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Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Democratic Republic of the Congo

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
FSV	facilitative sharing of views
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICA	international consultation and analysis
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
NC	national communication
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.¹
2. COP 17 adopted the ICA modalities and guidelines,² according to which 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.³

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

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

3. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the sixteenth FSV workshop was convened at SBI 60 on 5 June 2024 in Bonn for the following eight non-Annex I Parties for which there was a BUR and final summary report⁴ by 3 April 2024: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Malaysia, Mexico, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore and Somalia.
4. Two three-hour sessions were chaired by the SBI Rapporteur, Ayşin Turpanci, and open to all Parties.
5. As one of the participating Parties, the Democratic Republic of the Congo received six written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁵ from the European Union, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. This FSV record for the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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

6. On 5 June 2024, the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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.
7. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was represented by Onesphore Mutshail Kavul from the University of Kinshasa.
8. The Democratic Republic of the Congo presented an overview of its national circumstances and institutional arrangements, national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases 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.
9. The Democratic Republic of the Congo highlighted that its total greenhouse gas emissions in 2018 were 189,093.19 Gg CO₂ eq excluding LULUCF and 180,462.96 Gg CO₂ eq including LULUCF. Emissions increased between 2000 and 2018 by 258.7 per cent without emissions and removals from LULUCF and decreased by 54.5 per cent with emissions and removals from LULUCF, owing mainly to the forest and land-use sector. The Party explained that emissions from land-use change recorded the highest increase between 2010 and 2014 mainly due to deforestation. However, emissions since 2015 have decreased owing to the implementation of national REDD+ initiatives and programmes.
10. The Democratic Republic of the Congo presented its NDC target under the Paris Agreement, updated in 2021, which is to reduce emissions by 21 per cent by 2030 compared with the ‘business as usual’ level. The Party also presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, including reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing forest carbon stocks, as well as reducing wood energy demand, facilitating electricity access and improving access to waste management services. The total emission reduction potential of all mitigation actions being undertaken in the country is estimated to be 650 Gt CO₂ eq by 2030.
11. Furthermore, the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided information on support needed and received, and capacity-building needs. Difficulties in accessing resources, insufficient funding in the national budget, and duplication of activities and funding are key issues. Additionally, there is insufficient transparency on non-financial support, and the current levels of GEF funding for the preparation of NCs and BURs are inadequate. There are also gaps in monitoring capacity and technical assistance.

⁴ The BURs and summary reports for each ICA cycle are available at <https://unfccc.int/BURs> and <https://unfccc.int/ICA-reports> respectively.

⁵ As per decision 2/CP.17, annex IV, para. 6.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2023/TASR.1/COD.

12. The Democratic Republic of the Congo presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to strengthening the capacity of various stakeholders to prepare for the new requirements under the ETF. The Party has initiated activities related to the preparation of its NC5 and first biennial transparency report.

13. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending the Democratic Republic of the Congo on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Brazil, European Union, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and United Kingdom.

14. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to the effectiveness of new reforestation techniques and the challenges faced; the policies implemented to avoid forest destruction and the challenges in their implementation; and the progress and impact of policies to reduce demand for wood energy and facilitating access to electricity.

15. In response, the Democratic Republic of the Congo explained that it has implemented agroforestry, assisted natural regeneration and agrosilvopastoral techniques but faced challenges such as inappropriateness of certain crops, lack of capacity-building and land-rights conflicts. Integrated REDD+ initiatives, forest conservation and monitoring tools face challenges such as lack of national strategy, resistance from authorities and lack of operating funds. Policies to reduce wood energy demand include promoting efficient cooking stoves and modern carbonization ovens, but progress on implementing policies is slow owing to the large size of the country and the need for awareness-raising.

16. Questions on constraints and gaps, and related needs pertained to gaps in funding provided by the GEF for the preparation of NCs, BURs and biennial transparency reports, and effects of the insufficient funding on emission reduction ambitions and goals.

17. In response, the Democratic Republic of the Congo explained that GEF funding procedures are restrictive, which leads to delays in receiving funds and implementing activities, and hinders the transition to advanced methodologies. The large size of the country creates a need for significant financial resources, which affects the preparation of reports and the achievement of emission reduction goals.

18. Other questions related to the inclusion of the technical annex on REDD+ activities and how the process of elaborating the technical annex on REDD+ activities has contributed to the monitoring process of forests. In response, the Democratic Republic of the Congo explained that the REDD+ technical annex is available on the UNFCCC website and introduced its ongoing efforts to establish a national forest monitoring system and operationalize its subcomponents related to REDD+.

19. The presentation and subsequent interventions, including the questions asked and the answers provided during the FSV workshop, are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.⁷

20. In closing the workshop, the SBI Chair congratulated the Democratic Republic of the Congo for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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-events.azureedge.net/SB60_99842/agenda.