



**Ministry of Climate Change,
Environment and Energy**

Inception Workshop Report

**Consultancy Services to Review and
Strengthen the Institutional Arrangements for
Climate Change Reporting**

CBIT Maldives

**Capacity Building for Improved Transparency of Climate Change
Mitigation and Adaptation Actions in the Maldives**





Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology
Male', Republic of Maldives

Inception Workshop Report

Consultancy Services to Review and Strengthen the Institutional Arrangements for
Climate Change Reporting

This report fulfills Deliverable 2.1.7: Workshop report on consultative workshop on updating the needs and gaps for a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system of mitigation actions.

CBIT MALDIVES
*Capacity Strengthening for Improved Transparency of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Actions in
the Maldives Project*





Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology

Capacity Strengthening for Improved
Transparency of Climate Change
Mitigation and Adaptation Actions in
the Maldives Project (CBIT Maldives)



This document has been financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through Capacity Strengthening for Improved Transparency of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Actions in the Maldives Project (CBIT Maldives), executed by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology (MECCT) with implementation support from UN Environment.

September 2023

Consultant:

Up Close
SOLUTIONS

Contents

- Executive Summary 3
- 1. Introduction 4
- 2. Objectives of the workshop 4
- 3. Presentations 5
 - 3.1 National Climate Change Reporting 5
 - 3.2 Stock-take and design options for Institutional arrangement for climate change reporting 5
 - 3.3 Legal Deliverables under the consultancy 5
- 4. Group Discussions 6
 - 4.1 Guiding Questions 6
 - 4.2 Compositions of groups 6
 - 4.3 Summary of Discussion and Recommendations 7
 - 4.4 Recommendation 8
- Annex 1: Presentations of the workshop 9
- Annex 2: List of Participants for the workshop 10
- Annex 2: Photographs from the workshop 11

Executive Summary

As part of a consultancy project to review and strengthen institutional arrangements for Climate Change Reporting, an inception workshop was held on 28th August 2023. The main objective of the workshop includes.

1. To take stock of the current institutional arrangement for national climate change reporting.
2. To get feedback on design options for the institutional arrangement for national climate reporting.
3. To get feedback on utilization of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and Non-disclosure Agreements (NDAs) for sharing the data required for national climate change reporting.

The workshop was held in the Auditorium of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology (MECCT). 18 participants from different stakeholder institutions came together to discuss the current challenges in data sharing and provide recommendations for institutional arrangements.

The workshop was conducted in plenary session presentation and group discussions. The group discussions were facilitated by the consultants. The discussions were aimed to provide a platform for peer-to-peer exchange.

This workshop fulfills **Deliverable 2.1.7: Workshop report on consultative workshop on updating the needs and gaps for a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system of mitigation actions.**

1. Introduction

The Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project of Maldives is aimed to strengthening institutional capacity for tracking mitigation and adaptation actions and establishing climate finance tracking system in the Maldives. It aims to establish and enhance the Maldives' transparency system, in line with Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of Paris Agreement.

As part of the Maldives CBIT project, Up Close Solutions Pvt Ltd was recruited as consultants for review and strengthen the institutional arrangements for Climate Change reporting. The main objective of the assignment is the review and development of institutional arrangements for continuous national reporting in line with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement including the development of the legal arrangements for the institutional arrangements.

An inception workshop was held on Monday, 28th August 2023 to orientate the stakeholders regarding the above-mentioned consultancy and to stock-take regarding different aspects of the existing institutional arrangement.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Ahmed Waheed, Director, Climate Change Department, MECCT. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ahmed Waheed highlighted the importance of a robust MRV system to meet the demanding task of meeting the requirements under ETF. He also stressed the importance of continuous data collection for GHG inventory and MRV purposes and requested continuous support from the stakeholders.

After the inauguration of the workshop three presentations were given by the consultants. The presentations were focused on National Climate Change Reporting, stock-take and design options for institutional arrangements for national climate change reporting and MOUs, NDAs and regulations to be developed under the consultancy.

This workshop report is aimed to archive the main discussions and the presentations given on the inception workshop for the consultancy services for review and strengthen the institutional arrangement for national climate change reporting. This report outlines as the following;

- **Objectives of the workshop:** the section includes the objectives of inception workshop will be described.
- **Presentations:** this section describes the three presentations given in the workshop. These presentations were given to orientate and facilitate the participants for the following group discussions.
- **Discussions:** this section captures the main discussions and recommendations from the stakeholders regarding the design options for institutional arrangement. Furthermore, comments and recommendations made by the stakeholders for the MOUs, NDAs and regulation for formalization of institutional arrangements for MRV of mitigation actions will be captured.

2. Objectives of the workshop

The main objective of the workshop includes.

1. To take stock of the current institutional arrangement for national climate change reporting.
2. To get feedback on design options for the institutional arrangement for national climate reporting.

To get feedback on utilization of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and Non-disclosure Agreements (NDAs) for sharing the data required for national climate change reporting.

3. Presentations

3.1 National Climate Change Reporting

This presentation was given by Mr. Hamdhoon Mohamed, National Institutional Arrangement Specialist for the consultancy project. The main content of this presentation include the following;

- Background information of national climate change report produced by Maldives to the date;
- Introduction to Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)
- Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)
- Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR)
- Adaptation Reporting
- National Communications
- Technical Expert Review and Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress (FMCP)

The presentation slides have been attached in Annex 01 of this workshop report.

3.2 Stock-take and design options for Institutional arrangement for climate change reporting

This presentation was also given by Mr. Hamdhoon Mohamed and the main content of this presentation include the following;

- Current institutional arrangements for national climate change reporting;
- Institutional and Legal Barriers identified for national climate change reporting;
- Sample Case Studies for Institutional Arrangements for climate change reporting
 - Case study of Ghana
 - Case Study of Japan
 - Case Study of Singapore
- Guiding questions for group discussions

The presentation slides have been attached to the Annex 01 of this workshop report.

3.3 Legal Deliverables under the consultancy

This presentation was given by Mr. Mohamed Aseel Hassan, National Legal Expert for the consultancy project. The main contents of the presentation include the following;

- Main CBIT project activities which deals with MOUs, NDAs and Regulations;
- Main content and scope of a MOU
- Main content and scope of an NDA
- Main content and scope of a regulation.

The presentation slides have been attached to Annex 01 of this workshop report.

4. Group Discussions

4.1 Guiding Questions

The group discussions were guided by the following questions which was aimed to facilitate the discussion.

