), as well as be better equipped to mobilize financial support for their implementation.

With the negative impacts of the climate emergency accelerating everywhere, the urgency for nations to move forward with the implementation of their national climate plans while building robust transparency mechanisms was

¹ Minister of Tourism and Environment of the Republic of Congo-Brazzaville, Arlette Soudan-Nonault; Minister of Forests, Oceans, Environment and Climate Change of Gabon, Lee White; Minister of State for Environment of Uganda, Beatrice Atim Anywar; Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change of Mauritius, Kavydass Ramano; Minister for Agriculture and Environment of Cape Verde, Gilberto Silva.

² UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary, Ovais Sarmad; ECCAS President, Gilberto Da Piedade Verissimo; Africa Director and Special Advisor to High-Level Champions, Bogolo Kenewendo; Commissioner for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development of ECCAS, Honoré Tabuna.

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highlighted. In doing so, the need to have access to financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building (FTC) support was clearly identified as a critical factor.

Strengthening institutional arrangements and stakeholder engagement in the region was also mentioned as one of the key elements for successful delivery of climate commitments, including the national social and economic benefits resulting from the strong transparency systems.

Legal frameworks, engagement with all relevant stakeholders, strengthened institutional arrangement and technical capacities, as well as increased FTC support for developing country Parties were identified by leaders as the key ingredients for successful implementation of national and international climate goals including the transition to the ETF.



Image 1: High-level representatives engaged in a policy dialogue on the ETF (31 August) , source: UNFCCC

Strengthening institutional arrangement and stakeholder engagement in the region

Panelists shared details on the transparency arrangements already in place in their countries to support the preparation of their biennial update reports (BURs) and new biennial transparency reports (BTRs). These arrangements include the establishment of reporting systems, setting up teams of experts to collect data across ministries and various sectors, as well as setting up new or enhancing the existing institutional arrangements, such as inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms. They also pointed to the need to collect more climate data from the local level and the private sector.

In the case of the private sector, a number of panelists expressed that the private sector often wants to participate and support transparency activities on a national level. They also expressed that it is essential to invite private sector representatives to the table as it plays a crucial role in collecting and providing the relevant climate data, however, it is oftentimes not willing to disclose and share their data due to its sensitivity. A panelist mentioned that putting in place a law that makes the data provision, in consultation with the private sector, mandatory for relevant stakeholders helped address such an issue on a national level. Another solution mentioned was to use financial tools, such as financial incentives for private companies which would motivate them to provide the relevant data, e.g. tax incentives for renewable technology adoption in the agricultural sector.

Few panelists expressed that transparency is already embedded in their national development plans, and in order to track and report on the progress of implementation of the development goals, including related transparency activities, an inter-ministerial coordination system or similar system which monitors and reviews the status of implementation of such activities has been set up. Furthermore, they noted that it is important that in every step of the monitoring and reporting process, all stakeholders are involved, including relevant ministers, private sector as well as technical experts from institutions who work together in collecting and reporting relevant data.

An importance of establishing a solid institutional framework to manage transparency related activities has been also underlined by several panelists, e.g.

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through the environmental *management agency*. In this instance, the cited agency was given a mandate from the government to monitor and report on all the climate related data collection, such as NDCs, BURs as well as upcoming BTRs. Consequently, a network for data providers across various sectors has been established by the agency, including provision of appropriate training for focal points in order to ensure sufficient capacity to collect the required data.

Last but not least, a panelist highlighted that the overall objective of establishing such a solid institutional framework should be to become as comprehensive as possible in collecting the relevant data, but also to build national capacity so no international consultants are needed. With the main aim of having locally generated data which is sustainable and beneficial for the country. In achieving the objective, the *environmental management agency* has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with different sectors, including actors from public and private sectors, which provided the relevant data. In addition, it was noted that the online registry through which the data is collected and compared, is being updated on a regular basis in order to include the most up to date information.

