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

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

BUR	biennial update report
CO ₂ eq	carbon dioxide equivalent
COP	Conference of the Parties
FSV	facilitative sharing of views
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICA	international consultation and analysis
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
MRV	measurement, reporting and verification
NAMA	nationally appropriate mitigation action
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 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 adopted² the ICA modalities and guidelines,³ according to which 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
3. 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 Azerbaijan, for which there was a BUR and final summary report by 31 July 2020. Interested Parties were able to submit written questions in advance through the secretariat. Azerbaijan received 11 written questions

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, para. 56.

³ Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

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

in advance from Australia, the European Union, New Zealand and the United States of America.

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

5. This FSV record for Azerbaijan summarizes the proceedings and, together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its second BUR,⁵ constitutes the outcome of the second round of ICA for the Party.

II. Summary of proceedings

6. On 25 November 2020, Azerbaijan made a brief presentation on its second BUR. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session.

7. The Party was represented by Fuad Humbatov, Head of the International Department, National Hydrometeorological Service of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan.

8. In its presentation, Azerbaijan provided 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, and support needed and received.

9. Azerbaijan presented its nationally determined contribution target under the Paris Agreement, which is a 35 per cent reduction by 2030 in GHG emissions compared with the 1990 level, and stated that it has implemented numerous measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change by supporting international initiatives and efforts. The main targets of Azerbaijan's climate change policy have been identified in the development concept Azerbaijan-2020: Look to the Future.

10. Azerbaijan highlighted that its total GHG emissions for 2013 were 61,842 Gg CO₂ eq without emissions and removals from LULUCF and 53,889 Gg CO₂ eq with emissions and removals from LULUCF; emissions decreased by 22.7 per cent between 1990 and 2013 with emissions and removals from the LULUCF sector, with a 2.2-fold increase in removals. Emissions from the energy sector decreased by 23 per cent in 2013 in comparison with the base year but emissions from the industrial sector have increased, owing mainly to industrial development and the increased production of cement and ethylene.

11. Azerbaijan presented key policies and measures for achieving its target, including NAMAs and measures on renewable energy, public transport, railway electrification, the residential sector, and waste and energy efficiency in industry. The implementation of the measures, particularly those on renewable energy, improvement of waste management and expansion of forest areas, resulted in a reduction in emissions of about 22.7 per cent in 2013 compared with the 1990 level. The Party issued several policy instruments to achieve such reductions, including the strategic road map for the development of heavy industry and machinery manufacturing, the strategic road map for the development of utilities (electricity, heating, water and gas) and the strategic road map for manufacturing and processing agricultural products.

12. Furthermore, Azerbaijan provided information on support received and needed and capacity-building needs, particularly in the following areas: capacity-building to enhance its institutional arrangements, awareness-raising of local communities and municipalities, improving the quality of emission factor and activity data collection, upgrading the skills of local experts and implementing light-emitting diode lighting at the national and local level; financial support for the design and implementation of the MRV system, implementation of MRV for specific mitigation measures and effective management of GHG inventory data; and technology transfer for the implementation of climate-smart agricultural technologies, monitoring of fugitive emissions, use of insulation technologies, and use of alternative energy sources in buildings in the residential and commercial subsectors.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2019/TASR.2/AZE.

13. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Azerbaijan on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: China, European Union, India, Luxembourg, Slovakia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The questions were related to (a) institutional arrangements for the MRV of emissions and lessons learned from the design and implementation of the system; (b) the increase in emissions from aluminium production, differences between the 1990 and 2013 shares of sectoral emissions and plans to update inventory methods in subsequent submissions; (c) mitigation actions in the oil and gas sector to reduce methane emissions, the latest progress on the strategy for renewable energy and latest emission reduction targets and challenges in reporting information on the actions developed in the waste sector; and (d) challenges in collecting information on international financial support received.

14. Azerbaijan provided responses, in particular explaining that (a) it established the State Committee on Climate Change and the main lesson learned is the need to involve research centres/entities and the private sector to make the MRV system more effective; (b) regarding hydrofluorocarbon emissions from aluminium production, the Party is working to enhance the collection and use of methodologies to report clearer information. Moreover, for the next submission, the Party will recalculate all categories using methodologies from the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* fully; (c) regarding challenges in reporting clearly the information on the waste sector, several improvements were made, including the use of modelling and software and collecting more information from the source (e.g. incineration plants). Furthermore, Azerbaijan indicated that the goal for 2020 was to supply 20 per cent of the overall consumption of energy by renewable sources, noting that by the end of the year, 17 per cent was achieved; the Party is planning to achieve 30 per cent by 2030. In terms of the actions in the oil and gas sector, the Party explained that there is one ongoing NAMA project in that sector and that it is working with Norway to implement a project on the sector, which will be reported in the future; and (d) regarding collecting information on international financial support received, the Party indicated that it faced various challenges but the information will be collected and reported in a clearer manner for the next submission.

15. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.⁶

16. In closing the workshop, the SBI Vice-Chair congratulated Azerbaijan for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the second round of its ICA process. He thanked Azerbaijan and all other participating Parties for engaging in the workshop in a facilitative manner. He also thanked the secretariat for its support.

⁶ Available at <https://vimeo.com/484500980> (at 44:00).