



SB62: Joint Workshop of the NDC Partnership and Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)

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

Bonn, Germany | Monday, 23 June 2025

Event Details

Date and Time:	23 June 2025, 10:30am – 12:30pm
Location:	Marriott Hotel, Platz d. Vereinten Nationen 4, 53113 Bonn Room Villa Hammerschmidt. See here for the location.
Format:	Interactive World Cafe to explore how transparency has supported and continues to support the full cycle of the NDC process.
Additional Pertinent Information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chatham House Rules apply for the entirety of the event.• Pastries and Coffee will be served at the event.• Participation in this exclusive event is limited to 40 participants.• Kind request for each country to nominate one delegate to allow for a broad range of experiences.
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Background

Under the Paris Agreement, countries are required to prepare and submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and report on their progress in implementing these commitments. NDCs articulate each country's planned mitigation and adaptation measures. Transparency, as defined by the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement provides an important basis for countries to develop NDCs and support national processes to ensure their implementation. The ETF serves as an essential pillar for planning NDCs and tracking the progress of their implementation. Using transparency for the NDC process helps to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, streamline data systems, and improve policy coherence. It helps to gather the necessary data and conduct analysis to enable NDCs to be impactful yet realistic.

Countries' recent experiences in preparing their first BTRs, combined with the ongoing efforts to finalize NDC 3.0 submissions upcoming in 2025, present a unique opportunity to reflect on lessons learned and identify good practices for using transparency for the NDC cycle. National climate policies and international reporting requirements depend heavily on robust GHG inventories, realistic projections, strong institutional coordination, all based on good frameworks for data collection, analysis, and reporting. Transparency can serve as the backbone of a single, coherent national climate action process. This way transparency enables the consistent generation, organization, and use of information that supports not only NDCs and BTRs but also any other climate-related planning or reporting needs.

However, experience demonstrates that synchronizing timelines, data, and institutional responsibilities remains a major challenge, particularly for countries with limited technical or institutional capacity. Overcoming these barriers and seizing opportunities that arise from harmonizing planning and reporting systems is key to unlocking the full potential of cost-effective climate policies acting in alignment with national development priorities.

Objectives

The primary objective of the workshop is to explore 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 aims to distill lessons learned from countries' experiences, highlight current gaps, and identify practical approaches to strengthen the alignment between climate transparency and national climate planning and reporting. By fostering closer integration of transparency as foreseen under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement into the NDC process, the event seeks to promote more effective and data-driven climate action.

More specifically, the event aims to:

1. **Deepen understanding of transparency to drive the design, implementation, and financing of effective NDCs** by highlighting the role of data, technical, procedural and institutional arrangements for NDC development, update and implementation, and the tracking of progress.
2. **Identify successful practices and remaining challenges** by showcasing selected country experiences that demonstrate practical approaches, lessons learned, and ongoing efforts to enhance national NDC processes.
3. **Foster peer learning** by engaging participants in interactive discussions to identify shared challenges, capacity needs and opportunities for collaboration.
4. **Identify opportunities for improvement** by gathering insights on institutional, technical and procedural gaps that need to be addressed. This includes identifying tools, frameworks, or guidance - that could better support countries in enhancing national NDC processes.

Envisioned Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding among participants of the use of transparency for planning, reporting, implementing and updating NDCs, while making effective use of evaluations as a starting point.
- Identification of institutional, technical, and procedural barriers to alignment, along with potential solutions and strategies to overcome them.
- Compilation of key insights, priorities, and recommendations from group discussions to inform future technical assistance, capacity-building efforts, and development of tailored guidance and support.
- Strengthened peer-to-peer learning and collaboration through the sharing of country experiences, lessons learned and good practices in aligning climate planning and reporting.

Event Agenda

Time	Session
5 mins 10:30 - 10:35	Opening and objectives <i>NDC Partnership</i> Welcome remarks and framing of the session's purpose and structure, including a brief introduction to trends observed in requests to the Partnership. Denmark tbc
10 mins	Setting the Stage: The importance of transparency for NDCs

10:35 - 10:45	<i>ICAT</i> Presentation on using transparency for NDCs
10 mins 10:45 - 10:55	Country Experience: Eswatini Case study highlighting institutional coordination and data streamlining for joint NDC–BTR planning.
5 min 10:55 - 11:00	Organization in breakout groups facilitated by the moderator
60 mins 11:00 - 12:00	<p>World Café Breakout Discussions <i>ICAT & NDC Partnership designate 1 facilitator per thematic station (2 per organization). NDC Partnership further reached out to 2050 Pathways and PATPA to assist in the co-facilitation of the breakout groups.</i></p> <p>Participants will discuss the four thematic areas within their breakout groups. Please see further guidance for facilitating the breakout sessions in the section “Session Outline Breakout Groups”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic 1: Modelling GHG projections and setting the NDC targets <u>Guiding questions:</u> How do you define the NDC 3.0 targets? What are the instruments/tools used ? How do countries ensure transparency and consistency in their projections? ● Topic 2: Defining policies and measures, and NDC implementation plans <u>Guiding questions:</u> How do you align sectoral policies with the NDC targets? How information on policies and measures in BTRs is supposed to support the NDC3.0 implementation plans ● Topic 3: Climate finance transparency as a basis for an NDC financing strategy <u>Guiding questions:</u> How do you define the cost of the NDC implementation? Does your country have a framework to track the financial flows both domestic and international, private and public? ● Topic 4: Tracking progress and MRV arrangements <u>Guiding questions:</u> What is the status of the MRV framework for NDC3.0 and connections to the NDC tracking reported in the BTR? Are there mechanisms or processes in place to use data from BTRs to adjust or strengthen future NDC targets?
20 min 12:00 - 12:20	Report-Back Co-facilitators serve as rapporteurs and share insights from each of the four breakout groups following a predetermined template identifying challenges, opportunities and recommendations for the specific topic.
5 min	Closing

12:20 - 12:25

ICAT

Closing remarks from ICAT Director. Session closes with reflections and call to action