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Distr.: General
14 February 2024

English only

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

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

2006 IPCC Guidelines	<i>2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories</i>
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
NGO	non-governmental organization
non-Annex I Party	Party not included in Annex I to the Convention
PV	photovoltaic
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 guidelines,² 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.³

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

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

3. 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 report⁴ 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.

4. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Gonzalo Guaiquil, comprised three three-hour sessions.

5. As one of the participating Parties, Israel received eight written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁵ from Australia, the European Union, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and addressed them via the FSV portal. This FSV record for Israel summarizes the proceedings and, together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its second BUR,⁶ constitutes the outcome of the second round of ICA for the Party.

II. Summary of proceedings

6. On 4 December 2023 Israel made a brief presentation on its second BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

7. Israel was represented by Guy Samet from the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

8. Israel 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.

9. Israel highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2020 were 77.42 Mt CO₂ eq and decreased between 2015 and 2020 by 1.5 per cent without emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry, owing mainly to the energy and transport sectors. The Party explained that switching from coal to natural gas and renewable energy sources provided the largest contribution to emission reductions in 2015–2020. Israel presented the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines in preparing its GHG inventory as an improvement since its previous BUR.

10. Israel presented its updated (2021) NDC target under the Paris Agreement, which is an unconditional absolute GHG emission reduction of 27 per cent relative to the 2015 level by 2030. The Party has also a long-term goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Israel also presented key policies and measures for achieving its target, including the comprehensive National Action Plan on Climate Change 2022–2026, which comprises over 120 mitigation and adaptation measures. Underpinning the implementation of this plan are the adoption of a climate law, sectoral targets and carbon pricing; establishment of financial support mechanisms; provision of support for new climate technologies; and enhancement of systems related to the modelling, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting of the progress and impacts of mitigation actions. Key mitigation measures in the plan include introducing tariffs and grants for dual-use solar PV, improving energy efficiency, upgrading power transmission and distribution grids, expanding the public transportation system, increasing the share of electric vehicles (through tax breaks and grants for charging stations), and banning the landfilling of unsorted waste and untreated organic waste (in 2030). Israel also emphasized importance of accelerating research and development as well as deployment of new climate technologies.

11. Israel presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to

⁴ The BURs and summary reports for each ICA cycle are available at <https://unfccc.int/BURs> and <https://unfccc.int/ICA-reports> respectively.

⁵ As per decision 2/CP.17, annex IV, para. 6.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2023/TASR.2/ISR.

organizing the in-country technical analysis of its second BUR to identify specific areas of improvements needed for the transition to reporting under the ETF, expanding the existing modelling framework, completing the transition to the use of 2006 IPCC Guidelines for preparing the GHG inventory, and integrating adaptation actions and support provided to other countries into the MRV system.

12. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Israel on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, Canada, European Union, Germany, India, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

13. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to the green building standard; the measures under consideration to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 considering the limited options for the forestry sector; the collection and destruction of methane emissions from landfills; the sufficiency of recently adopted policies and measures to further decrease GHG emissions; the lessons learned and success stories from reducing the use of fossil fuels and transitioning to clean energy sources; and the steps to be taken to complete phasing-out of coal-fired power generation by 2026.

14. In response, Israel explained that all new buildings must comply with the green building standard for insulation, energy efficiency and readiness for installation of solar PV systems; long-term measures to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 are focused on decarbonization of the economy, which will be achieved primarily through moving away from fossil fuel use, electrifying end-use energy, increasing the share of renewable energy sources and deploying new technologies (e.g. production and use of hydrogen in transport); the methane generated in landfills will not just be flared but will also be utilized at power plants for electricity production; the emission reduction target provides certainty to the market and the scope of additional measures has been expanded; a target of generating 30 per cent of power with renewables by 2030 has been set, with the key measure to achieve this target being increased tariffs for renewable energy and storage with an emphasis on implementing dual-use solar PV on commercial and residential land and on upgrading and expanding the power transmission grid; and the plan to fully phase out coal consumption by 2026 includes the use of natural gas a transition fuel towards the long-term goal of decarbonization of the economy.

15. Other questions related to the role of NGOs and civil society in the work of the interministerial steering committee on climate change; the type of support being provided to other countries in the areas of agriculture, water supply and solar PV systems; the insights gained in wastewater recycling; and the lessons learned from the in-country technical analysis of the second BUR. In response, Israel explained that NGOs are already part of the several discussion groups under the interministerial steering committee and that climate change legislation envisages the establishment of expert groups on climate change that will include NGOs. With regard to support provided to other countries, Israel has established a comprehensive education programme for foreign students (primarily from Asia and Africa) in the areas of agriculture and water supply. Israel is a global leader in designing highly efficient systems for seawater desalination and the treatment and reuse of wastewater that contribute to meeting the increasing demand for water in the country and reduce methane emissions from wastewater. Israel also explained that the in-country technical analysis of its second BUR provided valuable insights into the gaps in its current MRV system and the needs related to enhancing its modelling capabilities in order to provide a more comprehensive analysis of policies and measures in the first biennial transparency report.

16. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.⁷

⁷ Available at <https://unfccc.int/event/fifteenth-facilitative-sharing-of-views-fsv-workshop-under-the-international-consultation-and>.

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