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

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

2006 IPCC Guidelines	<i>2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories</i>
BUR	biennial update report
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
MRV	measurement, reporting and verification
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

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

³ Decision 2/CP.17, para. 58(a).

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
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, Trinidad and Tobago received nine written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁶ from Australia, the European Union, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and addressed them via the FSV portal. This FSV record for Trinidad and Tobago 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 4 December 2023 Trinidad and Tobago made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.
8. Trinidad and Tobago was represented by Penelope Althea Beckles from the Ministry of Planning and Development.
9. Trinidad and Tobago 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. Trinidad and Tobago highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2018 were 41,637.50 Gg CO₂ eq and decreased between 2006 and 2018 by 1.3 per cent with emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry, owing mainly to the industrial processes and product use sector. The Party explained that natural gas use and ammonia and methanol production were the main drivers of emissions.
11. Trinidad and Tobago presented its 2018 NDC target under the Paris Agreement, which is to reduce overall cumulative emissions by 15 per cent below the 'business as usual' level by 2030 for the power, transport and industry sectors. In absolute terms, this equates to an emission reduction of 103 Mt CO₂ eq between 2013 and 2030. Trinidad and Tobago stated that it commits unconditionally to reducing its public transportation emissions by 30 per cent (1.7 Mt CO₂ eq) compared with the 2013 level by 2030, and that the largest sectoral emission reduction (31,509 t CO₂ eq) between 2019 and 2021 was achieved in the transport sector. The Party has also a long-term goal to become carbon neutral in the second half of the century. Trinidad and Tobago also presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, including the promotion of renewable energy, fuel switching, energy efficiency, and carbon capture and storage.
12. Furthermore, Trinidad and Tobago provided information on support received. The Party explained that with the support of multiple donors through the United Nations Development Programme's Low Emission Capacity Building Program and NDC Support

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/2021/TASR.1/TTO.

Programme it developed a comprehensive national climate change mitigation MRV system. The system's feasibility and efficacy have been evaluated in a pilot project. The national MRV system has been designed to enable the efficient collection, analysis and transparent reporting of comprehensive data on GHG emissions, mitigation actions and support received. Central to the MRV process is a knowledge management system that is the primary repository for all MRV-related information, such as that on methodologies and institutional frameworks. In addition, the country's expertise in GHG management has been enhanced through the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute's certification programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Development and the NDC Support Programme.

13. Trinidad and Tobago presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to preparation of the first biennial transparency report (which the Party aims to submit to the secretariat by 31 December 2024) and integration of the ETF into the national institutional framework.

14. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Trinidad and Tobago on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: European Union, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.

15. Questions on the GHG inventory related to Trinidad and Tobago's experience with the IPCC inventory software; the challenges faced by the Party in using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and the steps taken to overcome them; the integration of subjects relating to GHG inventories into tertiary education courses in the country; and whether Trinidad and Tobago is already reaping the benefits of regional collaboration in MRV capacity-building, particularly in the development of a sustainable domestic MRV team.

16. In response, Trinidad and Tobago explained that its use of the IPCC inventory software has revealed a preference for Excel sheets due to both the ease of their use and the country's lack of activity data; the challenges faced in using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines include difficulties in data collection, lack of historical data and lack of techniques for gap filling; a GHG inventory curriculum has been implemented at the University of the West Indies and is expected to enhance stakeholder understanding and computational capabilities of the MRV system; and a sustainable domestic MRV team is being developed through both legislation, making GHG reporting mandatory, and training, ensuring competency and sustainability in GHG reporting.

17. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to Trinidad and Tobago's strategy to achieve its 2030 emission reduction target, including existing and planned measures to do so; and the process of involving key stakeholders in development of the national policy for energy efficiency in the residential and commercial sectors.

18. In response, Trinidad and Tobago explained that it is actively working towards its 2030 emission reduction target with measures implemented across various sectors. Regarding power generation, the country is building a 112 MW solar power plant, marking a significant step in switching to renewable energy. The transport sector is transitioning towards electrification of public transportation in order to align with the unconditional component of the NDC. In the industry sector, efforts are under way to develop a green hydrogen industry, supported by private sector investment and government policies and involving extensive stakeholder engagement. The Party stated that it follows a standard procedure in identifying key issues and engaging in stakeholders when developing policies.

19. Other questions related to Trinidad and Tobago's approach to developing climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in the light of its vulnerability as an island; and to the knowledge management system that is integral to its MRV process, namely how the system was established and whether any challenges have been encountered during its operation. In response, Trinidad and Tobago explained that it is integrating climate change risks into national development planning in order to minimize those risks and build climate resilience across various sectors, including health, agriculture and infrastructure. In addition, the Party provided information about the knowledge management system, which has the format of a database and is managed by the Environmental Management Authority. Under the system, industries voluntarily submit data, which are checked for quality, aggregated and made

available for public access. Challenges concerning data disparity are addressed collaboratively between the Environmental Management Authority and data providers.

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

21. In closing the workshop, the SBI Vice-Chair congratulated Trinidad and Tobago for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked Trinidad and Tobago 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>.