One of the main challenges mentioned by panelists is that transparency is not yet seen as an important topic at the highest political level, and therefore, environmental ministries are not well positioned within the government hierarchy. In this context, budgets for environmental actions are oftentimes insufficient and should be reviewed for countries to be able to fulfil their climate commitments.

In addition, a need for a top-down approach to reporting systems to ensure acceptance and adoption was mentioned as one of the challenges, including the need for financially sustainable transparency systems. In this context, government stability is an important element. It happens that one government builds a stable reporting system and institutional arrangement, but when a new government comes, it doesn't build on the existing one but rather start building a new one. Ensuring continuity is essential to achieve sustainable transparency systems.

Another challenge is the availability and archiving of critical data and the need to reinforce the capacities of the local stakeholders. This challenge includes a high staff turnover which affects the overall technical capacity of the institution as such, as well as limited financing for capacity-building and data management on the national level. In addition, the private sector is a very important player that

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should be involved, and it has a freedom to act, however, it remains difficult to obtain the private sector data due to its sensitivity. Lastly, it's important to integrate the private sector from the beginning of the process and ensure its participation in all stages of the collection and reporting processes.

Further, it was highlighted that transparency is essential for better understanding and trust building not only among governments, but also among all relevant stakeholders. Therefore, there is an urgent need for dialogues between experts and policymakers in order to find a common understanding on what needs to be done to achieve a robust and sustainable institutional arrangement.



Image 2: Panel discussion on transparency and the ETF, source: UNFCCC

Harvesting national benefits from transparency

Panelists pointed out that one key benefit of transparency is to have decision-makers looking at facts and data when deciding on climate policy, thus climate policy will be more effective and data-based. For example, in 2018, a country has revised its environmental law to integrate climate change considerations with a view to making sure that all stakeholders are involved and

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understand their role in collecting and providing climate data. Consequently, the provision of data has become mandatory for various stakeholders. This was supplemented with a ministerial order which further clarified roles of different stakeholders. As a result, the data collection was more efficient as many stakeholders have provided the climate data which otherwise would have to be collected and compiled by external consultants.

A panelist shared an example on how data collected for transparency reporting can benefit socio-economic activity at a local level. A country developed a digital datasheet which generated data for transparency reporting for an agricultural sector with high intensity of GHG emissions, especially from fertilizers. Based on the inputs to the database, farmers can now track the amounts of fertilizers and request just the right amount that they need. Furthermore, in the case of energy and transport sectors, the data collected and analyzed has prompted strong cabinet decisions, such as promoting electric vehicles through tax incentives, which has triggered a paradigm shift in the public and private sectors.

Another benefit derived from transparency work was creation of the national environment and climate change fund. The transparency element has been essential to create such a fund in the initial phase of the discussions when it was necessary to justify the national mitigation actions, based on the climate data. As of today, the fund which was created in 2012 has raised over 200 million USD, which has supported private sector, NGO's, and government in building resilience.

Finally, the lack of skilled human resources was also mentioned as one of the main challenges. In this context, a need for investing in training people, starting with university programs, and creating opportunities which would entice people who would otherwise look for careers in other fields was highlighted. On the contrary, one of the key benefits from investing in transparency through training and capacity-building is to create a community of highly qualified experts with transferable skills that will support countries in achieving their climate goals.

Enhancing access to support for transparency and collaboration in the region

Panelists highlighted that in order to be prepared to implement the ETF, including timely preparation and submission of the first BTRs, more financial and capacity-building support is required. Furthermore, the issue of capacity gaps

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and different starting points of developing countries was mentioned as an important consideration for assessing the implementation of the ETF. Another key challenge mentioned by a panelist is related to institutional arrangements and changes in national climate policies, which is a direct or indirect result of high turnover of decision-makers in the countries.

With regard to financial needs of developing countries, panelists mentioned that even though many countries have already existing MRV systems in place, funding for development of more consolidated systems which will be measuring progress in achieving the climate commitments shall be provided to developing countries.

