Summary Notes of the Meeting "Kicking off the Transparency Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean"

1. INTRODUCTION

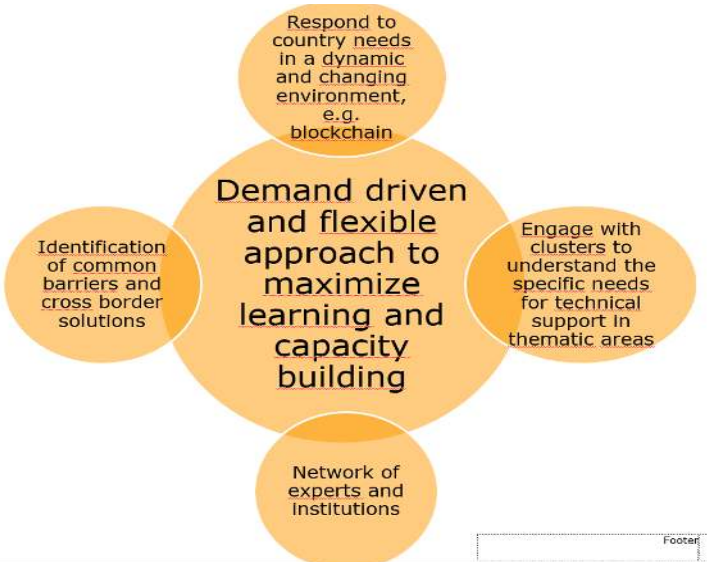
The Transparency Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean was formally kicked off with the participation of several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in Berlin on 27th of April 2018.

Participating countries in the kick off included: Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica, Peru and Venezuela. These are all countries from the region developing CBIT projects.

The Centre responds to a request from the Forum of Ministers of Latin America & Caribbean and it is an initiative supported by UN Environment´s Office for Latin America & Caribbean with the technical support of the UNEP DTU Partnership (UDP). The Centre's goal is to facilitate support to countries in a cost-efficient manner and promoting South-South cooperation, to meet the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. Countries engaged with the Centre will benefit from:

- **Reduced cost**: the Centre helps to reduce costs by consolidating technical assistance and support within a thematic area (transparency).
- **Increased efficiency:** centralizing expertise allows the Centre to optimize staff and operational efficiency across projects by implementing consistent, repeatable processes, and enabling the provision of high quality technical support.
- **Continuous enhancement:** on-going identification of best practices in countries will ensure continuously improvements of support delivered to countries.

The below figure illustrates the approach of the Centre:



In addition, synergies will be explored through collaboration with e.g. Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, Global Support Program, NDC Support Programme, Pacific Alliance, and EUROCLIMA+ supported activities.

2. CLUSTERS AND CHAMPIONS

In the early sessions of the workshop, UN Environment presented the core work of the Centre, including an **"Analysis of trends identified in the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, CBIT, proposals".** This graphical diagnosis helped countries in Latin American and the Caribbean to identify common interests and possible common areas of work with other countries in the region that are currently working on the execution of CBIT projects and developing their CBIT proposals.

The diagnosis helped to establish five main clusters of activities prioritized by countries, including certain "champions" in those fields that already have shared their experiences and their transparency goals with peers. The champions and respective clusters were as follows:

1. Costa Rica: "Technology Tools – Open Source Interactive Modular Platforms"
2. Panama: "M&E for Adaptation"
3. Argentina: "GHG Inventory Systems and NDC Revision Process"
4. Chile: "Long-Term Strategies"
5. Antigua & Barbuda: "Data Security Strategies"

UN Environment and UNEP DTU then identified further possible clusters considering certain regional priorities expressed in the NDCs, such as MRVs for carbon pricing, Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes, among others.

3. NATIONAL BARRIERS - REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

After the identification of clusters and champions, **all participant countries were invited to indicate what activities that are currently being implemented through CBIT, would benefit from a coordinated approach** with other countries in the region, generating economies of scale, faster procurement processes, and tangible knowledge sharing.

Results also include the **activities that countries would like to execute regionally, beyond their current CBIT** projects/proposals (marked in red).