1. What are the challenges for maintaining a continuous working group for national climate change reporting?
2. What are the role of academia and how can they be utilized in national climate change reporting?
3. Is a high-level committee essential for national climate change reporting?
4. How can the National climate change committee (to be established under the provision of Maldives Climate Emergency Act (2021) be utilized for national climate change reporting?
5. What is the main challenges faced in data collection?

4.2 Compositions of groups

Participants of the workshop were divided into two main discussion groups and discussions at each of the group was facilitated by the consultants. The following Table 01 is the composition of the discussion groups.

Table 1: Composition of groups for discussions

Group 1		Group 2	
Name of the participant	Representing Institution	Name of the participant	Representing Institution
Adhil Rasheed	Ministry of Transport	Suma Khalid Mohamed	FENAKA Corporation
Aishath Yamna	State Electric Company Limited (STELCO)	Ahmed Iyad	Maldives Customs Services (MCS)
Fathimath Fizna Yousuf	Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA)	Abdulla Athoof	Maldives Gas

Aminath Seeza	Energy Department, MECCT	Furugaan Ibrahim	Male' Water and Sewerage Company (MWSC)
Musthafa Rafeeu	Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO)	Thibiyan Ibrahim	Climate Change Department, MECCT
Aneesa Yousuf	Gender Expert, Maldives CBIT project	Aishath Naisaan	State Trading Organization (STO)
Mohamed Inaz	Project Technical Coordinator, Maldives CBIT project	Zammath Khaleel	GHG Inventory Expert

4.3 Summary of Discussion and Recommendations

- Representation of Policy Level staff at project steering committee is very important.
- It is important to have a single steering committee for national climate change reporting rather than having a project steering committee for each of the National Climate Change report compilation like Third National Communication (TNC) and Biennial Transparency Report (BTR).
- Meeting of working groups is very difficult so data sharing can be done via emails or other online methods.
- Provisions for focal point from each of the institution should be defined in the MOUs.
- It is important for the institutions to assign representatives from statistical division as focal points.
- Academia should be utilized for data collection for research of country specific-emission factors, however the Maldivian academia lack the technical expertise for these kinds of research.
- There is no requirement for having a high-level committee to increase the political willingness for the national climate change reporting.
- The Maldives Climate Emergency Act (2021) has authorized Climate Change Directorate of MECCT has leading institution for climate change reporting.
- Any regulation for formalization of national climate change reporting should come under the Maldives Climate Emergency Act (2021).
- Ad-hoc requirements for data from stakeholders particularly the utilities companies are considered to be one of the most significant challenge.
- Changing formats of data collection is a significant challenge for data providers.
- Training of data providers regarding the changes in data requirements is essential.
- SOE's are generally receptive to information requests from Government or Regulatory Authorities. Information requests from any other party, such as via an RTI may not be complied with.

- There is a challenge in segregating the data to the types required for various reports. For example, it was discussed that a certain type of product, while identifiable by its import code, may not be easy to identify when it occurs in other products (as a mix or constituent).
- Business Development Departments of SOE's and Private Sector Companies were generally identified as the main focal point for collecting and sharing consumption data. It was generally noted that such data is mostly collected for marketing purpose.

4.4 Recommendation

The following recommendations were made by the stakeholders regarding the institution arrangements and data collection MOUs, NDAs and regulations.

Table 2: Key recommendations made by the stakeholders during group discussions

Aspects	Recommendation
Project Steering Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have a single Steering Committee for all the National Climate Change reports rather than having project steering committees for each of the report.
Working Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To limit the meetings of the working groups for endorsement of a deliverable such as a chapter of a national climate change report. E.g. National Inventory Report. • Avoid meeting on weekly or monthly basis.
Nominee's for Working Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominees from technical staff of the institution and where possible from statistics department of the institution.
Role of Academia on National Climate Change Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the expertise available involvement of the academia for data collection. • Expertise of private sector educational institutions need to be explored.
High Level Climate Change Council or Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no requirement for such a council or committee since clear mandate has been given to Climate Change Directorate of MECCT for data collection and elaboration of national climate change reports.
MOUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOU's to clearly identify the focal points from each stakeholder, so as to ensure timely sharing of information.
NDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information requested NDA's need to be discussed in detail as SOE's and Private Sector are not receptive to requests that may hinder business interests.
Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation to be formulated under Climate Emergency Act • Regulation to include references to MOU's and NDA's, especially to give additional confidentiality guarantees for information shared under NDA's.

Annex 1: Presentations of the workshop

National Climate Change Reporting

Presented by Hamdhoon Mohamed

Up Close
SOLUTIONS

Outline for the presentation

- Background
- Introduction to Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)
- Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)
- Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR)
- Adaptation Reporting
- National Communications
- Technical Expert Review and Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress (FMCP)

Background

- The national climate change reports are prepared for submission to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Maldives has prepared and submitted 3 national climate change reports to UNFCCC.
- They include
 - First National Communication in 2001
 - Second National Communication in 2016
 - First Biennial Update Report in 2019
- In addition, Maldives has submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2015 and updated NDC in 2020.

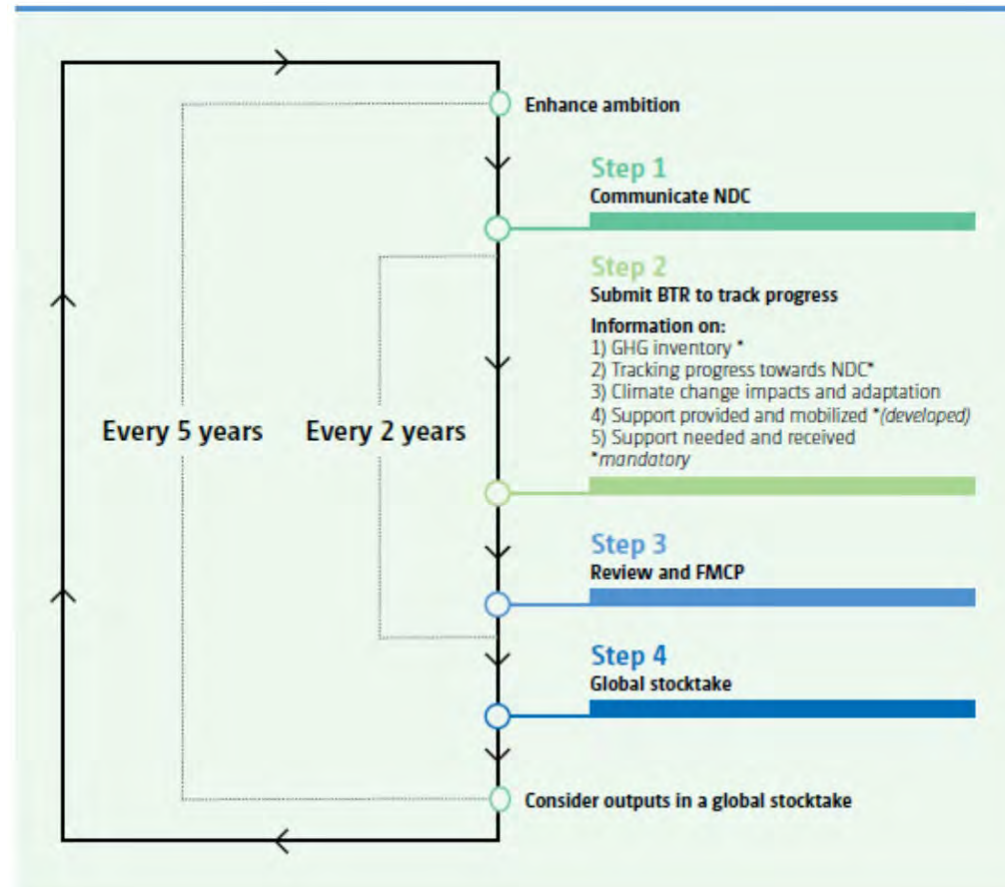
Introduction to Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)

- Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015 and Maldives ratified Paris Agreement in 2016.
- The main provision of ETF include
 - Communication of NDCs under Article 4
 - Submission of BTRs;
 - Technical expert review of the BTR and FMCP
 - Global stocktake.

Source: UNFCC Secretariat (2022) “Reference Manual for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement”

ETF cycles

Source: UNFCC Secretariat (2022) “Reference Manual for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement”



Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- In communicating an NDC, Parties provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding of their commitments.
- Maldives NDC include:
 - 26% reduction of emissions in 2030 (under a BAU) in a conditional manner, in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by availability of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building.
 - However, if the aforementioned assistances are significantly increased, Maldives intends to achieve net zero emissions by 2030

Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)

- Main chapters of BTR include;
 - National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs;
 - Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving the NDC
 - Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation
 - Information on FTC support provided and mobilized
 - Information on FTC support needed and received
 - Information to be reported when national communications and BTRs are submitted jointly every four years
 - Information on flexibility
 - Improvements in reporting over time
 - Any other information
 - Technical Annexes

Source: UNFCCC Secretariat (2022) “Reference Manual for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement”

Adaptation Reporting

- Adaptation information to be communicated under MPGs

Key Aspects	Detailed Information
National circumstances, institutional arrangements & legal frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National circumstances related to adaptation actions • Institutional arrangements & governance (assessing impacts, decision making, planning, coordination, M&E) • Legislative, policy, regulatory frameworks
impacts, risks & vulnerabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate trends & hazards (current, projected) • Observed & potential climate change impacts (sectoral, economic, social, environmental) • Approaches, methodologies & tools & associated uncertainties & Challenges
priorities & barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic priorities & progress • Challenges, gaps, barriers to adaptation
Strategies, policies, plans, goals, actions to integrate adaptation into national policies & strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions in accordance with the adaptation global goal (art. 7(1) PA) • Goals, actions, objectives, efforts, plans, strategies, policies, efforts to build resilience • Development priorities related to adaptation & impacts • Nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation • Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans leading to mitigation co-benefits
Progress on implementation of adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the adaptation actions • Steps taken to formulate, implement, publish and update national and regional programmes; strategies and measures, policy frameworks (e.g. national adaptation plans) and other relevant information; • Implementation of adaptation actions identified in current and past adaptation communications, including efforts towards meeting adaptation needs, as appropriate; • Implementation of adaptation actions identified in the adaptation component of NDCs, as applicable; • Coordination activities and changes in regulation, policies and planning.
M&E of adaptation actions & processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on domestic systems to monitor & evaluate the implementation of adaptation actions (current, under development) • Achievements, effectiveness, resilience, results, ... • Approaches, indicators, assessment • Good practices, experiences, lessons learnt

Adaptation Reporting (Continued...)

Key Aspects	
Information on averting, minimizing & addressing loss and damage	<p>Observed & potential climate change impacts (incl. related to extreme weather events & slow onset events)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities related to averting, minimizing & addressing loss & damage• Institutional arrangements for the implementation of those activities
Cooperation, good practices, experience & lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efforts to share information, good practices, experience and lessons learned (science, planning, policies, projects, improving durability & effectiveness of actions, etc.)• Strengthening scientific research & knowledge (climate, research, systematic observation, early warning systems, M&E)

Source: UNFCC Secretariat (2022) “Reference Manual for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement”

National Communications



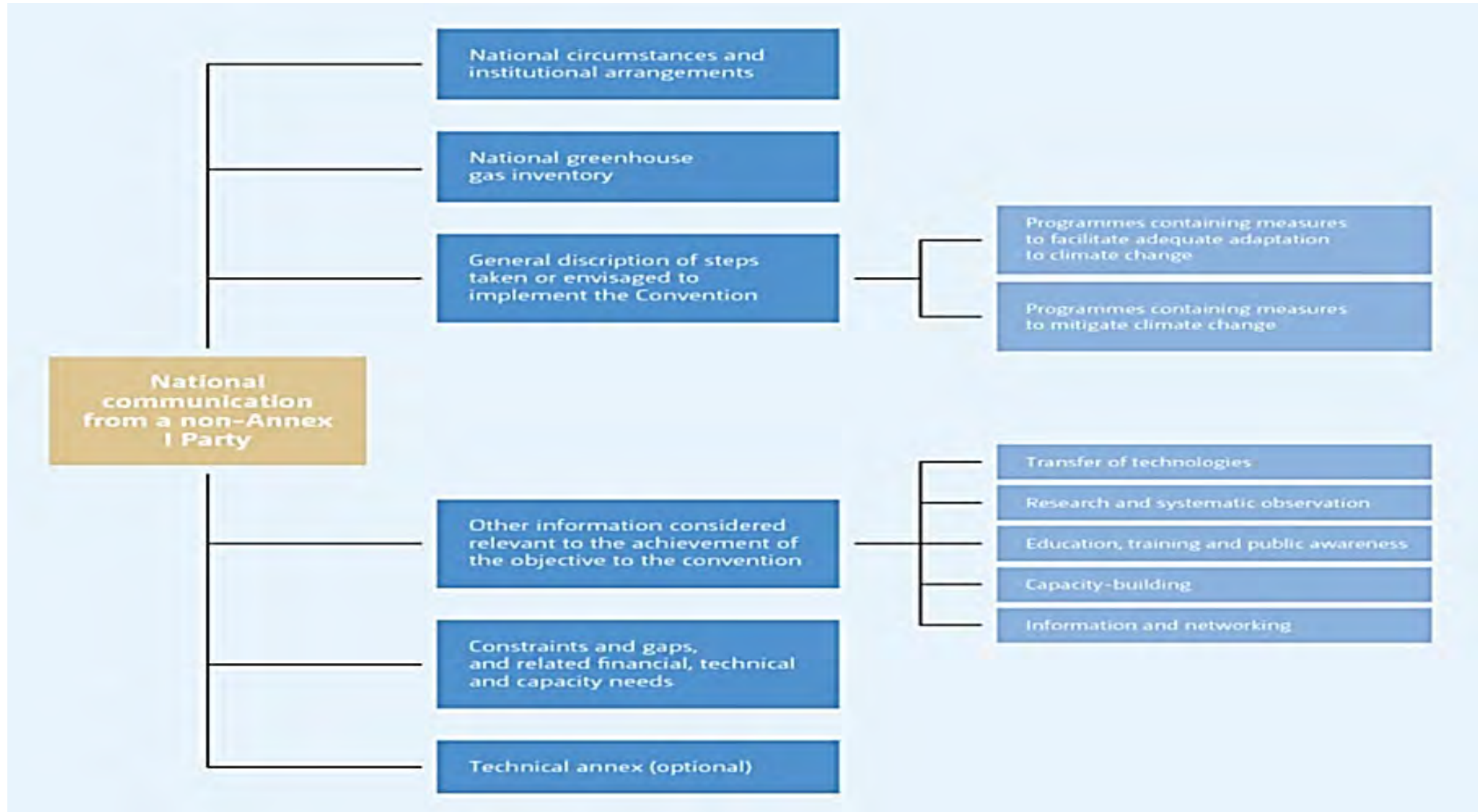
National communications are at the heart of reporting on the progress in the implementation of the Convention.

