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Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the sixty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Guatemala

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
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.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,

¹ Decision [1/CP.16](#), para. 63.

² Decision [2/CP.17](#), annex IV.

³ 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.⁴

4. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the seventeenth FSV workshop was convened at SBI 61 on 15 November 2024 in Baku for the following four non-Annex I Parties for which there was a BUR and final summary report⁵ by 10 October 2024: Chile, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan and Peru.

5. The three-hour workshop was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Gonzalo Guayaquil, and was open to all Parties.

6. As one of the participating Parties, Guatemala received four written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁶ 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 Guatemala 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 15 November 2024 Guatemala made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. Guatemala was represented by Edwin Castellanos from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

9. Guatemala 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 enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

10. Guatemala highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2018 were 31,254.60 Gg CO₂ eq excluding LULUCF and 62,058.60 Gg CO₂ eq including LULUCF, which increased between 1990 and 2018 by 177.7 per cent without emissions and removals from LULUCF and by 44.6 per cent with emissions and removals from LULUCF, owing mainly to the energy sector. The Party explained that the steady increase in fossil fuel consumption in the road transportation and electricity generation sectors was the main driver of the emission trends.

11. Guatemala presented its NDC target under the Paris Agreement, updated in 2022, which is to reduce emissions by 11.2 per cent by 2030 under a ‘business as usual’ scenario and increase the amount of technical and financial support received from the international community by 22.6 per cent by 20230 compared with the 2005 level. Guatemala presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, including the National Development Plan 2032; the national action plan on climate change; the long-term low-emission development strategy; the National Energy Plan 2017–2032; the National Energy Efficiency Plan 2019–2032; and the National Cattle Policy, the national strategy for sustainable low-emission cattle ranching and the national REDD+ strategy.

12. Furthermore, Guatemala provided information on support received for preparing both its first BUR and its third national communication; implementing adaptation and mitigation actions; facilitating use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* for preparing its GHG inventory; and developing the MRV system. Guatemala reported that international support is primarily needed in the areas of using climate data and information to inform decision-making and reporting; educating, raising awareness among and building capacity of all stakeholders regarding climate change issues; mainstreaming

⁴ Decision [2/CP.17](#), annex IV, para. 3.

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/GTM.

climate change in national policies, plans and strategies; accessing international climate financing; and facilitating development and transfer of technology for adaptation and mitigation.

13. Guatemala presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the enhanced transparency framework. The initiatives relate to strengthening the national GHG inventory system; developing a climate change project registry, as required under climate change law; developing monitoring systems for REDD+ activities, nationally appropriate mitigation actions, and support needed and received; and developing indicators for measuring vulnerability, especially in coastal zones and the agriculture, livestock and food security sectors.

14. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Guatemala on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Brazil, China, Czechia, Ethiopia, European Union, India, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Sudan and United Kingdom.

15. Questions on the GHG inventory related to challenges faced in collecting data for the inventory; the role of civil society actors in the national GHG inventory system; and obtaining data and information for the inventory through engagement with the private sector.

16. In response, Guatemala explained that it faces significant challenges in relation to gathering inventory data, particularly from the agriculture and waste sectors, and generating projections, but is working to address related gaps by improving institutional arrangements and its sectoral inventories and through transparency projects aimed at enhancing data availability and accuracy. Guatemala also explained that civil society actors contribute to inventory development and adaptation planning by bringing together stakeholders from various sectors with a view to sharing data and supporting the implementation of the National Action Plan on Climate Change and NDC. While these tables are adapted in the light of evolving needs of the Party, greater engagement is needed, particularly from private sector actors, in order to enhance data availability and track progress towards climate goals.

17. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to the National Cattle Policy and the national strategy for sustainable low-emission cattle ranching, including lessons learned; engagement with the private sector on cleaner industrial policy; policies and measures in place for reducing emissions from the energy and LULUCF sectors and any challenges in implementing them; synergies between the REDD+ strategy and the National Cattle Policy; and engagement of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in REDD+ activities and benefit-sharing.

18. In response, Guatemala explained that the Government collaborates with stakeholders on adopting sustainable practices in cattle ranching, including by increasing tree planting within pastures, showcasing successful pastoral systems and improving pasture quality to reduce methane emissions. In Guatemala, the private sector has shown strong commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, with many companies measuring and publishing information on their emissions, as well as to pursuing carbon neutrality, including through the establishment of a private research centre, with private sector actors also implementing reforestation campaigns and improving processes with a view to lowering emission levels. The Party is making progress in terms of reducing energy sector emissions by transitioning its electricity matrix, with renewable energy projected to grow from 60 to 80 per cent of total energy generated, through investment in hydropower, solar and wind. However, significant challenges remain in addressing transport emissions, necessitating improvements in public transport and the adoption of measures such as ethanol blending in gasoline. With regard to reducing emissions from the LULUCF sector, Guatemala is aiming to achieve zero net deforestation within three years through strong forestry policies, reforestation efforts, monetary incentives for rural communities, and successful carbon credit transactions with the World Bank. Furthermore, the Party has integrated its long-standing domestic forestry incentive programmes with international REDD+ initiatives, providing financial support through both government funding and carbon credits with a view to encouraging forest protection and planting, and benefiting rural communities.

19. Questions on constraints and gaps, and related needs pertained to the contribution of dedicated technological transfers to the maintenance of the MRV system; and the priority areas of adaptation projects implemented with international support.

20. In response, Guatemala explained that it is building the national MRV system by adapting it and learning from other countries, particularly from Panama's experience of its MRV system, focusing on improving data flow and using the inventory system as a foundation for supporting decision-making for mitigation and adaptation actions through climate change information. Guatemala's adaptation priorities focus on supporting small-scale farmers to address variable rainfall and food security challenges through water storage and simple irrigation systems, and on promoting sustainable practices for large-scale agricultural activities, including the use of organic fertilizers in relation to waste management and through efforts to reduce emissions from cattle management through improved pastures and tree planting.

21. 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.⁸

22. In closing the workshop, the SBI Chair congratulated Guatemala for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked Guatemala 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/17th-workshop-of-the-facilitative-sharing-of-views-sbi-2e-mandated-event>.