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Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the fifty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Saudi Arabia

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

BUR	biennial update report
CH ₄	methane
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
COP	Conference of the Parties
FSV	facilitative sharing of views
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICA	international consultation and analysis
INDC	intended nationally determined contribution
LUCF	land-use change and forestry
N ₂ O	nitrous oxide
non-Annex I Party	Party not included in Annex I to the Convention
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation

I. Background and mandate

1. COP 16 decided to conduct, under the SBI, ICA of BURs from non-Annex I Parties, in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty, with the aim of increasing the transparency of the mitigation actions and their effects reported by those Parties.¹
2. COP 17 adopted the ICA modalities and guidelines² and 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.³
3. According to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the ICA process consists of two steps: technical analysis of non-Annex I Parties' BURs by teams of technical experts,

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

³ Decision 2/CP.17, paras. 56 and 58(a).

resulting in a summary report for each Party; and FSV, to which the BURs and summary reports serve as input.⁴

4. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the SBI convened, on 9 December 2019 in Madrid at SBI 51, the eighth FSV workshop, open to all Parties, for the five non-Annex I Parties, including Saudi Arabia, for which there was a BUR and final summary report by 30 September 2019.⁵ Interested Parties were able to submit written questions in advance through the secretariat. Saudi Arabia received 15 written questions in advance from Canada, the European Union, New Zealand, Singapore, Turkey and the United States of America.

5. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Chair, Emmanuel Dumisani Dlamini, and Vice-Chair, Naser Moghaddasi, comprised one three-hour and one one-hour session and covered the five Parties in alphabetical order.

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

II. Summary of proceedings

7. Saudi Arabia made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. Saudi Arabia was represented by Khalid Abuleif and Omer Almulhem from the Ministry of Energy.

9. Saudi Arabia presented its ninth and tenth national development plans for 2010–2014 and 2015–2019, respectively. The ninth plan focuses on improving the efficiency of the Government's expenditure and increasing its non-oil revenue, whereas the focus of the tenth plan is on the national strategy for diversifying the country's economy. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia presented Vision 2030, which was adopted in 2016 and provides a road map for economic diversification with the aim of reducing the country's dependence on oil and moving to an alternative, diversified economy. The Party also presented information on its INDC, including its actions, plans and projects in pursuit of economic diversification.

10. Saudi Arabia highlighted that its total CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O emissions excluding LUCF in 2012 were 498,853.00, 1,779.00 and 38.90 Gg, respectively. The largest share of CO₂ emissions came from the energy sector, accounting for 89 per cent of the total CO₂ emissions in 2012, followed by the industrial processes sector (11 per cent). Waste (64 per cent) and energy (29 per cent) sectors contributed most to the total CH₄ emissions in 2012. The largest share of N₂O emissions in 2012 came from the agriculture sector (83 per cent), followed by the waste (10 per cent) and energy (7 per cent) sectors. CO₂ net removals from the LUCF sector in 2012 were 9,151.00 Gg, owing mainly to changes in forest and other woody biomass stocks (98.1 per cent), followed by forest and grassland conversion (1.4 per cent) and CO₂ emissions and removals from soils (0.5 per cent).

11. Saudi Arabia presented key policies and measures for achieving its INDC target, including economic diversification initiatives with mitigation co-benefits, and adaptation initiatives with or without mitigation co-benefits. Actions, plans and projects generating mitigation co-benefits and contributing to economic diversification relate to energy efficiency; renewable energy; carbon capture, storage and utilization; and utilization of gas and CH₄ recovery and flare minimization. Actions, plans and projects under adaptation initiatives with mitigation co-benefits relate to water and waste water management, urban planning, marine protection and reduced desertification. The Party also presented the social and economic consequences of its response measures, highlighting challenges, and support needed in the following areas: international cooperation to develop methodologies for

⁴ Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV, para. 3.

⁵ The BURs and summary reports are available at <https://unfccc.int/BURs> and <https://unfccc.int/ICA-cycle1>, respectively.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2018/TASR.1/SAU.

quantitative ex ante and ex post analysis of the impacts of response measures; information and expertise on carbon pricing and its negative impacts on the international pricing of raw materials and processed and finished goods; and technical support for strengthening modelling expertise to undertake national assessments of the impacts of climate change mitigation measures on society, the economy and the environment and for developing energy-efficient carbon capture and storage technologies.

12. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia provided information on capacity-building needs related to reporting on GHG inventory, mitigation co-benefits and support needed and received. In relation to GHG inventory reporting, strengthening the capacity and expertise of the national GHG inventory team and the engagement of relevant stakeholders for collecting reliable LUCF data were identified as high-priority needs, while enhancing the national capacity to implement the improvement plan for activity data and to collect and verify GHG data and all relevant parameters were identified as medium and low priorities, respectively. For reporting on mitigation co-benefits, the Party highlighted capacity-building needs for tracking overall progress and quantifying the results achieved for mitigation co-benefits of economic diversification and adaptation initiatives, actions, plans and projects; and capacity-building and training for the staff of the designated national authority to support and manage the necessary data collection for the measurement, reporting and verification of emission avoidance. Enhancing the national capacity to undertake climate action and to access climate finance and technology were highlighted as capacity-building needs related to reporting on support needed and received.

13. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Saudi Arabia on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Brazil, China, Egypt, European Union, India, Switzerland and United States. The questions were related to renewable energy, including job opportunities; carbon capture, storage and utilization; capacity-building needs for tracking overall progress and quantifying the results achieved for mitigation co-benefits of economic diversification and adaptation initiatives; the Party's experience in preparing its first BUR, in particular the chapter on the social and economic consequences of its response measures, including any tools used for assessing such consequences; and high-priority capacity-building needs for enhancing national expertise and the engagement of relevant stakeholders for collecting reliable LUCF data.

14. Saudi Arabia provided responses, explaining that renewable energy is the focus of one of its major diversification programmes; Vision 2030 is the most innovative development plan in the country's history; and carbon capture, storage and utilization is important for generating mitigation co-benefits and contributing to economic diversification. The Party also explained its achievements and challenges in preparing its first BUR, including the importance of economic diversification measures with mitigation co-benefits in building resilience against the impacts of response measures, the tools and workshops used for assessing the social and economic consequences of response measures, and the cooperation with all stakeholders at the sector level responsible for reporting on emissions.

15. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.⁷

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

⁷ Available at <https://unfccc-cop25.streamworld.de/webcast/facilitative-sharing-of-views-part-2>.