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English only

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

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 the Republic of Korea, 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, the Republic of Korea received 15 written questions in advance from European Union, Japan, 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 the Republic of Korea 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 the Republic of Korea.

II. Summary of proceedings

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

8. In its presentation the Republic of Korea 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. The Republic of Korea highlighted that in 2012 its total emissions stood at 688 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, with most coming from energy and industrial processes. Categorized by gas, the emissions consisted of predominantly carbon dioxide, which contributed 91 per cent of the overall emissions. The Party also provided a brief overview of the milestones for its implemented climate policy since 2009–2010, when it set a 2020 emission reduction target of 30 per cent below its ‘business as usual’ scenario, until 2015–2016 with the launch of its emissions trading scheme as well as the publication of its 2030 intended nationally determined contribution, which increased that target to 37 per cent below ‘business as usual’. In addition, the Republic of Korea presented: how its climate policy has been supported by legal instruments and concrete implementation plans; sectoral targets; key policy measures that it has implemented to achieve the stated objectives as well as its experience with its emissions trading scheme; and how the data show the trend of decoupling emissions from economic growth.

9. Over the course of the presentation, the Republic of Korea addressed written questions submitted to it in advance through the secretariat by interested Parties. It had also previously submitted written responses to those questions, which were acknowledged by the Parties concerned.

10. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Republic of Korea for its efforts and asked for further clarification: European Union, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland. The questions were mainly focused on the following areas: additional information on its emissions trading scheme and its possible linkages with other schemes; how the Party intends to integrate its nationally determined contributions with the domestic targets set for 2020; the training and support programme that the Party is offering to other Parties on preparing GHG inventories; and making the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) outputs publicly available and facilitating the broader MRV process.

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 SBI Chair congratulated the Republic of Korea for a successful facilitative sharing of views and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked the Republic of Korea 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/KOR.

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