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## **Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the fifty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Belize**

**Note by the secretariat**

### **Abbreviations and acronyms**

BTR	biennial transparency report
BUR	biennial update report
CO <sub>2</sub> eq	carbon dioxide equivalent
COP	Conference of the Parties
ETF	enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement
FSV	facilitative sharing of views
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICA	international consultation and analysis
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
MRV	measurement, reporting and verification
NDC	nationally determined contribution
non-Annex I Party	Party not included in Annex I to the Convention
REDD+	reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (decision 1/CP.16, para. 70)
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.<sup>1</sup>
2. COP 17 adopted the ICA modalities and guidelines<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, para. 58(a).

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.<sup>4</sup>
4. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the fourteenth FSV workshop was convened at SBI 58 from 6 to 7 June 2023 in Bonn for the following 15 non-Annex I Parties for which there was a BUR and final summary report<sup>5</sup> by 22 March 2023: Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Indonesia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Montenegro, Morocco, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. 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, Belize received nine written questions in advance of the FSV workshop<sup>6</sup> from the European Union, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America and addressed them in the course of its presentation. This FSV record for Belize summarizes the proceedings and, together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its first BUR,<sup>7</sup> constitutes the outcome of the first round of ICA for the Party.

## II. Summary of proceedings

7. On 6 June 2023 Belize made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The Party noted that it had submitted a REDD+ technical annex on a voluntary basis in conjunction with the BUR in accordance with decision 14/CP.19. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.
8. Belize was represented by Lennox Alexander Gladden from the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.
9. Belize 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 initiatives for implementing the ETF.
10. Belize also presented its 2021 updated NDC target under the Paris Agreement, which is to avoid emissions of over 5,647 kt CO<sub>2</sub> eq between 2021 and 2030. Mitigation options proposed in the Party's long-term low-emission development strategy, submitted on 3 May 2023, could cut almost 90 per cent of expected emissions by 2050.
11. Belize highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2017 were 1,194.71 Gg CO<sub>2</sub> eq and they increased between 1994 and 2017 by 560.2 per cent without emissions and removals from LULUCF and by 11.9 per cent with emissions and removals from LULUCF, owing mainly to the energy sector. The Party explained that the forestry and other land use sector is a net sink of GHG emissions owing to removals from reforestation/afforestation, the main driver of the emission trends.
12. Belize presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, including 25 mitigation actions with an impact on GHG emissions and 8 mitigation actions with non-GHG impacts. The mitigation actions presented are in the energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture and waste sectors and are at various stages of implementation. The Party's REDD+ Strategy and the Forests Act have the most significant estimated mitigation impact. Other national plans and policies include the Sustainable Energy Action Plan, the National Solid Waste Management Policy and Strategy and the Comprehensive National Transportation Master Plan. Belize presented co-benefits of its mitigation actions, including

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup> FCCC/SBI/ICA/2021/TASR.1/BLZ.

protection for low-lying coastal areas from natural disasters, improved access to reliable and affordable energy, reduced air pollutant emissions and efforts towards poverty alleviation and enhanced biodiversity.

13. Furthermore, Belize provided information on support needed and received, and barriers faced in implementing climate action. Belize has received total climate finance of USD 54,146,584 in 2017, allocated mainly to adaptation measures (60 per cent) and some cross-cutting initiatives (40 per cent). However, to achieve its conditional NDC target, the country faces a significant funding gap. The mitigation efforts require an additional USD 1.24 billion, and the adaptation actions another USD 146 million. Belize faces capacity limitations, having only a small national team and a limited number of non-government experts in the areas of climate finance, the GHG inventory, mitigation and reporting under the ETF, coupled with slow progress in implementing domestic MRV owing to data and coordination challenges, financial constraints and delayed execution of planned institutional arrangements.

14. Belize presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to submitting an updated NDC in September 2021 and its fourth national communication in December 2022, increasing staff in government departments, developing an online national MRV system with an NDC tracking feature and progressing in its climate change strategy. In 2023, Belize released the cabinet-approved National Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan, its long-term low-emission development strategy and draft climate change legislation. It also applied for financing from the Global Environment Facility for preparing its first and second BTRs, with a plan to submit its first BTR in 2024.

15. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Belize on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, Canada, Czechia, European Union, Germany, India, New Zealand and United Kingdom.

16. Questions on the GHG inventory related to Belize's plan to transition to more advanced tier 2 or 3 methodologies for sectors other than the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector.

