

What are Convention Obligations?

As defined under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention Obligations means, “All Parties must report on the steps they are taking or envisage undertaking to implement the Convention ([Articles 4.1 and 12](#)). In accordance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" enshrined in the Convention, the required contents of these national communications and the timetable for their submission are different for **Annex I and non-Annex I Parties**. Each non-Annex I Party shall submit its initial communication within three years of the entry into force of the Convention for that Party, or of the availability of financial resources (except for the least developed countries, who may do so at their discretion).”

Further, the Conference of the Parties (COP), at its seventeenth session, decided that non-Annex I Parties, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting, should submit their first biennial update report by December 2014; the least developed country (LDCs) Parties and small island developing States (SIDS) may submit biennial update reports at their discretion.

GEF’s Role in Enabling Activities and Convention Obligations

As an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, the GEF is providing support to countries to fulfill their obligations of the conventions.

Parties decided in 2011 at COP 17 to enhance the reporting of **National Communications** from non-annex 1 countries, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting. Countries also agreed to submit **Biennial Update Reports (BURs)**, including national GHG inventories, national inventory report, and information on mitigation actions, needs, and support received. The COP has given guidance to the GEF to finance the BURs. Also, Parties decided in 2013 at COP 19 to request GEF and any other organizations in a position to do so to support developing countries to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions in the context of adopting a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force in 2015.

In addition, GEF has also provided funding to more than 80 non-Annex I Parties to conduct Technology Needs Assessment (TNAs). See more [here](#).

GEF Enabling Activities and Convention Obligations Portfolio Overview

The GEF has been providing financial and technical support to non-Annex 1 countries to prepare their national communications to comply with Convention obligations. As of April 2014, under GEF-5 period, GEF has supported more than 100 countries in preparing their national communications and first BUR related enabling activities. The total GEF-5 support amounts to more than \$95 million.

For more information of GEF supported non-Annex I national reports (BURs and National Communication), please see [here](#) for more information.

Note: Some of the non-Annex I NC and BURs are self financed, and not supported by the GEF.

GEF-6 Support to Enabling Activities and Convention Obligations

During GEF-6, the GEF will continue to provide resources to help countries prepare national communications and BURs, which help countries to assess their mitigation potential. The preparations of national communications and BURs will continue to be met at their full cost from the set-aside resources. The GEF may also support actions and activities to sustainably develop and enhance the capacity of countries to prepare their national communications and BURs. These activities will fall under Program 5 of the GEF Climate Change Mitigation Strategy. The GEF will also support countries to prepare their **nationally determined contributions**.

Wider stakeholder engagement will be encouraged to enhance partnerships and involvement of institutions concerned with national development strategy development and implementation. Such engagement will involve national consultations with organizations working on climate change and gender equality to ensure gender policies are mainstreamed into, for example, National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and National Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMAs).

In addition, Program 5 will provide support to countries for domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions from 2014, and support activities responsive to other COP guidance in areas such as Technology Needs Assessment (TNAs) and capacity building.

Another Convention-related activity involves countries developing and implementing NAMAs to reduce their GHG emissions. During GEF-6, efforts to produce and implement NAMAs will be considered for support. The evolving NAMA modalities, may include domestic credit systems, cap and trade systems, and other voluntary new market mechanisms, and could constitute single-sector, multi-sector, or economy-wide approaches. The GEF may provide support for the development of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems within the NAMAs, which could strengthen the basis for innovative financial mechanisms, including carbon finance and voluntary emission trading at the national level. The GEF may also continue to support Low Emission Development Strategy development and implementation as one of the key vehicles to support mainstreaming of mitigation actions, on which NAMAs could be built.

The overall aim of this program is to facilitate the integration of the reporting and assessment results into the national planning process and to help countries mainstream mitigation action in support of the proposed 2015 agreement.

To be in a position to make contributions for the 2015 agreement, which will enter into force beginning in 2020, GEF recipient countries face significant policy, technical, and organizational challenges, as well as data and analysis to support decision-making.