COP 16 decided that non-Annex I Parties should submit their national communications to the COP every four years or in accordance with any further decisions on frequency to be adopted by the COP in the future.

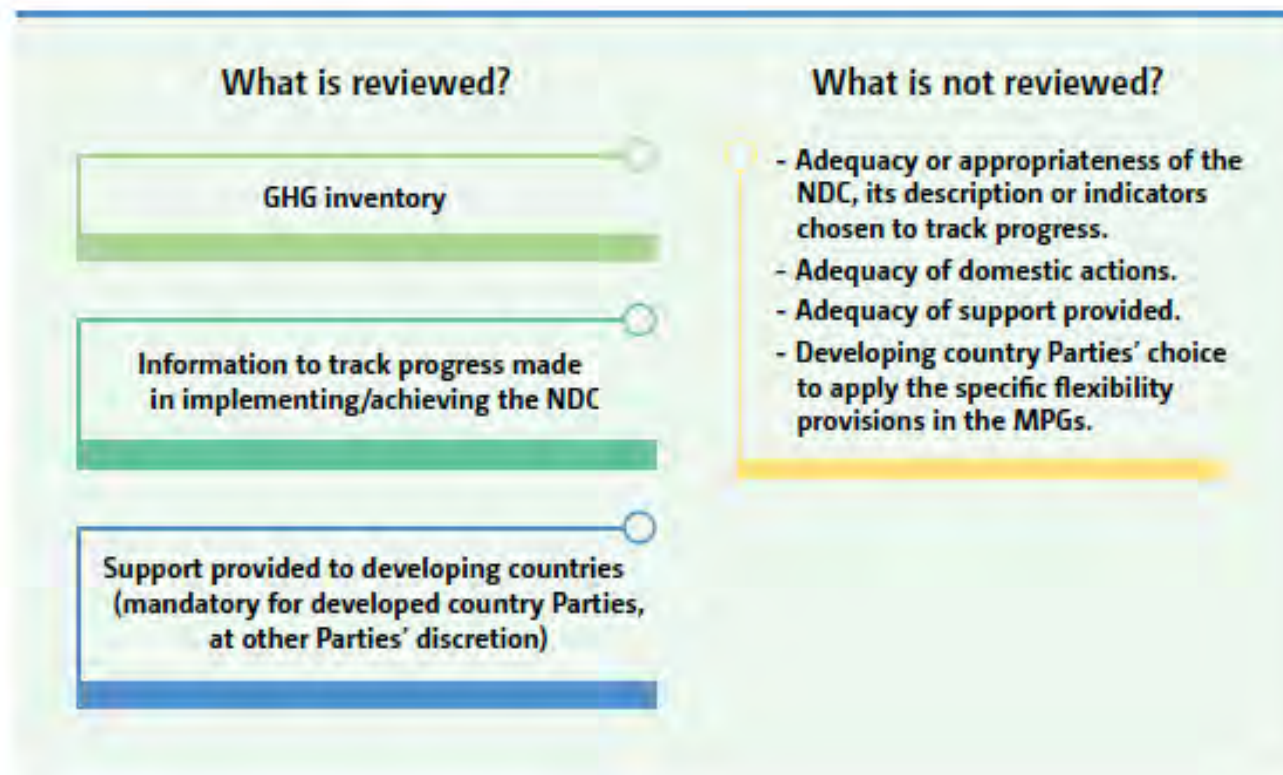
There is flexibility for SIDS and LDCs on submitting the national communications due to lack of financial and technical resources.

Source: UNFCC (2014) "Handbook on MRV for developing country parties"

