



Distr.: General
8 April 2021

English only

Record of the facilitative sharing of views under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020: Panama

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

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| BUR | biennial update report |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| CO ₂ eq | carbon dioxide equivalent |
| FSV | facilitative sharing of views |
| GHG | greenhouse gas |
| ICA | international consultation and analysis |
| 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 to conduct, under the SBI, ICA of BURs from non-Annex I Parties, in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty, with the aim of increasing the transparency of the 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, resulting in a summary report for each Party; and FSV, to which the BURs and summary reports serve as input.⁴

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

³ Decision 2/CP.17, paras. 56 and 58(a).

⁴ Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV, para. 3.

4. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the SBI convened remotely, from 24 to 27 November 2020 at the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020, the ninth FSV workshop, open to all Parties, for the 17 non-Annex I Parties, including Panama, for which there was a BUR and final summary report by 31 July 2020.⁵ Interested Parties were able to submit written questions in advance through the secretariat. Panama received nine written questions in advance from Australia, Canada, the European Union, New Zealand and the United States of America.

5. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Yeonchul Yoo, and SBI Rapporteur, Constantinos Cartalis, comprised five sessions and covered the 17 Parties.

6. This FSV record for Panama 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

7. On 26 November 2020, Panama made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. The Party was represented by Yoisy Belén Castillo, Climate Change Analyst, Ministry of Environment of Panama.

9. In its presentation, Panama provided an overview of its national circumstances and institutional arrangements, national GHG inventory, mitigation actions and their effects, and support needed and received.

10. Panama presented its nationally determined contribution target under the Paris Agreement, which includes the following objectives: in the energy sector, to increase the contribution of renewable sources (solar and wind) to 30 per cent of installed capacity in the electricity mix by 2050 and to reduce overall emissions by 26.1 Mt CO₂ eq/year by 2030; and in the forestry and other land use sector, to increase carbon sequestration by at least 10 per cent compared with the 'business as usual' scenario, or up to 80 per cent with external support.

11. Panama highlighted that its total GHG emissions were 16,164.9 Gg CO₂ eq in 2013, including emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry, owing mainly to the energy sector (58 per cent), followed by agriculture, forestry and other land use (30 per cent), waste (7 per cent) and IPPU (5 per cent).

12. Panama presented key policies and measures for achieving its target, including nationally appropriate mitigation actions, policies and measures and clean development mechanism projects implemented under national and international frameworks. Panama explained that its National Climate Change Policy was established in 2007 with five objectives: develop mechanisms for coordinating strategies to fulfil its commitments under the Convention; prioritize adaptation actions; identify and promote sustainable mitigation actions with social and economic co-benefits; promote public awareness of and participation in climate action; and build the capacity of stakeholders. Other plans have subsequently been developed, such as the National Energy Plan 2015–2050 for enhancing hydroelectricity and solar and wind energy; the National Water Security Plan 2015–2050; the National Climate Change Plan for the Agriculture Sector; and the national REDD+ initiative Alliance for One Million Reforested Hectares, the aim of which is to reforest 1 million ha Panamanian forests between 2015 and 2035. In its presentation, Panama also highlighted the new national programme Reduce your Footprint, which includes all the instruments that serve for the management and monitoring of low-carbon economic and social development in Panama and other provisions, and the development of a sustainable national GHG inventory system.

13. Furthermore, Panama provided information on barriers, and support received and needed. Panama explained that the main areas where support is still needed are availability

⁵ The BURs and the summary reports are available at <https://unfccc.int/BURs> and <https://unfccc.int/ICA-cycle1>, respectively.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2019/TASR.1/PAN.

of resources to increase staffing levels and enhance staff capacities in the preparation of the national climate reports, the design and monitoring of mitigation actions with tools and trained technical teams, and financing for standardizing and systematizing the national GHG inventory process (compiling, reviewing, filing and keeping records of all information and data) and for capacity-building and national training for the development of the national GHG inventory under the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. In terms of support received, Panama indicated that the areas covered were a project for the preparation and presentation of the fourth national communication and second biennial update report and the establishment of the national platform for climate transparency: the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency.

14. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Panama on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: European Union, Germany, India, Mexico and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The questions were related to (a) national GHG inventories: estimation of emissions from navigation (Panama Canal), uncertainty levels in the estimation of emissions from the energy sector, use of methodologies for reporting carbon dioxide fuel combustion using both the sectoral and the reference approach, and challenges in recalculating the inventory; (b) mitigation actions: institutional arrangements for the measurement, reporting and verification system and costs of implementation, including human resources needed, and status of implementation of the climate transparency system; and (c) support needed and received: barriers to institutionalizing the national GHG inventory system.

15. Panama explained that the national maritime authority will gather the data for estimating the quantity of fuel oil and vessel oil used and that this will be reported in the next BUR. In terms of the uncertainty levels, Panama encountered many challenges in mapping all the key actors and data providers; however, improvements in this area as well as recalculations are planned for future submissions, as well as improvements in the use of methodologies and data from the energy balance for emissions from fuel combustion. Panama is still identifying the financial needs for the proper implementation of the national GHG inventory system and an executive decree will be issued soon to establish all the institutional arrangements for the system. Panama also explained that to address current needs and challenges, the country is approaching different initiatives such as the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and the Global Environment Facility. Regarding the barriers to institutionalizing the national GHG inventory system, Panama explained that it is currently mapping information with a view to starting a training programme for all the key stakeholders involved, in line with the executive decree.

16. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.⁷

17. In closing the workshop, the SBI Rapporteur congratulated Panama for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the third round of its ICA process. He thanked Panama 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://vimeo.com/485438121> (at 00:06:00).