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

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
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 Georgia, 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. Georgia received 11 written questions in advance from Australia, the European Union, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States of America.

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.

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 Georgia 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, Georgia made a brief presentation on its second BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.
7. The Party was represented by Kakhaberi Mdivani, Head of the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.
8. In its presentation, Georgia 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. Georgia presented its nationally determined contribution target under the Paris Agreement, which is to reduce its GHG emissions by 15 per cent below ‘business as usual’ by 2030. This is equal to a reduction in emission intensity per unit of gross domestic product of approximately 34 per cent between 2013 and 2030. The 15 per cent target will be increased to 25 per cent in a conditional manner, subjected to a global agreement addressing technical cooperation, access to low-cost financial resources and technology transfer. This is equal to a reduction in emission intensity per unit of gross domestic product of approximately 43 per cent between 2013 and 2030. Georgia explained that the country reached its first milestone at the end of 2020 by establishing a key institutional body that will ensure it can meet its nationally determined contribution target.
10. Georgia highlighted that its total GHG emissions were 17,591 Gg CO₂ eq in 2015 and that they decreased by 61.4 per cent between 1990 and 2015 including emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry; however, in the last three reporting years (2012–2015), emissions showed a slight increase owing mainly to the increase in emissions in the energy and agriculture sectors. Georgia explained that this increase is a result of the economic transformation to a more industrialized country.
11. Georgia presented key policies and measures for achieving its target, including policies and measures in the energy sector, mainly in the areas of promoting and utilizing renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency, but there are also measures focused on enabling access to financial support. Additionally, measures in the transport sector are mainly focused on expanding and modernizing the railway infrastructure in the country and improving vehicle inspections and road infrastructure. The ongoing action on urban mobility and improvement of bus network is estimated to have the most significant outcome of the mitigation actions in the sector, achieving emission reductions of 277 Gg CO₂ eq annually. In the agriculture sector, an estimated 297 Gg CO₂ eq will be avoided or sequestered over 20 years through the sustainable management of pastures in protected areas and approximately 21.8 Gg CO₂ eq over 20 years through the prohibition of crop residue burning.
12. Furthermore, Georgia provided information on obstacles and barriers as well as support received and needed. The Party explained that the country faces an absence of a legal framework for climate-related data management, lack of strategic engagement on climate policy development and limited access to the data necessary for using a higher-tier method for preparing the GHG inventory. In terms of support received, Georgia indicated that in the last eight years, it received USD 100 million for different areas (mitigation and adaptation, national GHG inventory and capacity-building) from multilateral institutions and international organizations such as the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Technology Centre and Network. Georgia also provided information on the support needed in the areas of development of financial schemes

⁵ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2019/TASR.2/GEO.

for priority economic subsectors; enhancing the private–public partnership by facilitating technology transfer; development of climate-smart agriculture; and research in land-use change and facilitation of local initiatives.

13. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Georgia on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, China, European Union, India, Netherlands, Singapore, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The questions were related to further information on emissions from the mining sector linked to the use of coal; the increase in emissions in the industrial processes and product use sector in 2014–2015; current arrangements to collect and manage data and the need to establish an appropriate legal framework; challenges encountered during the update of the GHG inventory using the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*; next steps for the development of the measurement, reporting and verification system; progress on developing the climate action plan and the energy efficiency and renewable energy plans; reasons for not reporting information on carbon dioxide reductions in some mitigation actions; and sharing experience of building capacity using the support received and the type of capacity-building that was most effective.

14. Georgia provided responses, in particular explaining that the challenges in using the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* were related mostly to using higher-tier methods, mainly tier 3, which is a highly data-intensive method where some data providers faced challenges in providing such information; the emissions in the mining sector decreased as there was a reduction in the activity in this industry; the Climate Change Council is a key institution as it will support the process of increasing mitigation and adaptation capacity in the country; the energy efficiency plan was adopted as law in 2020 and the climate action plan has been drafted and is in the process of public consultation; the support received from international partners has helped the country to prepare a low-emission development strategy (with the support of the United States) and develop a climate action plan to support municipalities in their activities (with the support of Germany); and financial support has been received from the Green Climate Fund for adaptation projects, including support to build a multi-hazard early warning system.

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 Georgia for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the second round of its ICA process. He thanked Georgia 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 1:20:00).