With regard to capacity-building needs, panelists acknowledged that there are already trained experts with technical knowledge on MRV under the UNFCCC, however, there is still a need for significant training in order to fill the capacity gaps in order to carry out transparency commitments under the Paris Agreement, especially in certain areas, such as reporting on adaptation, and financial support needed and received.

Last but not least, a panelist shared an example of challenge in relation to tracking of and reporting on financial support needed and received, which highlighted the challenge of tracking international climate finance flows to the country through various bilateral and multilateral channels, and the consequent issue of reconciling those flows to get a full picture of finance received.

1 September 2022 - Practitioners' Exchange

Introduction

The Africa Dialogue on the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement kicked off a series of regional dialogues on the ETF. These were organized within the framework of the UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks, taking advantage of the forum provided by the Regional Climate Weeks to promote strong regional collaboration. The UN Climate Change secretariat, the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of regional organizations, such as COMESA and ECCAS, and PATPA, organized the first regional dialogue on the ETF during the 2022 Africa Climate Week, as a two-day event.

While the first day of the event, on 31 August 2022, focused on a policy exchange to ensure the political momentum necessary for implementation of the ETF, the second day of the Africa Dialogue was dedicated to peer-to-peer engagement between transparency practitioners, recognising that targeted and adapted capacity-building is essential to support developing countries to build and enhance the institutional arrangements needed to implement the Paris Agreement, all the while advancing national sustainable development priorities.

On 1 September 2022, the practitioners' exchange day of the Africa Regional Dialogue on the ETF welcomed around 54 participants from 28 African countries for a full day of knowledge and experience-sharing on key topics for climate transparency in the region. The topics covered by the different sessions were identified as the top areas of priority attention for transparency efforts in African countries. An initial list of topics was compiled based on suggestions from transparency support providers active in Africa, which was subsequently narrowed down to include the most essential of these topics, as selected by the African Group of Negotiators. The following topics were finally addressed:

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1. Moving from Biennial Update Report (BUR) to Biennial Transparency Report (BTR): country experiences and challenges;
2. Building National Expertise and Strengthening Institutions;
3. Transparency for Adaptation;
4. Monitoring and Evaluation of Just Transitions;
5. Tracking and Mobilizing Climate Finance;
6. Transparency for Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Tracking and Implementation.

The ICAT Secretariat thanks those partners involved in the organization and delivery of the event, with special thanks to all those who generously committed their time and energy as speakers and rapporteurs, sharing valuable knowledge and experiences to advance transparency efforts in Africa.

Based on the positive experience from this event, the organization of similar events will be pursued in the context of the upcoming Regional Climate Weeks, expected to take place in early 2023 for the MENA and Asia-Pacific regions.



Image 3: Participants engaging in roundtable discussions, source: UNFCCC

Main take-aways

Through this practitioners' exchange, valuable lessons on transparency and the implementation of the ETF in Africa arose. Common challenges and priorities were clearly defined, including in terms of further support needs. Important advancements, achievements and lessons learned demonstrated the progress made and illustrate the value of Africa' contribution to the global fight against climate change.

The day kicked off with opening remarks from the ICAT Director, Dr Henning Wuester, who emphasized the importance of learning by doing, encouraging participants to engage, asking questions and contributing to the regional and global dialogues on the ETF offering the perspective of transparency practitioners. Following the opening, the first session of the day was focused on moving from BUR to BTR. After this, parallel workshops on national capacity and institutional arrangements and transparency for adaptation took place and following those, the practitioners engaged in roundtable discussions on just transition and climate finance. The last session of the practitioners exchange focused on NDC tracking, with presentations and roundtable discussions to share national perspectives and experiences.

