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Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Gabon

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

BUR	biennial update report
CO ₂ eq	carbon dioxide equivalent
COP	Conference of the Parties
FSV	facilitative sharing of views
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICA	international consultation and analysis
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
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 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
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.

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

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

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

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, Gabon 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 and addressed them via the FSV portal. This FSV record for Gabon 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 Gabon made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

7. Gabon was represented by Davy Onomori Mboumba from the National Climate Council.

8. Gabon 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, and support needed and received.

9. Gabon highlighted that it was a net sink in 2017 with capacity for GHG removals of 103,085 Gg CO₂ eq, which increased between 1994 and 2017 by 4.7 per cent with emissions and removals from LULUCF. The Party's total GHG emissions without emissions and removals from LULUCF increased between 1994 and 2017 by 38.2 per cent, owing mainly to increased emissions from the energy sector.

10. Gabon presented its NDC target under the Paris Agreement, updated in 2022, which is to remain carbon neutral up to and beyond 2050 (unconditional target) and to maintain its net carbon absorption of at least 100 Mt CO₂ eq/year beyond 2050 (target conditional on it receiving financial, technical and capacity-building support). Gabon presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, including those aimed at improving energy efficiency; promoting use of renewable energy sources; promoting no-till farming; increasing crop cover; increasing the number of high conservation value areas used for agriculture; preventing the deforestation of native forests; and promoting sustainable forest management.

11. Furthermore, Gabon provided information on support needed and received, including technological support needed in the agriculture and LULUCF sectors and support received in relation to preparing its GHG inventory and using the 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change inventory software.

12. Gabon presented information on areas for improvement for future reporting for compliance with requirements under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. The initiatives relate to strengthening national-level coordination of data collection and improving its capacity to collect activity data, determine emission factors and apply IPCC methodologies for all sectors.

13. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Gabon on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Belize, European Union, Germany, India, Malawi, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Saudi Arabia and United Kingdom.

14. Questions on the GHG inventory related to challenges faced by Gabon in obtaining activity data for certain sectors; addressing data management challenges for the first BUR; and experiences in applying the 2021 Climate Change Law to strengthen institutional arrangements for data collection.

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

⁶ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2021/TASR.1/GAB.

15. In response, Gabon explained that, in terms of data management, there is an absence of protocols for sharing data between data-producing entities and the National Climate Committee, challenges arising from duplicate data and issues with data quality and validation. Additionally, there is no centralized system for storing and managing climate-related information; creating such a system, which would improve data quality and reliability, necessitates the establishment of a monitoring, reporting and verification system.

16. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to the reduction of GHG emissions from the energy sector; measures implemented to strengthen Gabon's sink capacity; and how the capacity of carbon sinks will increase by 2050 compared to 2005.

17. In response, Gabon explained that a number of mitigation measures aimed at reducing GHG emissions from the energy sector have been planned, including use of biomass energy, increased efficiency of electrical appliances, installation of natural gas power plants and solar energy initiatives. It also explained that various measures have been implemented to protect its carbon sinks, such as implementing sustainable forest management practices, banning raw log exports and expanding its network of protected areas. Despite high forest cover, Gabon's mature forests have limited capacity to absorb additional CO₂, and efforts are balanced with socio-economic development needs.

18. Other questions related to the Party's mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the progress of NDC implementation and the Party's successes and challenges in relation to establishing new national parks to promote reforestation and protect biodiversity. In response, Gabon explained that it has mechanisms in place for monitoring and evaluating NDC progress, but challenges remain in obtaining reliable quality data and integrating them in a centralized system across various sectors. Gabon has also expanded its network of national parks and protected areas, which has contributed to reduced carbon dioxide emissions, but the Party continues to face challenges in relation to illegal logging and land reallocation.

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 Gabon for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked Gabon 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_99843/agenda.