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Provision of financial and technical support

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

Participants to the eighth replenishment of the GEF recognized and reaffirmed the importance of the GEF's mandate as a provider of financial support for reporting and for the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement. As a result, the set aside for reporting activities increased from \$110 million in the GEF-7 period to \$145 million in the GEF-8 period, which started on July 1, 2022. In parallel, funding for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) increased from \$55 million to \$75 million. Overall, this represents a 33 percent increase in resource allocation.

The document FCCC/SBI/2024/INF.8, prepared and submitted for the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29), includes information on the status of resources provided for the preparation of national communications (NCs), biennial update reports (BURs) and biennial transparency reports (BTRs) by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

Countries continue to make good progress on these reporting activities. As of May 1, 2025, the GEF has supported 203 BURs in 131 countries, 564 NCs in 151 countries, and 163 BTRs in 111 countries (including 111 BTR1, 48 BTR2, and 4 BTR3), for a total of \$563.3 million.

In response to CMA guidance, the GEF developed modalities to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTRs. The modalities were informed by two informal consultations held virtually with participation of national government representatives, members from the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the UNFCCC secretariat, and relevant GEF Implementing Agencies.

These support modalities have been made available since February 2021 to provide sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first and second BTR by December 2024 and 2026, respectively.

Following additional guidance from CMA 3 and a third informal consultation, the agreed full cost of BTRs was increased from the start of the GEF-8 period.

Developing countries that are Parties to the Paris Agreement can access up to \$600,000 for the BTR and up to \$633,000 for the combined BTR and national

communication. This compares to \$484,000 for the BTR and US \$517,000 for the combined BTR and national communication in GEF-7. These resources are available from the climate change focal area set aside on the basis of agreed full-cost funding. As with other reports, resources above these amounts, if needed, may be provided from a country's STAR allocation.

In response to the CMA 3 guidance regarding the potential of combining the application processes for producing multiple BTRs, the GEF has also made available support for countries to access two BTRs and one NC, as applicable, as part of the same single country enabling activity project, under the CEO expedited approval authority procedures. To date, 52 countries have received support to prepare their second or third BTR.I

Furthermore, the GEF has worked to further increase efficiency in the provision of support through the use of multi-country programs. As of May 1, 2025, three umbrella programs have been approved to support 70 BTRs in 58 countries, with a funding envelope of \$41.3 million.

In addition to the support provided for NCs, BURs and BTRs, the GEF has also supported the Global Support Program (GSP) to provide additional technical

guidance and backstopping for the development of these reports. The five-year program started in late 2015 and provided support to 130 countries and concluded its activities in September 2021. From July to September 2021, the GSP prepared reports and publications on the implementation of National Determined Contributions (NDCs), baselines for climate actions for the energy and land-use sectors. The GSP also continued the provision of support to the 13 Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) networks established, promoting peer-to-peer exchange and training support in Africa, Asia, Europe and Central Asia (ECA) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The complexities related to the transition to BTRs have further underscored the need to continue with the provision of global support modalities. Therefore, the GEF funded the continuation of the GSP taking into consideration the requirements of the ETF. As such, the GSP and the CBIT Global Coordination Platform were merged into the CBIT Global Support Program (or CBIT-GSP). The main objective of the project is to provide global streamlined support, capacity building and coordination to help developing countries meet enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement. CBIT-GSP supports countries' transition to the ETF via ten Regional and Linguistic-based Transparency Networks, promoting targeted support and fostering knowledge exchange among countries

with support from partners. CBIT-GSP has a web platform launched during the SB 58 session. On June 6, 2025, the GEF Council approved the Climate Transparency Global Support concept, continuing the CBIT-GSP after its conclusion.

In addition to supporting the preparation of national reports, the GEF further supports the implementation of the ETF under the Paris Agreement through the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Since its launch over eight years ago, CBIT has supported 100 projects totaling \$168 million. These projects support 96 countries, including 29 LDCs, 17 SIDS, with three of these countries being LDCs and SIDS. The support is provided in a geographically balanced manner. Out of the 100 CBIT projects, 19 projects have completed implementation, and 67 projects are under implementation. These projects respond to nationally identified priorities and are thus specific to each country's transparency-related capacity-building needs.

The CBIT has also supported seven global projects for knowledge sharing, coordination, and capacity-building. The GEF will continue to process new CBIT project proposals upon request from Parties, in alignment with the programming directions and COP guidance and utilizing available set-aside resources, including through second phase CBIT projects in countries that have completed the

implementation of their first CBIT project. To date, seven countries have requested their second phase CBIT projects.

Considering the needs of developing countries, the GEF partnership has also been exploring ways to further enhance its internal effectiveness. One important measure was the approval by the GEF Council at its 66th Meeting, in February 2024, in which increased the cap of the size of Medium-sized Projects (MSPs) from US\$ 2 to 5 million. The financing ceiling for MSPs was initially set at US\$ 1 million and was later raised to US\$2 million in 2012. This increase is expected to enable a much greater number of GEF projects and financing value, including from the CBIT and the enabling activities portfolio, to benefit from the more streamlined one-step approval process for MSPs.

In conclusion, we would like to reassure Parties that the GEF will continue to provide resources as a priority for national communications and for the timely preparation and submission of BTRs, as well as for the CBIT, and to work to fully address the guidance received relative to the enhanced transparency framework.

The GEF Secretariat remains available to provide any clarifications to Parties on this subject as well as broader GEF support.

Thank you.