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English only

Record of the facilitative sharing of views during the forty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Mauritania

Note by the secretariat

I. Background and mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) decided by decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 63, to conduct under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) international consultation and analysis (ICA) of biennial update reports (BURs) from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty. This process aims to increase transparency of the mitigation actions and their effects reported by non-Annex I Parties.
2. The COP, by decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 56, adopted the modalities and guidelines for international consultation and analysis contained in annex IV to the same decision (hereinafter referred to as the ICA modalities and guidelines). The COP further decided that the first round of ICA would be conducted for developing country Parties commencing within six months of the submission of the first round of BURs by developing country Parties.¹
3. According to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the ICA process consists of two steps: a technical analysis of the BUR of non-Annex I Parties by a team of technical experts resulting in a summary report for each Party; and a facilitative sharing of views (FSV), with BURs and summary reports serving as input.²
4. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the SBI convened on 15 May 2017 in Bonn, Germany, at SBI 46, the third workshop for the facilitative exchange of views, open to all Parties, for 10 non-Annex I Parties, including Mauritania, for which there is a BUR and a final summary report by 10 March 2017.³ Interested Parties were able to submit written questions in advance. As a result, Mauritania received five written questions in advance from the following Parties: the European Union, New Zealand and the United States of America.
5. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Mr. Zhihua Chen, comprised two three-hour sessions covering five Parties in alphabetical order.

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 58(a).

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV, paragraph 3.

³ The BURs and the summary reports are available at <http://unfccc.int/8722.php> and <http://unfccc.int/10054.php>, respectively.

6. This record of the FSV for Mauritania summarizes the proceedings and together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its BUR,⁴ constitutes the outcome of the first round of ICA for Mauritania.

II. Summary of proceedings

7. At this workshop for the facilitative sharing of views, Mauritania made a brief presentation on its BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. In its presentation, Mauritania provided an overview of its national circumstances and institutional arrangements, national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases (GHGs) not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, mitigation actions and effects, obstacles and barriers and the experience and lessons learned in participating in the ICA process. It highlighted that total GHG emissions, including the land use, land-use change and forestry sector, were 7,070.54 gigagrams of carbon dioxide equivalent (Gg CO₂ eq) in 2012, compared with 3,101.84 Gg CO₂ eq in 1990, which represents a 127 per cent increase in GHG emissions during this period. Energy and agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU) were the main emissions sources, contributing 34.9 per cent and 64.7 per cent, respectively, to total GHG emissions in Mauritania. This is followed by emissions from the industrial processes and product use sector (0.22 per cent of total GHG emissions) and the waste sector (0.01 per cent of total GHG emissions).

9. Mauritania also provided an overview of its mitigation actions and their effects. In the energy sector, several actions have been implemented which are related to the promotion of renewable energy sources through projects such as the 180 MW dual power station in Nouakchott, Nouakchott wind power plant (30 MW), Nouakchott solar power plant (15 MW), the distribution of more than 3,000 solar kits, Nouadhibou and Chami wind farms, and other projects that are under way such as the liquefied petroleum gas liquefaction. In the AFOLU sector, a project of artificial insemination for the genetic improvement of cattle breeds is being implemented. The total emission reduction achieved by these actions in the period from 2005 to 2014 was 242.73 Gg CO₂ eq. In its presentation, Mauritania highlighted the relevance of the mitigation actions implemented in the country as these mitigation actions will also contribute to the sustainable development of Mauritania.

10. In its presentation, Mauritania provided information on the obstacles, gaps and barriers and support needed and received, which were identified during the preparation of its BUR. The main gaps identified by the Party were in the following areas: institutional arrangements, the gaps in which are due to a lack of national capacities for the preparation of the BUR and a lack of technical expertise in different sectors; the monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures, in particular, gaps to collect information on nationally appropriate mitigation actions; constraints in assessing the technical needs for preparing the BUR and the support needed for mobilizing financial resources.

11. Mauritania also provided information on the experience and lessons learned from its participation in the ICA process. According to Mauritania, participation in the ICA process helps to bring clarity to the vision of sectoral climate actions, and also helps to identify constraints on and gaps in the national expertise and need to enhance the technical capacity. The ICA experience enabled the government to identify the need to establish a domestic measurement, reporting and verification system.

12. Over the course of the presentation, Mauritania addressed written questions submitted in advance, through the secretariat, by interested Parties.

13. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Mauritania for being the first least developed country to prepare its BUR and participate in the ICA process and asked questions seeking further clarification: the European Union and the United States of America. The

⁴ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2016/TASR.1/MRT.

questions and answers were mainly focused on the following areas: what are the highest priorities in relation to the GHG inventory improvements and priority needs to be addressed before the next BUR submission; the benefits of and opportunities from preparing the BUR that can also be taken into account by other countries while preparing their reports.

14. The full details of the presentation as well as subsequent interventions are available in the YouTube broadcast of this workshop.⁵

15. In closing the workshop, the SBI Vice-Chair congratulated Mauritania for successfully undergoing the FSV and completing the first round of its ICA process. He thanked Mauritania and all other participating Parties for engaging in the workshop in a truly facilitative manner. He also thanked the secretariat for its support.

⁵ <https://youtu.be/MQZS78O7na4?list=PL-m2oy1bnLzpmDRpG2pTBzUeOH3qrXlZt>.