Moving from BUR to BTR: country experiences and challenges

The [UNFCCC Secretariat set the scene](#) with a presentation on transitioning from the current Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) arrangements to the ETF, highlighting the main changes in the reporting requirements, including the establishment of a legally-binding obligation of biennial reporting starting from 2024, with increased depth and scope of the information included in the reports, following the format currently under development by the UNFCCC Secretariat. The obligation to submit national communications remains, within a harmonized framework. Countries can build on the already existing data frameworks and institutional arrangements in place, while working in parallel on ensuring the political buy-in, stakeholder engagement and resource mobilization necessary to implement Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

Countries were invited to discuss and exchange on the topic, with a purpose of identifying examples of positive arrangements, challenges and ways of improvement. Key messages that came out of the discussions were:

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- Good foundations are in place for transitioning to the BTR, thanks to the work and achievements that countries have already made for reporting under the previous framework. Positive examples include:
 - National frameworks and systems are in place for data collection, greenhouse gas inventories and in some cases NDC tracking and climate finance tracking;
 - Technical and institutional capacity for data collection and reporting has been built;
 - Important data has been collected and stored in archives;
 - Valuable partnerships and networks have been established on the international level;
 - Resources have been mobilized for transparency efforts;
 - Stakeholders have been introduced to and engaged in the MRV process across different sectors and including the private sector.
- Countries face multiple common challenges with regards to transitioning to the BTR. The main challenges experienced and anticipated are:
 - Identifying, multiplying, enhancing and retaining expertise on the national institutional level;
 - Operationalizing the national MRV frameworks established;
 - Creating, enhancing and harmonizing systems for effective collection, sharing, preservation and validation of data;
 - Availability of tools, technological infrastructure and technical skills;
 - Establishing and advancing the existing institutional and legal frameworks, including to encourage cross-sectoral communication and collaboration and to account for the private sector;
 - Transitioning and handover of projects from international organizations;
 - Aligning the application of Article 6 to the ETF;
 - Tracking climate finance.

Support providers, including representatives from ICAT, PATPA, Aether and the UNFCCC Secretariat, responded to the issues raised by country participants by highlighting that additional support and guidance to address the challenges

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mentioned is anticipated. ICAT is preparing new methodological guidance on Article 6 accounting under the ETF and tracking climate finance, paying increased attention to NDC tracking in the context of the direct country support, seeking to enhance regional collaboration through the establishment of the ICAT Regional Climate Action Transparency Hubs, and promoting local expertise through the designation of national experts, individuals or institutions for the delivery of ICAT country projects. PATPA, in collaboration with the FAO has developed the BTR Roadmap tool, which can be used by countries to enter their data and receive a roadmap on actions and needs to be addressed to fulfill the requirements of BTR reporting. Aether stressed the importance of building and multiplying expertise to ensure capacity for long-term, continued reporting and evidence-based policymaking. Finally, the UNFCCC secretariat highlighted that capacity-building efforts need to be targeted to the right stakeholders and countries need to ensure that the trained stakeholders apply the expertise they have gained. This entails nominating the right people to attend trainings and capacity-building initiatives, such as the upcoming CGE workshops on tracking NDCs.

Following this introductory plenary segment, the event continued in two parallel workshops, one focused on building national expertise and strengthening institutions and the other on transparency for adaptation.



Image 4: Lively discussion among transparency practitioners, source: UNFCCC

Building National Expertise and Strengthening Institutions

Recognizing the common gaps and needs across African countries to increase national expertise and strengthen institutions, this workshop gave participants the forum to brainstorm and exchange ideas and experiences about efforts being undertaken and planned to enhance national expertise and institutional arrangements to support the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework on a continuous basis and associated challenges and constraints. Presentations were made by representatives from [Nigeria](#) and [Lesotho](#), to share the knowledge gained and the lessons learned from the experience of the two African countries on building and enhancing institutional arrangements for MRV and transparency. Following the presentations, the participants were invited to discuss among themselves and exchange experiences and knowledge on the two topics. Key takeaways from the session include:

