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Distr.: General
21 January 2022

English only

Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the fifty-second to fifty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: India

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

BUR	biennial update report
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
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
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 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 SBI convened, from 5 to 6 November 2021 in Glasgow at SBI 52–55, the eleventh FSV workshop, open to all Parties, for the following seven non-Annex I Parties for which there was a BUR and final summary

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

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

report⁴ by 31 August 2021: Cambodia, Dominican Republic, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Oman, Tajikistan and Uruguay.

4. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Yeonchul Yoo, and the SBI Rapporteur, Constantinos Cartalis, comprised two 90-minute sessions.

5. As one of the participating Parties, India received 24 written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁵ from Canada, Japan, the European Union, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. This FSV record for India summarizes the proceedings and, together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its third BUR⁶, constitutes the outcome of the third round of ICA for the Party.

II. Summary of proceedings

6. On 6 November 2021 India made a short statement⁷ on its third BUR. The statement was followed by a question and answer session.

7. India was represented by J. R. Bhatt from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

8. India 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. India clarified that it expects to meet its voluntary declaration to reduce the emission intensity of its gross domestic product by 20–25 per cent from the 2005 level by 2020.

10. India highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2016 were 2.5 million Gg CO₂ eq and they increased between 2014 and 2016 by 7.7 per cent without emissions and removals from LULUCF and by 8.7 per cent with emissions and removals from LULUCF, owing mainly to the energy sector.

11. India presented its key mitigation actions, estimated outcomes and results achieved for the energy sector, including increasing its target for renewable energy capacity from 175 GW by 2022 to 450 GW by 2030; energy efficiency schemes and programmes that contributed to combined energy savings of 23.73 million t of oil equivalent for 2018–2019 and approximately 53.71 Mt CO₂ emissions avoided by September 2020, owing to the commissioning of supercritical coal power plants. In addition, the Party provided a general overview of other mitigation actions in the transport, agriculture, forestry and waste sectors.

12. Furthermore, India provided information on its decentralized domestic measurement, reporting and verification arrangements, which have provided important lessons for enhancing its transparency regime, and finance, technology and capacity-building needs and support received.

13. Following the statement, the following Parties made interventions commending India on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: China, Czechia, European Union, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, Republic of South Korea, Switzerland and United Kingdom. The questions related to:

(a) Additional information on the main contribution to GHG emission reductions from the energy sector to enable the country to achieve a 24 per cent reduction in the emission intensity of its gross domestic product;

(b) India's position on developing and implementing a low-carbon emission development strategy that would reduce its dependence on coal;

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/2021/TASR.3/IND.

⁷ India also provided a pre-recorded presentation relating to its BUR, available at <https://youtu.be/N-ktUeCxgSE>.

- (c) India's actions to preserve and increase forest land and how climate policies protect its rich biodiversity;
- (d) Further information on the lessons learned and success stories in the increase of forest cover by more than 1.3 million ha between 2015 and 2019;
- (e) Clarification on the drivers of the GHG emission trend for the waste sector, which showed an increase between 1994 and 2014, but a decrease in the following years;
- (f) Clarification on the lessons learned from the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for All scheme, which yielded an impressive reduction in GHG emissions of 180 Mt CO₂ between 2015 and 2020;
- (g) The positive and negative socioeconomic impacts of the implementation of response measures to mitigate climate change and the challenges encountered;
- (h) Additional information on the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, including the lessons learned that could be applied internationally;
- (i) The constraints and barriers encountered by India during the preparation of its nationally determined contribution and achieving its carbon neutral targets;
- (j) Capacity-building needs for GHG inventory compilation.

