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Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the fifty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Morocco

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

2006 IPCC Guidelines	<i>2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories</i>
AFOLU	agriculture, forestry and other land use
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
NDC	nationally determined contribution
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 the 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
3. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the thirteenth FSV workshop was convened at SBI 57 on 11–12 November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh for the following 11 non-Annex I Parties for which there was a BUR and final summary report⁴ by 24 August 2022:

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

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

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

Andorra, Armenia, Ghana, Jordan, Liberia, Morocco, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Togo, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. The workshop was open to all Parties.

4. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez, comprised three three-hour sessions.

5. As one of the participating Parties, Morocco received eight written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁵ from the European Union, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This FSV record for Morocco 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 12 November 2022, Morocco made a brief presentation on its second BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

7. Morocco was represented by Rachid Tahiri from the Climate Change and Green Economy Division of the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco.

8. Morocco 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, and support needed and received.

9. Morocco also presented its NDC target under the Paris Agreement, updated in 2021, which is to mitigate emissions by 64,771.5 Gg CO₂ eq, or 45.5 per cent, by 2030 compared with the 'business as usual' scenario. Of this, 18.3 per cent is unconditional and the remaining 27.2 per cent is conditional on international assistance.

10. Morocco highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2016 were 86,123.71 Gg CO₂ eq and they increased between 2010 and 2016 by 15.2 per cent without emissions and removals from LULUCF and by 16.6 per cent with emissions and removals from LULUCF, owing mainly to the energy sector. The Party explained that electricity production and road transportation are the main drivers of the emission trends.

11. Morocco presented key policies and measures for achieving its target, including the 61 mitigation actions identified in its updated NDC. The mitigation actions focus on promoting renewable sources (wind power, solar power and hydropower) in electricity production and increasing energy efficiency in buildings, industries and transport. Morocco's implemented mitigation actions contributed to estimated emission reductions of 6,830.9 Gg CO₂ eq in 2015; if all 61 activities identified in its updated NDC are implemented, the annual reduction in GHG emissions is expected to be 64,771.5 Gg CO₂ eq by 2030 compared with the projected 'business as usual' level by the same year (142,344.9 Gg CO₂ eq).

12. Furthermore, Morocco provided information on support received and needed and capacity-building needs. Morocco presented the challenges that it encounters in preparing its national reports under the UNFCCC, which include the non-sustainability of its human resources, limited data availability and technical issues with data collection and GHG emissions calculation. Hence, the support needed includes technical support in establishing a dedicated unit for reporting, seeking financial support for data collection and capacity-building for GHG inventories. The Party indicated that the financial assistance of USD 655 million that it received through multilateral and bilateral agreements between 2003 and 2016 is largely insufficient to implement the measures identified in the country's NDC, which requires approximately USD 50 billion for 2020–2030.

13. Morocco presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. The initiatives relate to the creation of an online MRV platform

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

⁶ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2020/TASR.2/MAR.

involving all departments and institutions involved in the implementation of the Party's updated NDC. The platform will facilitate the Party in establishing a strengthened and more structured governance framework and in preparing its first biennial transparency report.

14. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Morocco on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Czechia, European Union, India, Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

15. Questions on the GHG inventory related to challenges in estimating bunker fuel emissions from international maritime and aviation transport; Morocco's plan to develop national emission factors; and its experience with the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

16. In response, Morocco explained that it is currently working closely with national aviation and maritime institutions and will include relevant data in its future reports. The Party clarified that it has been utilizing the default emission factors from the 2006 IPCC Guidelines because it faces challenges in collecting robust data. Nevertheless, the national universities are working to develop country-specific emission factors and the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency project in Morocco also supports this objective. With regard to the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, the Party faced difficulties mainly related to data and the collection system when switching from the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency project in Morocco is also helping to enhance national actors' capacity on the use of the *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*.

17. Questions on the mitigation actions and their effect related to key measures identified in the national long-term strategy for 2050; the current status of Morocco's projects on concentrated solar power and on household waste treatment; and updated information on the progress of reforestation activities and challenges faced in this field.

18. In response, Morocco explained that it submitted its long-term low GHG emission development strategy in 2021 containing only the qualitative aspects and it is currently working on the quantification of its target. The key mitigation measures include energy projects and waste management. Morocco currently has 2 GW solar storage capacity and aims to have a 52 per cent share of renewable energy in its total energy mix by 2030 but, by analysing the current trend, this target is expected to be achieved by 2025. Morocco has an ambitious waste management programme that envisages use of waste-to-energy technologies and waste-sorting technologies such as automated sorting systems and optical sensors. The Party also launched a reforestation programme in 2020, under which considerable progress has been made, including an increase in the areas being reforested, financial support given to an association of livestock farmers and gender equality. However, the Party faces challenges in reporting progress on reforestation because multiple institutions are involved in implementing this programme.

19. Other questions related to Morocco's detailed improvement plan for GHG inventory preparation and its link with the general institutional arrangements; and the lessons learned from implementing its online MRV platform. In response, Morocco explained that it has a national climate change and biodiversity commission under the scope of the Department of Environment. The commission aims to enable consultation, coordination and monitoring of climate change commitments, and is reinforced by a range of stakeholders, including the State Secretariat for Sustainable Development of Morocco, which is responsible for the preparation of national communications and BURs and the implementation of an improvement plan. Morocco's online MRV platform is currently still in a conceptual and testing phase and will be made publicly available in the near future. Morocco's challenge in implementing the online MRV platform is mainly related to the understanding of the capacity of the platform and the best use of the platform by a wide range of stakeholders. The Party is seeking partnerships with international institutions that have already worked on MRV systems to overcome its challenges through capacity-building.

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

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

⁷ Available at <https://unfccc.int/event/13th-workshop-of-the-facilitative-sharing-of-views-mandated-event-0>.