- Continuous data collection and access to different sources of data and information is necessary to ensure continuous reporting. Establishing MRV frameworks and action plans is an important milestone, however, their operationalization and implementation is also necessary.
- Work on enhancing institutional arrangements can build on existing frameworks. Existing sectoral arrangements for reporting should be explored and if needed expanded and aligned with the national framework.
- Extensive stakeholder consultations all along the process of establishing MRV systems help increase awareness, commitment and understanding about each stakeholder's role in the MRV system as well as build national ownership.
- Formalizing arrangements through Memorandums of Understanding and legal frameworks allows countries to establish clear roles and responsibilities for the different stakeholders.
- Identifying and continuously engaging with all relevant stakeholders can be a challenging task, requiring serious efforts.
- A combination of in-person and online means can be used to engage with stakeholders, and face challenges such as the ones posed by COVID-19.
- Developing contact points within the different stakeholder groups is a good practice to facilitate communication.

- Continued capacity building can be assisted by periodic trainings and knowledge sharing/best practices sharing sessions among stakeholders.
- Data management systems and registries are very important for data collection, storage and use. Effective data sharing mechanisms need to be in place as well.

Transparency for Adaptation

Understanding that frameworks for transparency for adaptation are not yet developed in many countries, but, nevertheless, constitute a matter of crucial importance for African nations, this workshop provided valuable insights by providing the space for sharing examples of countries who have initiated work on adaptation monitoring and evaluation, and reflecting on the status, needs and plans for adaptation reporting in Africa. Presentations were made [on the ICAT adaptation project made by UNEP-CCC](#) and national experiences and examples of work on transparency for adaptation from three African countries (Kenya on climate smart agriculture; [Eswatini](#) on work achieved among others in adaptation in the health and water sectors; and [South Africa](#) on early warning systems). The presentations highlighted the importance of value gained from working on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, bringing out important messages such as:

- Adaptation is very country specific and can be even more specific in different parts of the same country;
- Establishing KPIs for adaptation can be challenging; In the process, it is important to align the different systems and indicators used in the country;
- Stakeholder engagement and collaboration among stakeholders is crucial but entails costs;
- Training and capacity building is necessary for all stakeholders involved in transparency for adaptation;
- Identifying adaptation and mitigation co-benefits is very beneficial. This applies particularly to the agriculture sector;
- Legal and institutional frameworks and arrangements to enable reporting for adaptation are necessary; existing frameworks may need to be updated and enhanced;
- More methodological guidance is needed for countries to work on transparency for adaptation. ICAT is preparing a series of methodological

guides on topics such as institutional collaboration, loss and damage, adaptation planning, and M&E of adaptation in agriculture. These guides have been developed in a bottom-up process through ICAT's work with countries on adaptation on M&E.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Just Transitions

Ensuring a just transition as African economies respond to climate change can be a big challenge. Transparency can provide important support for informed policymaking and effective action, by enabling countries to create frameworks and use data to track and assess information from different perspectives, scenarios and possibilities. The session was introduced with an introductory [presentation on the ICAT just transition project by WRI](#) on the MRV of just transitions, in relation to the upcoming ICAT guide, currently under development. [Nigeria](#) shared the country's plans to design and implement an MRV framework of just transition as part of a new ICAT project run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Important messages that came out of the session include the following:

- The new ICAT guide, developed by WRI, will focus on the MRV of Just Transition and will be piloted in two African countries, Nigeria and South Africa.
- Just Transition as a concept seeks to ensure the safekeeping of the rights of workers and communities impacted by the changes in national economies brought on by climate change and the transition to low GHG emission economies, making sure that poverty and inequality is addressed along the way.
- Just transition can be difficult to define and can be contextualized on the national level, based on national priorities. Each country working on the MRV of just transitions needs to decide on their objectives and priority sectors.
- MRV systems for just transition can build on MRV systems already in place.
- Working on the MRV of just transition can help countries track and anticipate impacts of policies and actions, using data for informed policymaking.
- The MRV of just transition can include both policy impact assessment and the tracking of progress over time. In Nigeria, the work on just and gender-inclusive transition through the ICAT project will entail work on both policy impact assessments, with a focus on NDC actions, and the

development of an MRV framework for just transition, in the context of NDC implementation.