17. In response, Belize explained that it hopes to transition to higher-tier methodologies for other sectors, drawing on the successful advances in the forestry sector (i.e. training of five national technicians), which was made possible largely owing to the support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. This support enabled five national technicians to be trained, who were subsequently integrated into the government workforce, underlining Belize's commitment to continuously building capacity and enhancing efficiency in the climate reporting process.

18. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to specific forest conservation measures for maintaining Belize as a net sink of GHGs, particularly given its extensive forest cover and burgeoning tourism and agriculture sectors; examples of mitigation actions under the REDD+ Strategy and Forests Act, which have the most substantial projected mitigation impact; the impact of the 2018 Global Fuel Economy Initiative study on Belize's policy discussions; and, regarding Belize's Comprehensive National Transportation Master Plan, how the Party plans to promote the use of public transportation and lower-carbon fuels.

19. In response, Belize explained that, acknowledging its dependence on tourism and agro-products, it implemented the REDD+ Strategy to 'green' its agro-products sector, shifting from slash-and-burn farming to cultivating forage crops and protein banks, aiming to boost forage carrying capacity per acre and decrease deforestation. Simultaneously, Belize's laws seek to balance production with conservation for sustainable resource usage and protection. In the energy sector, the fuel economy study referred to in paragraph 18 above was instrumental in supporting the Comprehensive National Transportation Master Plan, providing critical policy direction concerning fuel economy for light-duty vehicles. This was vital in addressing the rising national emissions from the transport sector, a trend that was largely due to the import of older, inefficient vehicles. Moreover, Belize has initiated a comprehensive revamp of its public transport system, moving from diesel and gasoline buses to electric and hybrid vehicles. Backed by supportive government policies and private sector collaboration, an energy-efficient infrastructure is to be introduced and bus stops refurbished

to provide better customer service and inspire a shift from private to public transportation. Belize is actively seeking support for the successful facilitation of this transformation.

20. Questions on constraints and gaps, and related needs related to the challenges that Belize faces in bolstering its climate-related teams, such as the MRV and GHG inventory teams, specifically the nature of the barriers hindering the teams' progress, be they resource constraints, skills gaps or other issues, and the kind of capacity-building measures required to overcome these obstacles; and the mechanism that Belize employed to compile and present at the FSV workshop the comprehensive data on support received.

21. In response, Belize explained that it relies on support from the National Climate Change Office for bolstering its climate-related teams, including the MRV and GHG inventory teams. This assistance allows the Party to build capacity and streamline its processes. Belize focuses on in-house strategies to build its national capacity and places strong emphasis on national training programmes to prepare for future reporting. Institutionally, the National Climate Change Office acts as the secretariat for Belize's climate change strategy. This Office, alongside the newly formed Climate Finance Unit, coordinates, communicates and mainstreams all climate change related actions in the country. This strong institutional framework creates an enabling environment for all sectors, extending beyond government bodies to include engagement with local and Indigenous communities. This proactive approach helps in identifying and addressing gaps in addressing the country's climate change agenda.

22. Other questions related to Belize's decision to develop its BUR without use of international consultants, seeking insights into the decision-making process and resource allocation that made this possible and how this approach will help Belize in expanding its capacity to prepare BTRs; and the measures that Belize implemented to mitigate loss and protect the major sectors of its economy from the effects of climate disasters. In response, Belize explained that its decision to develop its BUR without use of international consultants was driven by a strategic desire to build national capacity. Key to this initiative was support from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency secretariat and the Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub, which offers tailor-made services, including capacity-building and modelling, catered to each country's unique requirements. Belize aimed to ensure that it would have the necessary capacity to report the required information without constantly relying on external financial support. Regarding its response to its high vulnerability to severe weather events, Belize has launched various protective measures. Following devastating hurricanes in 1931 and 1961, Belize relocated its capital inland, becoming one of the first nations to do so because of climate impacts. Nowadays, Belize has an effective early warning system to limit loss of life from hurricanes, although infrastructure, housing and agriculture still experience significant damage. Consequently, the Party is improving the climate resilience of its housing, strengthening emergency and refuge centres, and relocating at-risk populations. Belize's flat agricultural lands pose additional challenges owing to slow water recession after storms. To mitigate this and enhance the agriculture sector's resilience to climate change, Belize is introducing climate-smart agricultural practices, funded by the Green Climate Fund and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

23. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.<sup>8</sup>

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

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<sup>8</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/event/fourteenth-fsv-workshop-part-i-0>.