14. In response, India explained that:

(a) Energy is central to its mitigation efforts and 60 per cent of the 114 Party's high level policies relating to climate change mitigation are targeted at the energy sector. India highlighted that the energy sector contributes approximately 76 per cent of total GHG emissions. The areas that policies, programmes and mitigation actions have targeted are energy efficiency and demand management, in order to achieve emission reductions. Further, India explained the initiatives that contributed to the extensive annual emission reductions in the energy sector from 2006 onward, including the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's Star labelling system, the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for All scheme and the Perform, Achieve and Trade scheme. These initiatives contributed to achieve reductions of 55, 160 and 90 million t of CO₂, respectively. Further improved efficiency and the installation of solar and wind-based renewable energy systems in the energy sector will also contribute to the reduction in GHG emissions;

(b) It acknowledges that the use of coal is a concern to many. The Party is endowed with the natural resource of coal which it endeavours to use in a responsible manner. Coal remains key to the economy, as it is used in electricity production and is an energy resource required for various industrial production and processes. More than 200 thermal plants with old and inefficient technology are being reviewed and progressively retired and these are replaced with supercritical plants. India aims to move towards clean coal, which includes coal washing, electrostatic precipitators, flow gas and air quality improvement;

(c) India currently has a national goal of increase tree cover from 24 to 33 per cent of total land area. Schemes for promoting forest cover include the National Afforestation Programme, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority Act and the Green India Mission. A dedicated ecological task force of retired defence personnel is undertaking afforestation programmes in areas that are difficult to access. The Party reiterated that forests are a source of livelihood to millions of people in India;

(d) The increase in forest and mangrove cover can be attributed to extensive public participation, including more than 100,000 joint forest management committees. India further highlighted that reverence to nature is demonstrated by the motto of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, namely "nature protects if she is protected". The successful increase in forest is also supported by schemes (such as in (c) above) and legislation, such as the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980;

(e) India started its Clean India and Smart Cities missions in 2014 and 2015, respectively, and both have led to increases in methane recovery and in the promotion of sustainable waste management. Since 2014, notable progress has been achieved in the reduction of GHG emissions from the waste sector, which now contributes less than 3 per

cent to total GHG emissions. Policies for reducing emissions from waste, along with waste management rules implemented in 2016, have facilitated better waste management;

(f) The Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED for All programme aims to reduce GHG emissions by 160 million t of CO₂ by replacing 770 million incandescent lightbulbs with LED lightbulbs. Approximately 367 million LED lightbulbs have already been installed and the programme is continuing. This initiative is central to India's energy efficiency actions and its success has been due to its federal structure, enabling collaboration between the private sector and utility companies, which produce and install the lightbulbs, and households. The strategy is also based on the immediate benefit of reduced household electricity use. India also indicated its willingness to share experiences of this success story of energy efficiency enhancement and economies of scale with other Parties;

(g) There are significant challenges in implementing mitigation measures with financial implications, including the lack of implementation of curtailment policies for renewable energy plants. India also highlighted the human resource challenge in operating and managing renewable energy resources in the western and southern parts of the country, as the workforce for fossil fuels resides in the east of the country;

(h) The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is a unique initiative for climate action and India encourages other countries to join it. Its membership includes 26 countries and seven organizations and it is chaired by the United Kingdom. Its main objective is to mainstream climate adaptation and resilience into the planning process, and its projects relate to the energy sector, airports, risk and resilience assessment and insurance. The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is relatively new but has already had a significant impact over the last two years. As membership increases, the scope and scale of work will increase. There is an immediate need to integrate resilience and adaptation into the planning process. The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure can facilitate this as it works through international partnerships;

(i) The overall challenge for a developing country such as India in the preparation of its nationally determined contribution and in achieving its carbon neutral targets is to balance development with the long-term low-carbon pathway. The Party further clarified that it has taken specific climate actions at the domestic and international levels, and that this is testimony to its efforts to contribute to the global collective goal to mitigate climate change;

(j) The most important capacity-building needs are outlined in the Party's third BUR (section 5.5, pp.381–382).⁸

15. The statement and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.⁹

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

⁸ Available at <https://unfccc.int/BURs>.

⁹ Available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru5FhNOINCs.