- For the MRV of just transition, a variety of diverse indicators can be selected which can be evaluated based on different equity dimensions.
- Close collaboration between essential stakeholders, including different government entities and unions, as well as the engagement of experts in different fields is important when working on just transition.

Tracking and Mobilizing Climate Finance

Effective climate action is dependent on the mobilization and efficient use of financial resources. However, defining, tracking and mobilizing climate finance can be challenging work. The session included an [introductory presentation on the ICAT climate finance tracking project made by Gauss](#), introducing the subject and explaining the upcoming work and methodological guidance of ICAT in setting up frameworks for tracking climate finance. The participants then took part in roundtable discussions on the topic. Key takeaways from the session included:

- Voluntary reporting on climate finance (support needed and received) is part of the ETF - article 13 of the Paris Agreement;
- Climate finance tracking refers to the accounting system to record and track the funds used to implement mitigation and adaptation actions. In an ex ante mode, an assessment of climate finance needs, for instance for NDC implementation, is required;
- Climate finance tracking can help build transparency and trust among stakeholders and give a clear image on the domestic and international finance available and needed, better preparing countries for approaching donors and financial institutions to mobilize additional funds;
- There are important gaps and barriers for climate finance tracking, including data gaps, capacity gaps and methodological gaps;
- There is a variety of conceptual frameworks for a country to choose from;
- The new ICAT methodology on climate finance tracking, including ex-post tracking of climate finance and ex-ante assessment of finance needs, is now available as a draft. The methodology will be adaptable to a country's

national context and priorities and applied in a number of countries. The methodology will then be refined before it will be published in 2024;

- Some African countries, such as Niger, have already initiated work on tracking climate finance or plan to start working on climate finance tracking in the near future, in the context of their climate reporting activities, policy development and/or dedicated projects.

Transparency for NDC Tracking and Implementation

The NDC process is central to the implementation of the Paris agreement. [The ICAT Secretariat made a presentation to introduce the subject](#), which highlighted the role of transparency as a driver to move NDCs forward. [Mozambique](#) and Chad shared their national experiences of working on NDC tracking, including their approaches, challenges and accomplishments. Important messages that came out of the session are the following:

- Setting up transparency frameworks for tracking NDCs enables countries to track progress on NDC targets and understand the impacts of climate actions;
- It is important to have sound data all along the NDC process, from design to implementation to evaluation to update. NDC tracking can thus be used to enhance ambition in NDC updates;
- There are tools available for countries to help with tracking NDCs and assess climate policies;
- NDCs can cover both mitigation and adaptation actions and include several sectors, therefore, tracking frameworks have to be set up accordingly;
- Capacity building for the sectors covered by the NDC may be necessary;
- Gaps in terms of institutional arrangements and data needs can pose challenges. Other challenges include the complexity of the different processes and indicators, difficulties in engaging stakeholders, including the private sector, and mainstreaming NDC awareness in national planning processes;
- NDC tracking provides several opportunities. It can help build political buy-in and support evidence-based policy making, while it also helps build trust among stakeholders and provides opportunities for accessing finance.

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Finally, it can create opportunities for integrating climate change into sectoral policies;

- Opportunities can also be found in regional and international collaborations.

