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

**Note by the secretariat**

### **Abbreviations and acronyms**

2006 IPCC Guidelines	<i>2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories</i>
BUR	biennial update report
CBIT	Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency
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
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
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.<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>
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,

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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).

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 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 report<sup>5</sup> 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, Eritrea received nine written questions in advance of the FSV workshop<sup>6</sup> from Australia, the European Union, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America and addressed them via the FSV portal. This FSV record for Eritrea 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 3 December 2023 Eritrea made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. Eritrea was represented by Kibrom Weldegebriel from the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment.

9. Eritrea 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. Eritrea highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2018 were 4,218.46 Gg CO<sub>2</sub> eq without emissions and removals from LULUCF and 4,013.44 Gg CO<sub>2</sub> eq with emissions and removals from LULUCF. Total GHG emissions increased between 2000 and 2018 by 19.9 per cent without emissions and removals from LULUCF and by 22.1 per cent with emissions and removals from LULUCF, owing mainly to the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector. The Party explained that the increasing emission trends can be attributed to lifestyle changes, urbanization, an increase in mineral production and an increase in livestock numbers.

11. Eritrea presented its 2018 nationally determined contribution target under the Paris Agreement, which is to reduce its GHG emissions by 12.0 per cent by 2030 compared with ‘business as usual’ and, conditional upon additional international support, to reduce its GHG emissions by 38.5 per cent by 2030 compared with ‘business as usual’. Eritrea also presented key policies and measures for achieving its target, including promoting energy efficiency measures, fuel switching (from traditional biomass to liquified petroleum gas for cooking and from kerosene to electricity and solar for lighting), introducing renewable energy sources in the electricity generation mix, and increasing forest areas through forest plantations and natural regeneration.

12. Furthermore, Eritrea provided information on support needed and received, and capacity-building needs. Eritrea’s financial and capacity-building needs are primarily in the areas of improving the national GHG inventory; strengthening institutional arrangements for planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting on climate change policies, regulations

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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/2022/TASR.1/ERI.

and actions; identifying technologies and measures for mitigating and adapting to climate change; using appropriate tools and models for mitigation analysis and assessment; and enhancing public awareness of climate change. Eritrea has received financial, technology and capacity-building support from various sources for implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes and projects; for strengthening its institutional arrangements and national capacity for preparing national climate-related reports, including its third national communication and its first BUR; for establishing a weather information and forecast station; for developing a wind energy project; and for using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

13. Eritrea presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to establishing a measurement, reporting and verification system at the national level for regularly collecting data from stakeholders and reporting to the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment; training national experts in using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines; reporting and review of those reports under the UNFCCC process; and commencing a regional CBIT project.

14. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Eritrea on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, Canada, Czechia, European Union, India, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

15. Questions on the GHG inventory related to improving the process of collecting and updating activity data for estimating emissions and removals.

16. In response, Eritrea explained that it has encountered challenges in collecting and updating activity data for preparing its national GHG inventory. These challenges are being addressed by establishing an information management system within the Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, which will be replicated within other line ministries, and is expected to facilitate the collection and sharing of reliable information so that future reports can be prepared in a timely manner.

17. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to the policies in the energy sector that resulted in decreases in emissions between 2015 and 2018; the status of measures for promoting use of improved cooking stoves; plans and initiatives aimed at diversifying electricity generation through wind, solar and geothermal energy sources; policies and measures for reducing losses from transmission and distribution in the national electricity grid; planned measures for reducing emissions from the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector; co-benefits achieved from mitigation actions in the forestry sector; ways to engage local communities to encourage them to plant trees and produce sustainable local crops; and the challenges involved in cooperating and communicating with national institutions in order to improve reporting on mitigation actions.

18. In response, Eritrea explained that policies in the energy sector are currently focused on improving efficiency in energy production, transmission and distribution systems; installing renewable energy plants; promoting use of improved cooking stoves in households; and restricting the import of cars over three years of age. Eritrea is mobilizing domestic and international resources in order to attract required investment for stand-alone large-scale solar energy power plants as well as household solar energy systems. The Party has conducted pre-feasibility studies to assess the potential for geothermal and wind energy in the country. Eritrea has identified legal, fiscal, technical and capacity-building needs for supporting the promotion of such renewable energy sources. Its main priority is to replace old and inefficient power plants and transmission and distribution systems with efficient technologies to reduce losses during energy production, transmission and distribution. The Party has already distributed about 180,000 improved cooking stoves in rural communities to help reduce the consumption of firewood and improve indoor air quality. Eritrea is focusing on improving livestock and manure management in order to reduce emissions in the agriculture sector. Animal manure is being used to produce biogas for cooking purposes and as compost fertilizer for improving soil fertility. The co-benefits achieved or expected from the mitigation actions in the forestry sector include groundwater recharge, prevention of soil and coastal erosion, and generation of income for local communities. Eritrea is implementing national tree-planting campaigns to get local communities involved in tree planting and soil

and water conservation activities. A limited awareness and understanding of the importance of collecting and archiving climate data were the main challenges involved in cooperating and communicating with stakeholders and national institutions in order to improve reporting on mitigation actions.

19. Questions on constraints and gaps, and related needs pertained to the most useful and effective capacity-building support received for monitoring and reporting purposes; further information on the regional CBIT project; and lessons learned from accessing training related to the transition to the ETF.

20. In response, Eritrea explained that participating in training programmes on using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and reporting requirements under the UNFCCC and taking part in the analysis and review of reports submitted by other Parties were the most useful and effective capacity-building exercises for Eritrea's national experts. The regional CBIT project is in an early phase and three stakeholder workshops have been organized to identify capacity-building needs. The actual implementation of activities under the CBIT project is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2024. Eritrea stressed that its national experts intend to continue participating in the relevant training programmes organized by the UNFCCC secretariat and partner organizations on reporting and review processes under the ETF as they are supporting the Party in better preparing for transition to the ETF.

21. Other questions related to lessons learned from the current institutional arrangements for BUR preparation relevant to the proposed measurement, reporting and verification system; and the Party's experience of its first BUR technical analysis process. In response, Eritrea explained that the engagement of all stakeholders and relevant industries is crucial for the success of any institutional arrangements. The preparation of the first BUR and its technical analysis by international experts helped Eritrea's national experts to understand IPCC guidelines and UNFCCC reporting requirements and to identify areas for improvement for future reports.

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

23. In closing the workshop, the SBI Vice-Chair congratulated Eritrea for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked Eritrea 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/fifteenth-facilitative-sharing-of-views-fsv-workshop-under-the-international-consultation-and-3>.