Contents of NCs

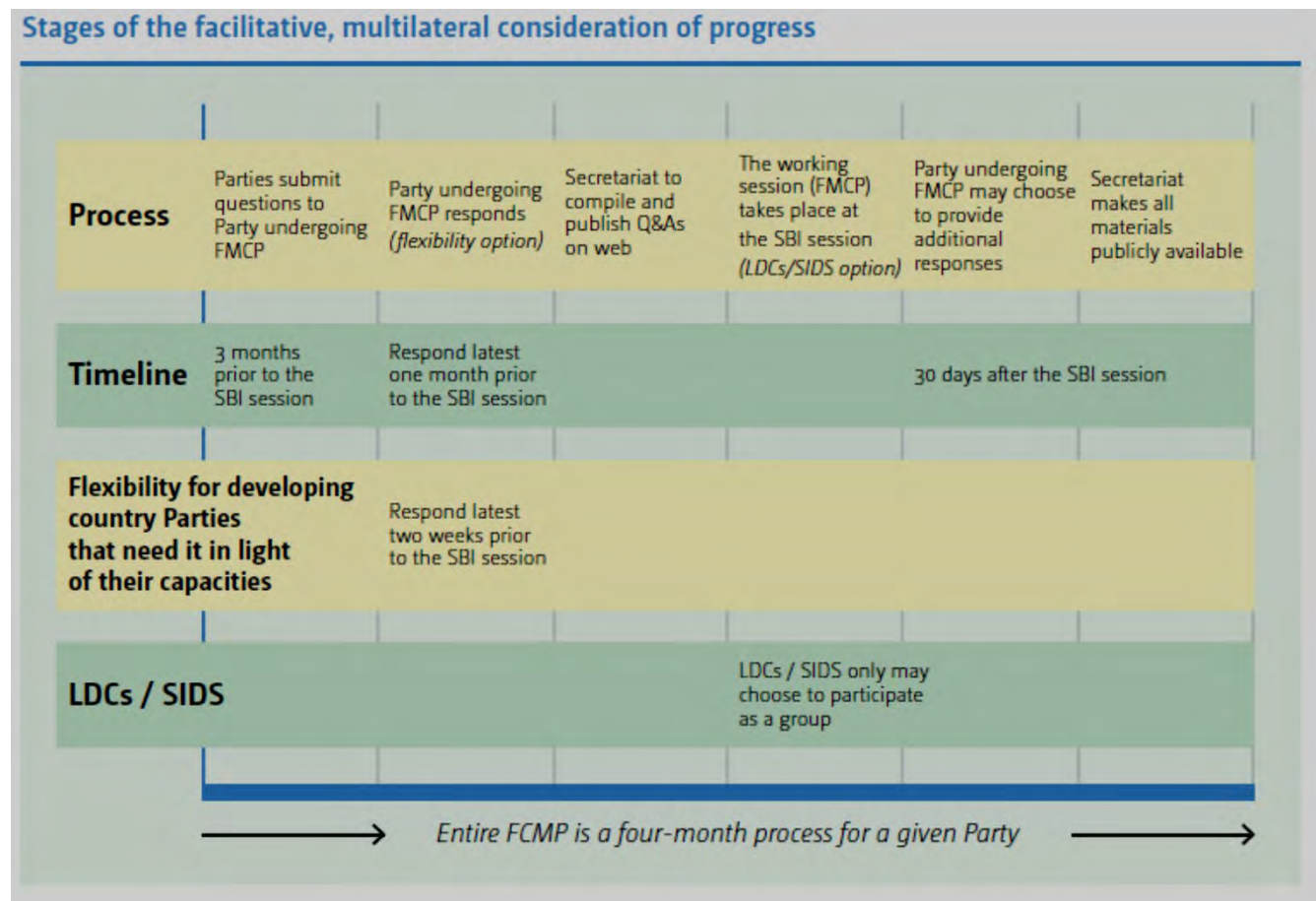


Technical Expert Review



Source: UNFCCC Secretariat (2022) "Reference Manual for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement"

Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress (FMCP)



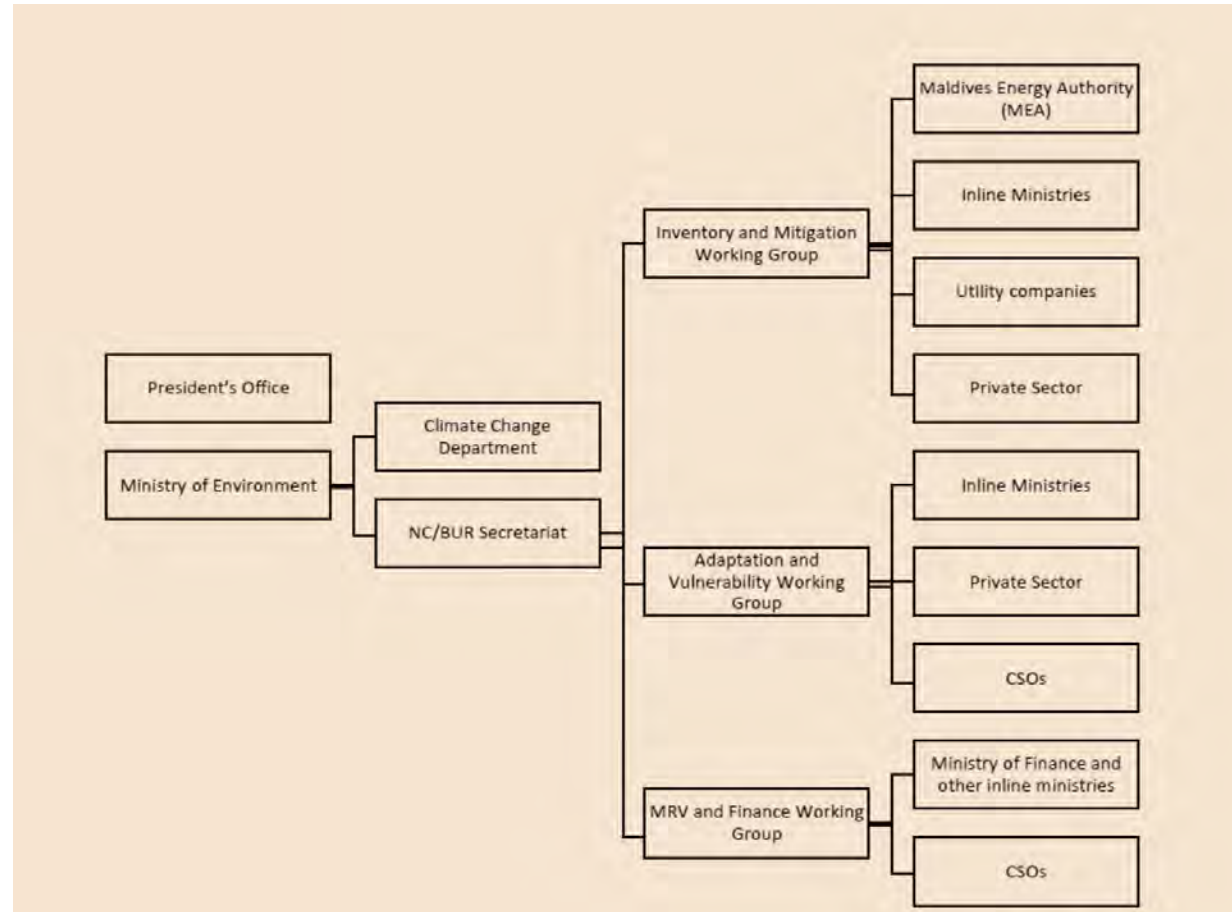
Source: UNFCCC Secretariat (2022) “Reference Manual for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement”

Stock take and Design Option for Institutional Arrangement for National Climate Change Reporting