Results were as follows:

Modular Platforms & Tech tools	CR	Chile	Argentina	Jamaica	Panama	A&B	DR	Honduras	Uruguay	Mexico	Colombia	Cuba
Design a transparency website	●	●	●	●					●	●		●

Maintain and populate website	●	●				●		●	●	●		
Design user guidelines	●	●			●			●	●	●		
Regional workshops for MRV	●	●					●					
Trainings on how to use platform	●		● for policy makers	●	●	●	●		● for policy makers			
Guidance on QA/QC	●			●		●	●					
M&E forAdaptation												
Trainings on best practices	●				●		●	●				●
Guidelines with best methodologies	●				●		●	●	●			●
Workshops for best practices	●				●		●	●		●		●
GHG Inventory Systems and NDC tracking												
Develop or enhance emission factors	●		●				●	●	●		●	●
Identify sectorial indicators	●						●	●			●	●
Legally binding institutional arrangements through							●	●		●		●

proper templates												
Training on NDC policy forecasting							●	●		●		●
NDC tracking and analyses of current and additional mitigation actions							●	●				●
Long-Term Strategies												
Simulation and modelling tools						●	●	●	●	●	●	
Participatory approaches for LTS targets	●		●				●	●		●		
Preliminary studies for a LTS plan								●				
Regional workshops on policy instruments to implement LTS								●				
Data Security Strategies												
Structural (physical) risk assessment	●			●		●	●					
Structural (digital) risk assessment	●			●		●	●	●	●			
Inter-relations between article 6 and 13 of the PA	●											
Carbon Pricing MRV				●								

Peru and Venezuela manifested that they would like to consult with their corresponding governments before their expression of interest.

3. MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

The chart above shows some clear "low-hanging fruit" opportunities for giving tangible support to the region as a whole in the near future.

Tangible opportunities to start working ASAP may be summarized in the following proposed initiatives:

1- Joint CBIT Execution
   - Identify similar execution timeframes for the activities of joint execution interest.
   - Concrete proposals to each country.
   - Create/adjust terms of reference and budget as per GEF requirements.
2- Cover Paris Agreement´s transparency obligations not covered by CBIT
   - Create a logical framework for a concrete regional project including the activities marked in red in the chart above.
   - Adjust to Euroclima+, FIAPP, GIZ, CBIT-GEF7 or other interested donor project templates and process requirements.
3- Platform of Platforms
   - Create the Centre's webpage.
   - Populate with regional transparency advancements divided by the identified clusters.
   - Compare countries; identify champions, new champions, "revelations", valuable efforts.
   - Create a common regional climate transparency language.

4. CONCLUSIONS

By the end of the workshop, **the Centre was able to identify thematic areas within which countries may request to execute their CBIT projects jointly to expand their impacts synergistically.** As an immediate next step, we will need to establish the timeframes of the ongoing CBIT processes, as some countries are more advanced than others are, thus the proposed common execution approach might delay some prioritized activities for front-runners. This will have to be revised and assessed bearing in mind possible alternative financial mechanisms to level interested laggard countries.

Activities will need to contribute progressively to a common regional climate transparency language. For example, to "design a transparency website" might not entail a solely platform for all countries involved in CBIT or beyond, but the Centre will be the means to unify those platforms and make them interact in order to manage information and climate action outcomes at a regional level. **A "platform of platforms" is something that all countries were keen to create through the Centre's support.**

Finally, the **European Commission, Euroclima+ Program, and GIZ expressed their willingness in exploring potential contributions to the Centre** to cover activities of expressed interest not addressed through current CBIT projects/proposal (Main Opportunities 2 and 3).

UNEP DTU mentioned that the next technical workshop hosted by the Centre could be organized back-to-back with the Climate Week in 20-24 August in Montevideo, Uruguay. This is yet to be confirmed.

