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Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the fifty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Zimbabwe

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

BUR	biennial update report
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
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
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, 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, para. 58(a).

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

4. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the fourteenth FSV workshop was convened at SBI 58 from 6 to 7 June 2023 in Bonn for the following 15 non-Annex I Parties for which there was a BUR and final summary report⁵ by 22 March 2023: Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Indonesia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Montenegro, Morocco, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. 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, Zimbabwe received nine 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 and addressed them in the course of its presentation. This FSV record for Zimbabwe 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 7 June 2023 Zimbabwe made a brief presentation on its first BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

8. Zimbabwe was represented by Washington Zhakata from the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry.

9. Zimbabwe 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 activities related to the transition to and implementation of the ETF.

10. Zimbabwe presented its nationally determined contribution target under the Paris Agreement, which is to reduce economy-wide per capita emissions by 40 per cent compared with ‘business as usual’ projections by 2030.

11. Zimbabwe highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2017 were 37,661.31 Gg CO₂ eq and they increased by 129.5 per cent between 2010 and 2017, owing mainly to the energy and agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors. The Party explained that the main driver for the significant increase in emissions during 2010–2017 was forest fires.

12. Zimbabwe presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, including the National Energy Policy 2012, the National Renewable Energy Policy 2019, the National Biofuels Policy 2021, the system development plan 2017, the industrial development policy 2021–2023 and the solid waste management policy. It provided an overview of eight specific mitigation actions at various stages of implementation, with the largest emission reduction expected from the development of the Batoka Gorge hydropower plant, with an expected annual reduction of 4 Mt CO₂ eq once completed.

13. Furthermore, Zimbabwe provided information on support needed and received, capacity-building needs, and national arrangements for domestic measurement, reporting and verification, which are under development.

14. Zimbabwe presented information on areas for improvement for future reporting and its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to developing a GHG database management system, templates for data collection, data-sharing agreements with data providers, a monitoring and evaluation system for adaptation actions and training for local experts in GHG inventory compilation.

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/2022/TASR.1/ZWE.

15. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Zimbabwe on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, Czechia, European Union, India and United Kingdom.

16. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to the mitigation potential of the biogas programme; further information on the Zambezi Valley biodiversity project and any lessons learned; key strategies to increase agricultural productivity through the climate-smart agricultural policy framework; and the challenges to implementation of solar projects.

17. In response, Zimbabwe explained that emission reductions from the biogas programme have not been estimated yet and the sharing of experience of such estimation from other Parties would be helpful. Through the Zambezi Valley biodiversity project, sustainable forest management training has been provided to over 4,000 community members and 11,492 ha woodlands have been restored. Land management plans have been integrated into local development planning and forest monitoring systems have been established. Other key benefits include monitoring of forest fires and watershed protection. It has been estimated that over 600,000 t CO₂ has been sequestered of the target of 834,000 t CO₂. The climate-smart agricultural policy framework is informed by studies that show where the greatest economic benefit can be realized in terms of adaptation; there is still a need for support in terms of data collection and analysis in order to estimate mitigation impacts. The resources for solar projects have been mobilized and it is expected that their implementation will start in the near to medium term.

18. Questions on constraints and gaps, and related needs pertained to the type of support that would be useful to address the areas for improvement in reporting presented by the Party.

19. In response, Zimbabwe explained that it aims to enhance its reporting by increasing the number of sectoral experts and institutions, and providing specialized training on quality control and mitigation planning for officials of government agencies. The latter is currently being addressed through the Global Environment Facility Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency.

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 Zimbabwe for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the first round of the ICA process. He thanked Zimbabwe 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/14th-fsv-workshop-part-iii>.