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Distr.: General
14 February 2024

English only

Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Albania

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

BUR	biennial update report
CO ₂ eq	carbon dioxide equivalent
COP	Conference of the Parties
ETF	enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement
EU	European Union
FSV	facilitative sharing of views
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICA	international consultation and analysis
NDC	nationally determined contribution
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 that ICA of BURs from non-Annex I Parties would be conducted under the SBI in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty, with the aim of increasing the transparency of 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, resulting in a summary report for each Party; and FSV, to which the BURs and summary reports serve as input.⁴

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

³ Decision 2/CP.17, para. 58(a).

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

4. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the fifteenth FSV workshop was convened at SBI 59 from 3 to 4 December 2023 in the United Arab Emirates for the following 14 non-Annex I Parties for which there was a BUR and final summary report⁵ by 15 September 2023: Albania, Burundi, Colombia, Eritrea, Honduras, Israel, Lebanon, Malawi, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Vanuatu. The workshop was open to all Parties.

5. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Gonzalo Guaiquil, comprised three three-hour sessions.

6. As one of the participating Parties, Albania received 11 written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁶ from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. This FSV record for Albania summarizes the proceedings and, together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its first BUR,⁷ constitutes the outcome of the first round of ICA for the Party.

II. Summary of proceedings

7. On 3 December 2023 Albania made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. Albania was represented by Eneida Rabdishta from the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

9. Albania presented an overview of its national circumstances and institutional arrangements, national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, mitigation actions and their effects, support needed and received, and preparations at the national level for implementing the ETF.

10. Albania highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2016 were 10,461 Gg CO₂ eq and increased between 2009 and 2016 by 22.1 per cent with emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry, owing mainly to the energy sector. The Party explained that fuel combustion activities from energy industries and transport contributed most to the increase in emissions.

11. Albania presented its 2030 NDC target under the Paris Agreement, which is to reduce emissions by 3,170 kt CO₂ eq (20.9 per cent) compared with the ‘business as usual’ scenario in 2030. Albania also presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, including those in the energy sector, which focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, and those in the waste sector, which relate to landfilling, composting and incineration. The Party introduced its national action plan for mitigation and its plan for monitoring the implementation of mitigation actions. In addition, the Party provided a summary of emission reductions achieved by clean development mechanism projects.

12. Furthermore, Albania provided information on support needed and received, and capacity-building needs. The Party clarified that its main financial, technical and capacity-building needs relate to developing efficient transport systems, improving energy performance in buildings and diversifying renewable energy sources. Albania mentioned that it received technical support from the EU and Sweden, as well as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the German Agency for International Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme.

13. Albania presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to the development of climate laws and national strategies and plans relating to climate, the updating of NDCs and associated implementation plans, and the implementation of capacity-building activities. Moreover, the Party shared its intention to seek support for preparing its

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

⁶ As per decision 2/CP.17, annex IV, para. 6.

⁷ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2023/TASR.1/ALB.

fifth national communication and first biennial transparency report in order to provide timely and accurate reporting under the ETF.

14. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Albania on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, Czechia, EU, Germany, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

15. Questions on the GHG inventory related to the progress made and challenges encountered in developing a database to be used by Albania for preparing its national energy balance; and the main sources of activity data used for Albania's national GHG inventory.

16. In response, Albania explained that the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy together with the National Natural Resources Agency is preparing the energy balance, while further capacity-building is needed in developing the database. The Party also explained that activity data for the inventory are collected from various sources by municipal authorities and relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, as well as the National Forestry Agency, for the sectors under their authority.

17. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to the measures that contributed to emission reductions in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector; the mitigation technology applied to capture methane from solid waste disposal sites and landfills; and the manner in which authorities engaged with local communities concerning the construction of incineration plants.

18. In response, Albania explained that the main measures taken to reduce emissions in the forestry sector were the Government's increase in forest funding since 2020, which resulted in the planting of 20 million trees, and another initiative which mandates that companies conducting deforestation for their activities plant trees three times the lost of forest. The Party noted that 2024 has been declared by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment as 'Forest Year'; over the course of the year, the forest management plans of all municipalities will be updated.

19. Questions on constraints and gaps, and related needs pertained to gaps in reporting of progress in implementing mitigation actions and the type of capacity-building that could help address such gaps; and the arrangements that allow Albania to collect comprehensive information on support received.

20. In response, Albania explained that detailed reporting on the status of implementation of mitigation actions included in the NDC will be presented in the Party's fifth national communication and first biennial transparency report. The Party also explained that it is in the process of becoming an EU candidate country and is thus preparing to make its legislation and systems compatible with that of the EU, one result of which will be improved reporting capability.

21. Another question related to how the Party intends to address coastal areas under the adaptation measures to be included in its updated NDC. In response, Albania explained that while coastal adaptation measures are already included in its first national adaptation plan, the plan is being updated to include a greater focus on coastal areas. The Party also mentioned that a knowledge-sharing exercise involving eight municipalities is being conducted in order to prepare or update local adaptation plans such that they contain coastal adaptation measures.

22. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.⁸

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

⁸ Available at <https://unfccc.int/event/fifteenth-facilitative-sharing-of-views-fsv-workshop-under-the-international-consultation-and-3>.