Presented by: Hamdhoon Mohamed



Current Institutional Arrangement

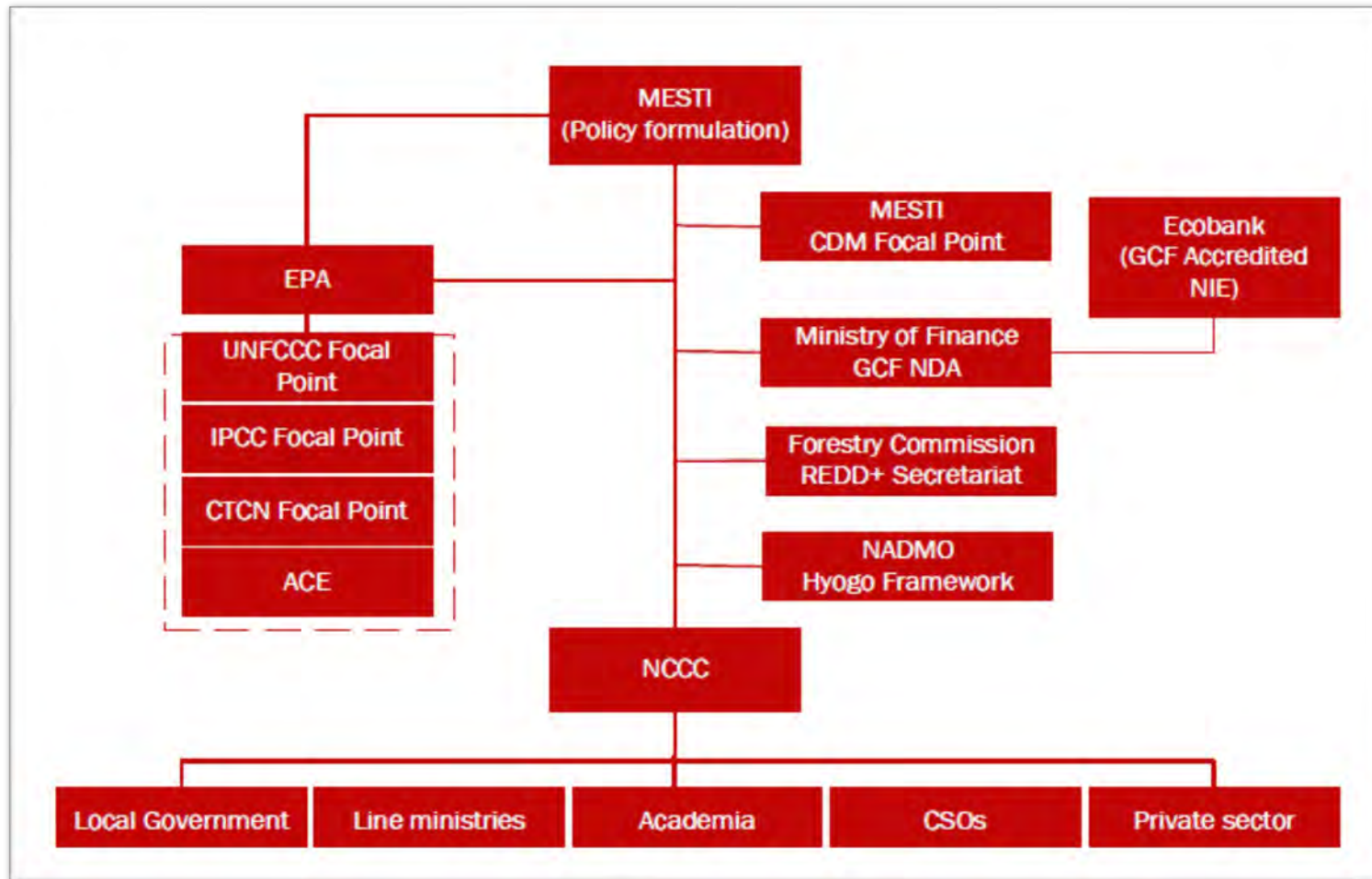


Source: Ministry of Environment (2020) "Maldives CBIT CEO Endorsement Document"

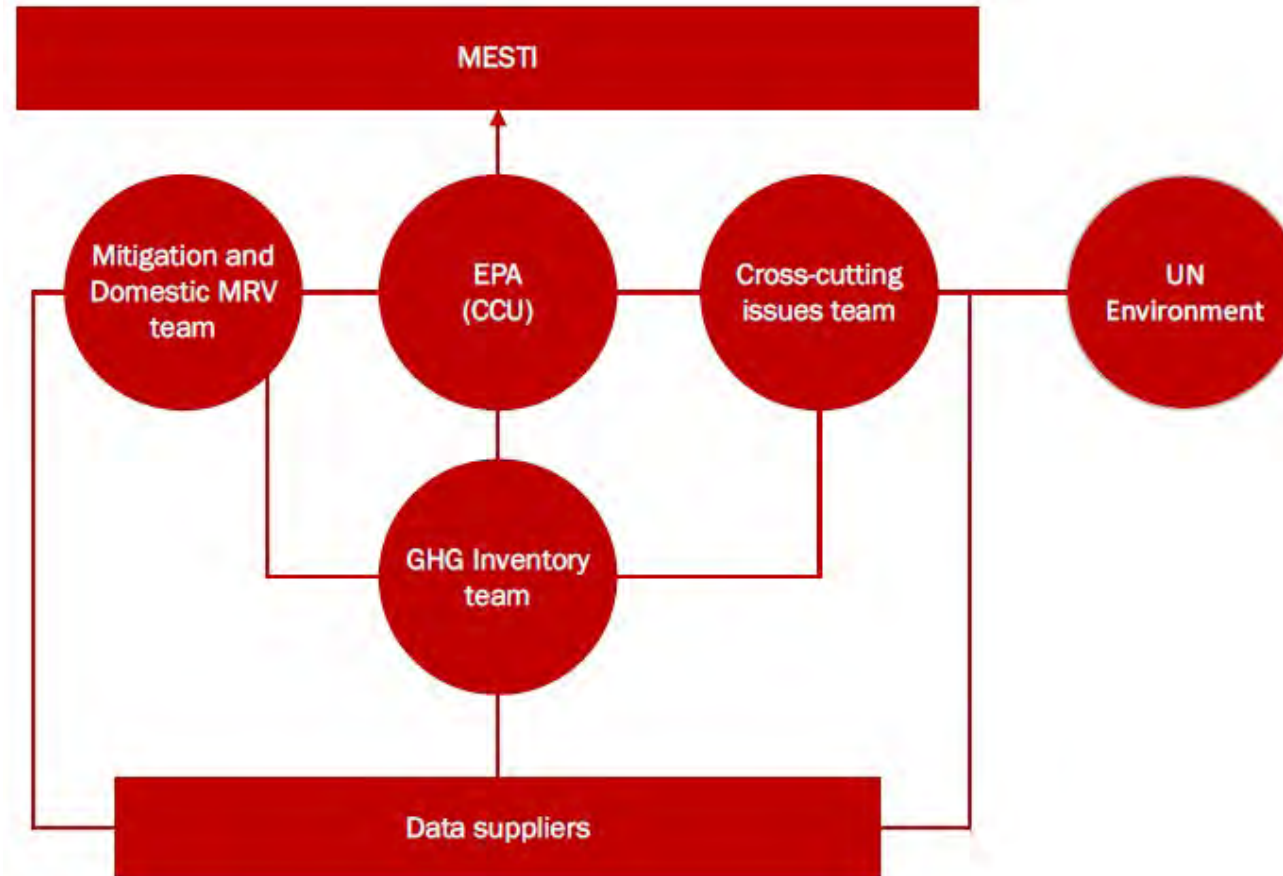
Institutional and Legal Barriers identified

