



DRAFT

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

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

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| AFOLU | agriculture, forestry and other land use |
| 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 |
| 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

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, Vanuatu received 11 written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁶ from Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. This FSV record for Vanuatu 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 Vanuatu made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.
8. Vanuatu was represented by Eslie Garaebiti from the Ministry of Climate Change.
9. Vanuatu 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. Vanuatu highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2017 were 600.28 Gg CO₂ eq and increased between 2010 and 2017 by 5.9 per cent without emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry, owing mainly to the AFOLU sector. The Party explained that its rapidly growing economy and population, land speculation, increased agricultural activities and deforestation were the main drivers of the increase in emissions.
11. Vanuatu presented its 2022 updated NDC target under the Paris Agreement, which is to transition to nearly 100 per cent renewable energy in the electricity sector by 2030. The Party has also a long-term goal to reduce emissions by implementing 19 additional mitigation actions covering the energy, AFOLU, waste, and water and public health sectors by 2050. Vanuatu also presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, including continued implementation of the National Energy Road Map 2016–2030, promotion of alternative energy sources (such as coconut oil) and development of policies pertaining to electric vehicles and energy efficiency in buildings. In the AFOLU sector, emphasis is placed on sustainable forest management and improved livestock farming practices, while in the waste sector, the focus is on reforming the sector with solid waste and wastewater management policies that prioritize recycling, composting and waste-to-energy initiatives. The Party is in the process of implementing its REDD+ Readiness Project; therefore, it will be able to provide more qualitative information on the forestry sector in its next submission.
12. Furthermore, Vanuatu provided information on support needed and received, and capacity-building needs. Its financial, technical and capacity-building needs primarily relate

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/VUT.

to the preparation of its GHG inventory, especially in terms of collecting data and reporting on mitigation actions. Australia is Vanuatu's largest bilateral donor for funding climate change initiatives. The World Bank is the largest multilateral source of funding for Vanuatu and has implemented a range of climate change related projects, such as the reconstruction and improvement of public infrastructure damaged by Cyclone Pam, the strengthening of institutional arrangements for GHG inventory preparation, and the implementation of energy sector mitigation actions and the national REDD+ Readiness Project. The Asian Development Bank is the second largest multilateral source, and the Green Climate Fund the third. Vanuatu has developed an integrated MRV system with modules supporting the GHG inventory, mitigation actions, adaptation activities, climate finance flows and activities related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

13. Vanuatu presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to engaging experts for the UNFCCC roster of experts, restructuring institutions to incorporate roles for personnel supporting ETF implementation, strengthening data management and building capacity.

14. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Vanuatu on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, European Union, Germany, India, Japan, New Zealand, Panama, Samoa and United Kingdom.

15. Questions on the GHG inventory related to specific improvements being considered for the key category data validation and quality control process for the next submission; and continuation of the third-party reviews of inventory data that were mentioned in Vanuatu's BUR.

16. Vanuatu could not provide a response during the session.

17. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to the lessons learned and challenges encountered during implementation of the rural electrification project aimed at promoting solar microgrids; and the contribution of the coconut oil for fuel strategy to achieving Vanuatu's NDC target, including the key components of the strategy and an update on the progress of its implementation.

18. In response, Vanuatu explained that it faced several challenges in its rural electrification project, which were primarily administrative rather than on-the-ground issues. Nevertheless, the project was pivotal in involving the private sector in the establishment of energy systems for communities, and despite delays, it laid the groundwork for further development of local energy systems. Regarding the coconut oil for fuel strategy, discussions with funding providers are under way to finalize the strategy's implementation plan.

19. Questions on constraints and gaps, and related needs pertained to lessons learned and best practices regarding improving the availability of data and enhancing access to the information required to prepare GHG inventories that could be applicable to similar small island developing States.

20. In response, Vanuatu explained that it continues to face challenges pertaining to its lack of inventory data (as a result, it primarily uses the tier 1 approach and only applies the reference approach for inventory preparation) and lack of an effective system for collecting and utilizing comprehensive data for BUR preparation.

21. Other questions related to Vanuatu's collaborative efforts with the public and private sectors on sustainable ocean management; its measures for climate-resilient development, given its particular vulnerability as a South Pacific island State; and its implementation and provision of access to the public of its web-based MRV tool, along with the benefits of the tool and any challenges encountered during its development and use. In response, Vanuatu explained that it collaborates closely with the private sector on sustainable ocean development; efforts to engage stakeholders in this regard as well as in climate change initiatives are coordinated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other national entities. Being highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, as demonstrated by its experience of frequent severe tropical cyclones, Vanuatu has a comprehensive national policy on climate change and disaster risk reduction. This policy, alongside a decentralized approach to resilience-building, ensures community-level results, with government representatives in

each province and community working alongside non-governmental organizations to implement and support local climate action. Vanuatu faces challenges in MRV, which are primarily related to limited human resources and lack of systematic data collection across sectors. In addition, the quality of raw data is often inadequate, necessitating expertise for their validation. While the Party has a web-based MRV tool, it does not have dedicated personnel for collecting and managing data. In addition, specific challenges exist in reporting climate finance data.

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 Vanuatu for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked Vanuatu 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>.