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

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

AFOLU	agriculture, forestry and other land use
BUR	biennial update report
CBIT	Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency
CO ₂ 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
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 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 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 report⁵ 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, Malawi received 10 written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁶ 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 Malawi 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 3 December 2023 Malawi made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. Malawi was represented by Tawonga Mbale-Luka from the Environmental Affairs Department of the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources.

9. Malawi 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. Malawi highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2017 were 7,042.73 Gg CO₂ eq and decreased between 1994 and 2017 by 71.4 per cent with emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry, owing mainly to the agriculture sector. The Party explained that charcoal and firewood production are the main sources of carbon dioxide emissions in Malawi as well as being drivers of the rapid decline in the country's forest cover. However, net removals from harvested wood increased from 85.4 to 157.1 Gg CO₂ eq between 2008 to 2017. The agriculture sector, which mainly comprises activities relating to livestock and managed agricultural soil, constitutes 54 per cent of total national emissions.

11. Malawi presented its updated NDC target under the Paris Agreement, which is to reduce emissions by 51 per cent compared with the 'business as usual' scenario in 2040. Malawi also presented key policies and measures for achieving its target, including promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, using cement-stabilized earth blocks and cement blended with rice or coal ash for construction, improving the effectiveness of use of fertilizers, improving manure management, promoting conservation agriculture, improving livestock feeding systems, improving rice cultivation, and improving municipal solid waste and landfill management. In addition, the Party highlighted that, as well as the expected emission reductions stated in the NDC, co-benefits of the mitigation actions are expected to arise; these include an improved environment, increased economic opportunities and enhanced social well-being.

12. Furthermore, Malawi provided information on constraints and gaps faced in the preparation of its national communications and BURs. These constraints and gaps include

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/MWI.

the absence of formalized institutional arrangements for data provision and concomitant reliance on informal agreements with data providers; a shortage of personnel responsible for compiling reports, particularly national inventory reports, BURs and the national communication; a lack of technical expertise in using reporting tools such as the IPCC inventory software; incomplete operationalization of the national climate change monitoring and evaluation system, necessitating manual collection of data on mitigation actions and support needed and received; and inadequate financial and technical support for reporting.

13. Malawi presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to implementing a CBIT project on the transition to the ETF and securing support for preparing its first biennial transparency report. The preparatory actions include improving the Party's understanding of the new reporting requirements, establishing a climate transparency unit in the Environmental Affairs Department of the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources, addressing capacity gaps through training, developing and operationalizing an information management system for GHG emissions, and developing a Climate Change Act that includes the formalization of institutional arrangements for reporting (planned to be enacted by the end of 2024).

14. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Malawi on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Canada, European Union, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden and United Kingdom.

15. Questions on the GHG inventory related to the guidelines and software used for preparing the inventory; the sectors for which emission estimation is particularly challenging and whether the challenges relate mostly to data availability or methodology; and planned improvements for the inventory.

16. In response, Malawi explained that it used the IPCC inventory software and the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* in preparing its national GHG inventory. Malawi acknowledged that it faces challenges in data collection, particularly in the industrial processes and product use sector (for which the challenges relate to confidentiality issues) and the waste sector (for which the challenges relate to a lack of organization). The Party emphasized that engaging stakeholders, including those from the private sector, academia and civil society, and providing them with capacity-building related to data management is needed to improve data collection. Furthermore, the Party noted that plans are in place to develop country-specific emission factors in order to improve the accuracy of emission estimates.

17. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to sustainable practices pertaining to biomass, which is the main energy source in Malawi; and measures to address GHG emissions in the AFOLU and energy sectors, as well as the main challenges faced in addressing emissions for these sectors.

18. In response, Malawi explained its strategies for addressing biomass challenges, including implementing a national charcoal strategy; restoring forest landscapes; and participating in the Bonn Challenge, under which it aims to restore 4.5 million hectares of degraded land. It also highlighted the programmes it has in place for distributing energy-efficient cookstoves in communities. Furthermore, the Party noted that the Malawian Government is promoting the use of renewable energy sources (including by exploring wind power, increasing the generation of hydroelectric power, and implementing two major solar projects) and promoting investment in low energy consuming technologies through an innovation challenge initiative supporting young innovators and researchers. Regarding the AFOLU sector, Malawi highlighted sustainable farming initiatives relating to, for example, climate-smart agriculture and livestock management.

19. Questions on constraints and gaps, and related needs pertained to whether Malawi reported in its BUR on support needed and received given that this topic was not covered in its presentation; and the resources for support that Malawi is making use of beyond CBIT for its transition to the ETF.

20. In response, Malawi explained that information, though not extensive, on support needed and received is included in its BUR, and indicated its plans to elaborate on that

information in its first biennial transparency report. The Party also discussed the capacity-building efforts it is involved with beyond its CBIT project, including engaging with stakeholders from academia and participation in the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency.

21. Other questions related to the benefits of thematic working groups as part of institutional arrangements; Malawi's experience with the international consultation and analysis process for the first time, including its experience of identifying capacity-building needs together with the team of technical experts; and the role of climate change mitigation in Malawi's vision to become a wealthy, self-reliant country. In response, Malawi explained that the benefits of thematic working groups lie in their harnessing of expertise from various sectors. The Party acknowledged the positive outcomes from the technical analysis process and the expertise provided by the team of technical experts, emphasizing their efforts to identify capacity-building needs. Climate change mitigation is integral to Malawi's vision given that the devastating effects of climate change, such as Tropical Cyclone Freddy, hinder the country's economic and social development. In this regard, Malawi outlined its engagement with stakeholders from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society and with youth to enhance their understanding of climate change and the NDC. It also emphasized that it views environmental sustainability as a key enabler of the country's development.

22. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.⁸

23. In closing the workshop, the SBI Vice-Chair congratulated Malawi for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked Malawi 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/fifteenth-facilitative-sharing-of-views-fsv-workshop-under-the-international-consultation-and-0>.