

The top banner features a dark blue background with a glowing world map on the right and a golden hourglass on the left. The text is white and yellow.

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2020

TOWARDS 2030 GOALS
MAKING THE DECADE COUNT

January 29-31, 2020, India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi, India

*Transparency and Accountability in Global Climate Governance:
Needs, Challenges, and Opportunities for India*

Wednesday, January 29, 2020 | 14:30 – 16:30
Silver Oak 2, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



Background

Transparency is one of the most widely touted concepts of our age and has often been lauded as one of the most important factors for improving climate action. Ensuring data is shared openly is vital to our collective efforts. The driving force of this growing call for transparency is an unwavering belief in its potential to foster more accountable, democratic, and effective decision-making, and in turn build mutual trust between countries for enhancing climate action at different levels and across public and private domains. This transparency directly helps inform governments as they increase prospects for ambitious global climate action. Therefore, what happens globally is important for India's climate actions.

In the international climate regime, the year 2015 brought along a consensus on a widely celebrated agreement to apply on post-2020 phase of global collective action on climate change. The Paris Agreement entered into force in November 2016, embodying a 'pledge-and-review' approach to climate action, with individual country input to a shared global effort taking the form of 'nationally determined contributions' (NDCs). Under this agreement, transparency of adaptation and mitigation actions as well as the (financial, technological, and capacity-building) support take centre stage with the

formulation of an 'enhanced transparency framework' (ETF) as the key pillar of the Agreement, capturing core data to inform governments, civil society, and the international community of the progress on climate action. The Agreement enshrines the principle of 'national determination', which coexists alongside the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities, in the light of national circumstances'.

More recently, the *Paris Agreement Rulebook*, adopted at COP24, fleshed out a framework by adopting a detailed set of Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) for operationalizing the ETF. The MPGs detail a framework that applies to all parties providing flexibility for developing countries that need it in light of their capacities. It defines the information that all countries will need to provide in the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), and establishes an international process to review these reports. It also necessitates all countries to submit GHG inventories, provide information on the progress towards meeting their NDCs, and finance required for climate action among others. The first BTR is due on 31 December 2024. This is to be done using 'common reporting tables (CRTs)' and a 'common tabular format (CTF)', elements for which were discussed during COP25 held in December 2019, and further will be adopted at COP26 (to be held in December 2020).

The new reporting requirements under the ETF supersede the existing requirements under the current transparency framework under the UNFCCC and entail some elements that are new to many developing countries including India. This implies the urgent need for building a deep understanding on the new and emerging requirements under ETF. From 2024, India would require to abide by the draft decision on MPGs of ETF, as discussed at COP25. India now has an unprecedented opportunity discuss the available tools (such as the National Inventory Management System) and supportive processes for getting ready to comply with the new requirements under ETF.

Consequently, to hold the government accountable, transparency and a critical level of public attention are required. To this end, the Climate Transparency initiative, of which TERI is the Indian partner, aims to enhance ambitious climate actions in the G20 countries. Its annual flagship report, *Brown to Green*, provides a comprehensive overview and the trends for the G20 in terms of emissions, policies and their performance, finance and energy transition. This event is proposed to provide information on the international negotiation outcomes on matters related to transparency and initiate discussions around the *Brown to Green* country report of India.

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Structure

The session will start with a presentation on the new transparency requirements included in the post-2020 climate agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) followed by a presentation on key findings from the *Brown to Green* 2019 report. The key element of the session will be a round-table discussion on the formal negotiation process (Enhanced Transparency Framework), as well as outside efforts by research and civil society. This panel will bring together policymakers and researchers to debate the challenges of making India's climate actions transparent while complying with the new and emerging needs posed by ETF.

Expected outputs

- Informing relevant stakeholders on the provisions of the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement as adopted at COP24 and COP25; and India's position in the G20 countries.
- The session will provide an opportunity to the participants to discuss the needs, challenges, and opportunities for India towards GHG and NDC reporting from now until the end of 2024.