Evaluate implementation for NDC update

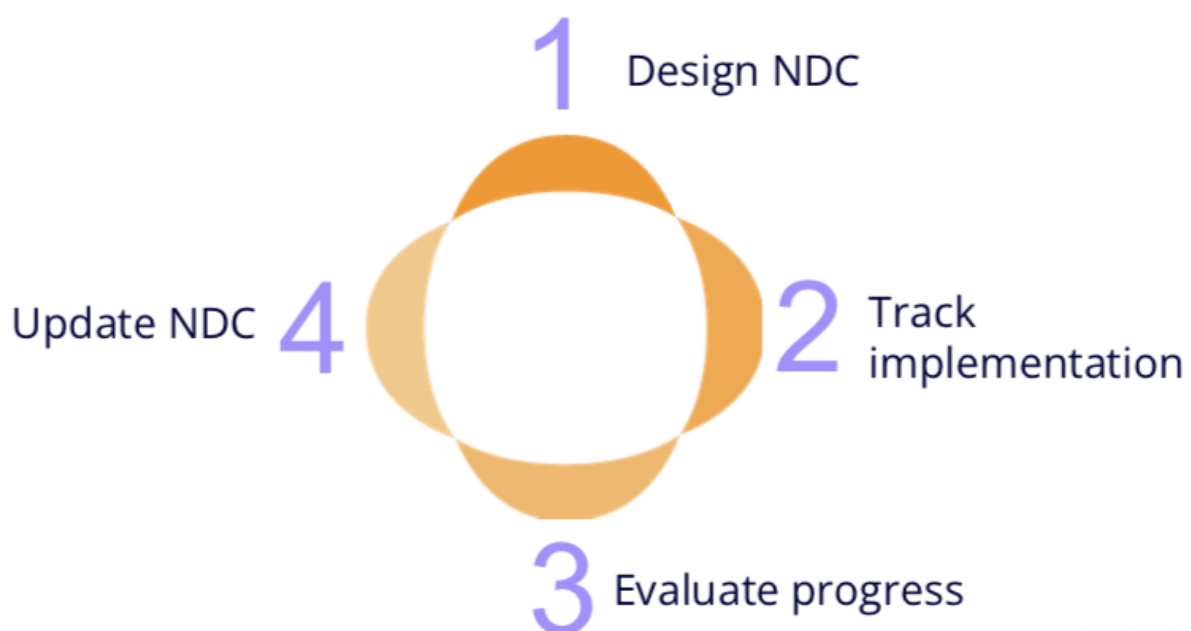


Image 5: Transparency in the NDC process, source: ICAT Secretariat

The practitioners' exchange ended with closing remarks by the organizers. ICAT Director Henning Wuester emphasized the importance of countries keeping their broad, long-term vision in mind and realizing that many challenges can actually become valuable opportunities. UNFCCC Transparency Division manager, Jigme, reiterated the message coming from the political dialogue of the previous day, which is that transparency matters, is relevant and important. UNDP representative and coordinator of the UNDP francophone countries, Moussa Diop, underlined the opportunity of collaborations with different partners and between different countries for strengthening technical capacity.

Conclusion and next steps

The first Africa Regional dialogue demonstrated the national benefits countries in the region attach to transparency and also a clear policy direction for the implementation of the ETF. Both can contribute by realizing an universal participation in the ETF whereby all countries submit their first biennial transparency reports by 31 December 2024, a timeline established by Parties at the Katowice Climate Change Conference in 2018. It was a significant development as the first time that ministers and other regional and international leaders gathered to discuss their vision of moving towards the ETF and engage with the practitioners on the ground signaling that the ETF under the Paris Agreement has entered into full implementation mode. This year is a crucial year for Africa in the context of the international climate change process as the COP will take place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, and platforms such as the Africa Dialogue on the ETF play an important role in this regard.

The exchange among transparency practitioners demonstrated the value of coming together on a regional level to discuss and exchange experiences on transparency-related issues. Peer-to-peer exchanges and the sharing of best practices can give countries the knowledge they need to push forward, overcome obstacles and become aware of the opportunities available to them to advance their national transparency efforts.

The outcomes of the different sessions and discussions brought out important messages in terms of priorities and essential needs of African countries, current and upcoming. Support providers can take them into account to plan and target their efforts accordingly.

Following the successful example of the African Dialogue, similar events on the ETF can be expected for the following climate weeks in other regions (MENA, Asia-Pacific, LAC), adapted to the specific needs and context of each region.

The Africa Regional Dialogue on the ETF was co-organized by:

[The UN Climate Change secretariat](#)



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

[The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency \(ICAT\)](#)



And the [UN Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#)



With the support of regional partners:

[COMESA](#)



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And the support of

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Partnership on Transparency
in the Paris Agreement