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English only

Record of the facilitative sharing of views during the forty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: South Africa

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 the 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 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 BURs 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, with the BURs and summary reports serving as input.
4. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the SBI convened on 20 and 21 May 2016 in Bonn, Germany, at SBI 44 the first workshop for the facilitative exchange of views, open to all Parties, for the 13 non-Annex I Parties, including South Africa, for which there was a BUR and a final summary report by 29 February 2016.² Interested Parties were able to submit written questions in advance. As a result, South Africa received 16 written questions in advance from European Union, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
5. The first workshop, chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow, comprised three three-hour sessions. Each three-hour session covered five Parties in alphabetical order.

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 58(a).

² The BURs and summary reports are available at <<http://unfccc.int/8722.php>>.

6. This record of the facilitative sharing of views for South Africa summarizes the proceedings and, together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its BUR,³ constitutes the outcome of the first round of ICA for South Africa.

II. Summary of proceedings

7. During the workshop, South Africa made a brief presentation on its BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. In its presentation South Africa provided an overview of its national circumstances, institutional arrangements and national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, with time-series data since 2000 estimated using the IPCC 2006 guidelines, its emissions in 2010 (518.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, including the land use, land-use change and forestry sector) and sectoral emission trends over the period 2000–2010. South Africa also presented an overview of the 52 mitigation actions reported in its BUR, for 16 of which the mitigation potential was estimated and for 6 of which the emission reduction potential was accurately assessed. Additionally, it presented a comparative graph of GHG emissions for the period 2000–2010, indicating the major mitigation actions and how they helped to bring down actual emissions compared with the ‘business as usual’ scenario. South Africa covered: the design of its domestic measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system; quantified bilateral and multilateral climate finance received, including sources; and the challenges it faced in and lessons learned from the overall ICA process, concluding with an update on the follow-up to its first BUR and quantified effects of key mitigation actions presented in its second BUR.

9. Over the course of the presentation, South Africa addressed written questions submitted to it in advance through the secretariat by interested Parties.

10. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending South Africa for its efforts and asked for further clarification: Canada, China, European Union, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and United States of America. The questions were mainly focused on the following areas: best practices and lessons learned in putting in place the domestic MRV system and institutional arrangements to improve capacity and enhance reporting over time; experience in the development of a measurement and evaluation system for coordinating the national inventory compilation process; the coordination and implementation of the flagship programmes; how different types of effect, including any negative impacts, of the mitigation actions were assessed; and the challenges faced during the preparation of the GHG inventory due to the lack of data or data collection mechanisms.

11. The full details of the presentation and of the subsequent interventions are available in the webcast of the workshop.⁴

12. In closing the workshop, the SBI Chair congratulated South Africa for a successful facilitative sharing of views and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked South Africa and all other Parties for engaging in the workshop in a truly facilitative manner. He also thanked the secretariat for its support.

³ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2015/TASR.1/ZAF and Corr.1.

⁴ Available at <http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/bonn_may_2016/events/2016-05-20-15-00-facilitative-sharing-of-views-day-1/south-africa-2>.