



**DRAFT**

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

**Note by the secretariat**

### **Abbreviations and acronyms**

AFOLU	agriculture, forestry and other land use
BUR	biennial update report
CO <sub>2</sub> eq	carbon dioxide equivalent
COP	Conference of the Parties
FSV	facilitative sharing of views
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICA	international consultation and analysis
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 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.<sup>1</sup>
2. COP 17 adopted<sup>2</sup> the ICA modalities and guidelines,<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, para. 56.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

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

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 Colombia, for which there was a BUR and final summary report by 31 July 2020.<sup>5</sup> Interested Parties were able to submit written questions in advance through the secretariat. Colombia received 11 written questions in advance from the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland 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 Colombia summarizes the proceedings and, together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its second BUR,<sup>6</sup> constitutes the outcome of the second round of ICA for the Party.

## II. Summary of proceedings

6. On 26 November 2020, Colombia made a brief presentation on its second BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.
7. The Party was represented by Diana Marcell Vargas, Deputy Director of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies of Colombia.
8. In its presentation, Colombia 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. Colombia presented its NAMA pledges and NDC target under the Paris Agreement. Colombia has 16 NAMAs in different phases of development and implementation. Colombia's NDC target is to reduce its GHG emissions by 22.8 per cent relative to the baseline level of 75,751 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq by 2030.
10. Colombia highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2014 were 214,315 Gg CO<sub>2</sub> eq, and increased between 1990 and 2014 by 2.4 per cent with emissions and removals from LULUCF, owing mainly to an increase in emissions for the energy sector. The AFOLU and energy sectors accounted for approximately 55 and 35 per cent, respectively, of the total emissions in 2014. The shares of the waste and industrial processes and product use sectors in the total GHG emissions in 2014 amounted to approximately 6 and 4 per cent, respectively. The AFOLU sector share of total GHG emissions decreased from approximately 72 per cent in 1990 to approximately 50 per cent in 2014, while that of the energy sector increased from approximately 23 per cent in 1990 to approximately 38 per cent in 2014. Carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane were the most dominant gases, accounting for approximately 75, 16 and 9 per cent, respectively, of the total GHG emissions in 1990–2014.
11. Colombia presented key policies and measures for achieving its NAMA pledges and NDC target, including instruments for mitigation planning and management and financial and economic instruments established under the national climate change law and national policy on climate change. Colombia has also established a range of financial instruments for climate change mitigation such as clean development mechanism projects, a national carbon tax and a non-causal mechanism of the national carbon tax that promotes the offsetting of GHG emissions through certified emission reductions and voluntary emission reductions.
12. Furthermore, Colombia provided information on support received and needed, and capacity-building needs. During 2015–2017, Colombia received around USD 607 million in financial, technical and capacity-building support from international partners. Initiatives focusing on REDD+, mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting activities accounted for 54, 23, 13 and 13 per cent, respectively, of the total support received. Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States were the major donors

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<sup>5</sup> The BURs and the summary reports are available at <https://unfccc.int/BURs> and <https://unfccc.int/ICA-cycle2>, respectively.

<sup>6</sup> FCCC/SBI/ICA/2019/TASR.2/COL.

supporting REDD+ and adaptation actions. The environment sector attracts the largest amount of international support (30 per cent). The capacity-building needs identified by Colombia relate to implementing the National Information System on Climate Change to monitor the baselines for the NDC and reference scenarios for mitigation and adaptation actions; strengthening the technical and financial capacity to implement the measurement, reporting and verification system; generating national emission factors and activity data for the GHG inventory; and strengthening deforestation monitoring mechanisms and systems.

13. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Colombia on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: European Union, Germany, India, Malaysia, Mexico and United Kingdom. The questions were related to lessons learned during the introduction of the carbon tax; key barriers in updating Colombia's GHG inventory; factors affecting the deforestation rates in Colombia; technical and capacity-building needs to bridge the gaps in reporting the national GHG inventory; challenges in implementing a national information system to monitor Colombia's NDC baselines and other scenarios; consistency between land sector information reported in Colombia's second BUR and its latest forest reference emission level; and opportunities for and challenges in improving the transparency of future BURs.

14. Colombia provided responses, in particular explaining that its national carbon tax is underpinned by a major implementation decree and has a good level of participation across sectors. The Party has made several improvements in the implementation of the national carbon tax, including strengthening the accountability rules to include other kinds of initiatives with a view to creating an internal market to promote the reduction of GHG emissions in the country. Regarding barriers to developing the national GHG inventory, Colombia stated that it has better data for developing emission factors and activity data as well as relevant institutional arrangements for the compilation of the GHG inventory, but needs to continue to work on these areas. Regarding factors affecting the deforestation rates, Colombia indicated that deforestation rates have decreased as a result of the implementation of its REDD+ strategy. Although deforestation rates increased in 2016–2017, they have shown a downward trend in 2018–2020. Regarding technical and capacity-building needs to bridge the gaps in reporting the GHG inventory, the Party explained that the 2014 inventory was included in its second BUR, submitted in 2018, but added that it is working to reduce the gap between the inventory year and the BUR submission year and expects to include a GHG inventory for 2017 or 2018 in its third BUR, to be submitted in 2021. The Party noted that the results and recommendations of the BUR technical analysis process are an important element in planning improvements in measurement, reporting and verification.

15. Regarding the challenges in implementing a national information system to monitor its NDC baselines and other scenarios, Colombia referred to its national accounting system, which uses information from two other systems working in parallel (a system for national GHG inventories and a registry of emission reductions from different kinds of initiatives) and ensures that no double accounting occurs. Regarding consistency between land sector information reported in Colombia's second BUR and its latest forest reference emission level, the Party explained that the territorial coverage of the forest reference emission level is national and thus the same as that of the national GHG inventory. Furthermore, the team that works on the two sets of calculations uses the same activity data, emission factors and methodologies for them both and is fully aware of the GHG inventory categories included in the national forest reference emission level. With regard to opportunities for and challenges in improving the transparency of future BURs, Colombia identified a need for a system to automate the preparation of BURs, which will ensure transparency by allowing all the national and international actors to access the information online. The Party is working in accordance with its climate change law to support such an arrangement between organizations.

16. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Available at <https://vimeo.com/485438121>.

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

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