Legal Aspects	
Legal mandate	A legal mandate is only identified for the CCD at the MoE. This follows its mandate to carry out the obligations of all climate change related International treaties and activities related to organizations that the Maldives is party to.
Compliance and Legal Frameworks	No compliance system defined and no existing legal frameworks for MRV in the country
Institutional Aspects	
Institutional Setup	Although the CCD has a clear role as a coordinator of climate initiatives in the country, and stakeholders were identified, the official definition of a system with institutions participating on a regular basis is still missing. This implies that no coordination work made by the CCD team is based upon a formal system.
Roles and Responsibilities	It is declared that roles and responsibilities of stakeholders (ministries, government departments, private sector and civil society) are only defined to a small extent and even for sub-national governments or academia they are not defined at all
Capacity and Skill training	The core of the climate expertise at Government level is limited to the members of the CCD team, but technical capacities are lacking in top line ministries and stakeholders in general.

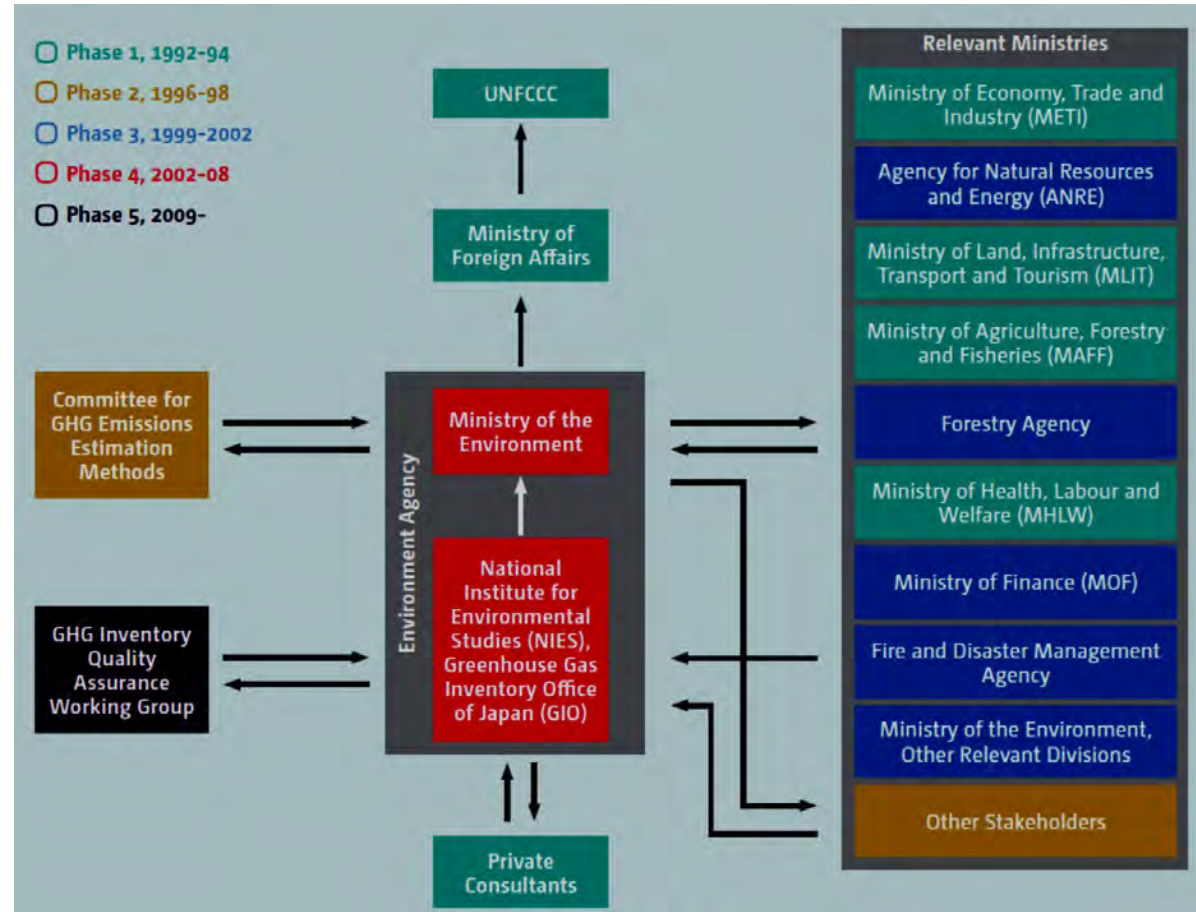
Case Study of Ghana



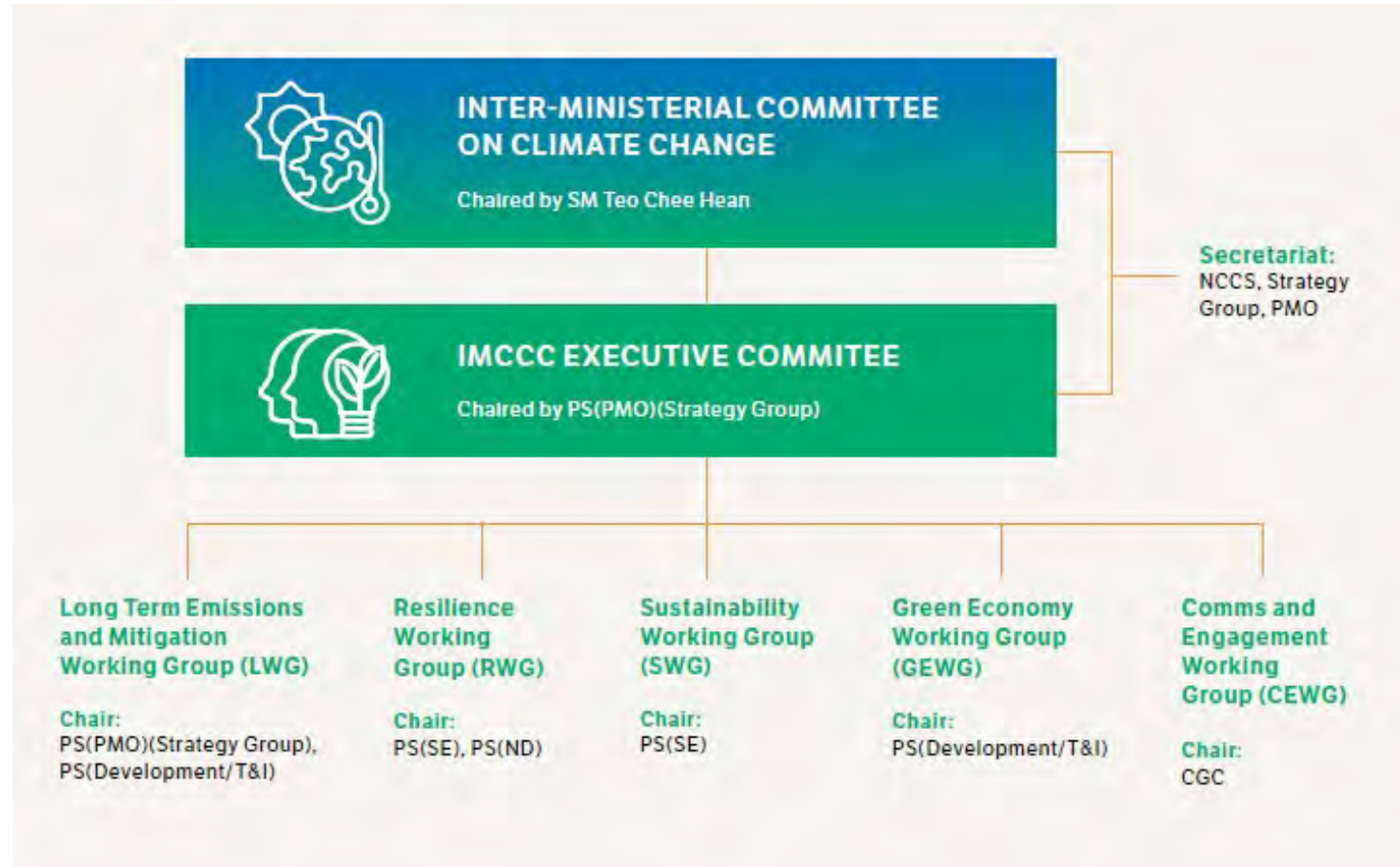
Ghana Case Study



Case Study of Japan



Case Study of Singapore



Group Discussion

- What are the challenges for maintaining a continuous working group for national report?
- What are the role of academia and how can they be utilized in national climate change reporting?
- Is a high-level committee essential for national climate change reporting?
- How can National climate change committee be utilized for national climate change reporting?
- What is the main challenges in faced in data collection?

Review and
Strengthening of the
Institutional
Arrangements for Climate
Change
Reporting

Inception Workshop

28 August 2023

Mohamed Aseel Hassan



CBIT Project Activity 1.1.5:

- MOUs and Non-Disclosure Agreements for government institutions, state-owned companies/companies with majority government shares and private sector stakeholders and initiate the process for its adoption.
- The regulation, MOUs and NDAs should serve the purpose of data sharing and privacy protection of the parties involved.



CBIT Project Activity 2.1.2:

- Regulation to formalize institutional arrangement for MRV of NDC mitigation action.

CBIT Project Activity 2.1.3:

- Review of regulations on NDC tracking in other countries



MOU

- Purpose
- General Terms