Annex 1 – List of Country Participants

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION	COUNTRY
Ms. Raisa Spencer	Technical Data Expert	Department of Environment	Antigua & Barbuda
Ms. Macarena Moreira Muzio	Mitigation Coordinator	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Argentina
Ms. Jenny Mager Santos	Mitigation Coordinator	Ministry of Environment	Chile
Ms. Maria Teresa Becerra	Deputy Director	Ecosystems and Environmental Information Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies - IDEAM	Colombia
Ms. Agripina Jenkins Rojas	Climate Change Advisor	Ministry of Environment and Energy	Costa Rica
Mr. Wenceslao Carrera Doral	Climate Transparency Expert	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment	Cuba
Ms. Toa Loaiza Lange	International Cooperation Advisor	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Dominican Republic
Ms. Iris Mariela Cruz	Technical Expert	National Observatory of Climate Change	Honduras
Ms. Katherine Blackman	Climate Finance Advisor	Climate change division, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Jamaica
Ms. Itzchel Nieto	Director for Research on Low Carbon Development Strategies	National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC)	Mexico
Ms. Veronica Quintero	Climate Change Expert	Ministry of Environment	Panama

Ms. Nathaly Abadía	Climate Adaptation and International Affairs Advisor	Ministry of Environment	Peru
Ms. Virginia Sena	Climate Change Expert	Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment	Uruguay
Ms. Damaris Montero Freitez	International Cooperation Analyst	Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism and Waters	Venezuela

Annex 2 – Meeting Agenda

Launch of the Transparency Centre of Excellence for the LAC region

27 April 2018

Berlin, Germany

Location: Scandic Berlin Potsdamer Platz Hotel

CONCEPT AND OBJECTIVES

The Transparency Centre of Excellence (TCoE) is an initiative established by UN Environment and UNEP DTU Partnership (UDP) to support countries in the LAC region to meet the requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. Both UN Environment and UDP are actively involved in country support in the LAC region, in particular through CBIT and ICAT and beyond and this initiative therefore aims at building on the lessons learned from these streams of support in the area of transparency. By identifying the most efficient solutions to strengthen national transparency systems and fostering peer-to-peer learning among countries, the TCoE will provide high impact and country-specific capacity building and technical assistance.

Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement NDCs and the Paris Agreement requires each country to prepare, communicate, and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve, and also to define long term low emission development strategies. The Paris transparency framework brings all countries into a common process for providing enhanced data and tracking progress against their commitments on mitigation, adaptation, and support. There is agreement about what each country is expected to achieve, but not how to get there. It is to this end that the TCoE will support countries to develop new approaches and practices based on national and local demand.

This meeting will introduce the TCoE and provide an opportunity to discuss the technical support needs in the context of CBIT and other relevant initiatives.

Meeting objectives:

(i) Establish a common vision of how the TCoE can support countries to meet the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).
(ii) Develop an overview of regional needs of support and establish clusters of countries with shared challenges.
(iii) Develop roadmaps for streams of support related to specific topics.
(iv) Articulate the roadmaps with CBIT activities and further financial support

27 april	
8:40 – 9.00	Registration
Session 1	**Workshop objectives and introduction of TCoE**
9:00 – 9:30	- UNEP DTU Partnership - UN Environment
Session 2	**Transparency in a Latin American context - trends identified in CBIT proposals. How can the TCoE facilitate efficient capacity building for specific topics across borders?**
09:30 – 11:00	- UN Environment: Analysis of trends identified in CBIT proposals Discussion - input from countries - Argentina: GHG Inventory Systems and NDC Revision Process - Costa Rica: Technology Tools – Open Source Interactive Modular Platforms - Chile: Long Term Strategies - Panama: M&E Adaptation - Antigua & Barbuda: Data Security Strategies
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
Session 3	**"National Barriers - Regional Solutions"** **Establishment of CBIT Learning Networks for the LAC region**
11:30 – 13:00	Input from countries: Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Uruguay, Jamaica present their priorities and areas that are relevant for peer-to-peer learning. CBIT learning networks are formed based on countries' common priorities.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
Session 4	**Establishing a common vision for the TCoE**
14:00 – 15:30	- UNEP DTU Partnership - Discussion
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee/Tea Break
Session 4	**Next steps: presentation of roadmaps for the learning networks - how do we ensure that TCoE meet the expectations of all countries**
16:00 – 17:00	- UN Environment - UNEP DTU Partnership - Input from countries