- Contents
- Enforceability

- Eg of Specific Information:
 - Unique title of the data set
 - Confidentiality flags;
 - Description of the data, including format (electronic format) and scope (time series, detail, nomenclature, categories, geographies);
 - Supplying department or service;
 - Deadlines for the supply of data;
 - Details of QA/QC measures to be applied to the data prior to supply;
 - Uncertainties in the data.



NDA

- Purpose
- General Terms
- Contents
- Confidentiality
- Enforceability



Regulation

- Purpose
- Structure
- Contents
- Enforceability

Specific Information:

- Mandates
- Timelines
- Type of Data
- Responsibilities
- Penalties



Annex 2: List of Participants for the workshop



ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް، ވަނަ ބައި، ވަނަ ބައި، ވަނަ ބައި
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology

Consultancy Services to Review and Strengthen the Institutional Arrangements for Climate Change Reporting in the CBIT Maldives Project
CBIT Maldives Project

Date: 28th August 2023

Time: 0930 - 1300 hrs

Venue: Auditorium, MECCT

Section: Climate Change Department

	Name	Designation	Organization	contact no	Email Address	Gender (M/F)	Signature
1	Aminath Seeza	Assistant Director	Energy Department			F	
2	Ibrahim Miftal Fayaz <i>Suma Khalid Mohamed</i>	Engineer	FENAKA			F	
3	Ahmed Iyad	Deputy Chief Superintendent	Maldives Customs Service			M	
4	Abdulla Athoof	Senior Officer Gr 2	Maldivian Gas			M	
5	Musthafa Rafeeu	Senior Superintendent Engineer	MIFCO			M	
6	Aishath Ali	Director General	Ministry of Tourism				
7	Adhil Rasheed	Deputy Director General	Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation			M	
8	Furugaan Ibrahim	Assistant General Manager	MWSC			M	
9	Aishath Yamna	Manager	STELCO			F	
10	Fathimath Fizna Yoosuf	Director	Utility Regulatory Authority			F	
11	Ahmed Waheed	Director	MECCT			M	
12	Thibyan Ibrahim	Asst. Director	MECCT			M	
13	Zainab Gulisthan	Asst. Project Coordinator	MECCT				
14	Mohamed Inaz	Project Technical Coordinator	MECCT			M	
15	Fathimath Raufa Moosa	Programme Analyst	MECCT			F	
16	Aneesa Yoosuf	Gender expert	Riyan			F	
17	Hamdhon Mohamed	Institutional arrangements expert	UpClose Solutions			M	
18	Mohamed Aseel Hassan	Legal Expert	UpClose Solutions			M	

19	Zammath Khaleel	GHG inventory expert	DAS			M	
20	Aishath Naisaan	Research coordinator	SIO			F	
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							
30							
31							
32							
33							
34							
35							
36							
37							
38							
39							
40							
41							

Annex 2: Photographs from the workshop

