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Record of the facilitative sharing of views during the May–June 2021 session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Republic of Korea

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
KETS	Korean Emission Trading Scheme
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.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

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, para. 56.

³ Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

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 2 to 14 June 2021 at its May–June 2021 session, the tenth FSV workshop, open to all Parties, for the 12 non-Annex I Parties, including Republic of Korea, for which there was a BUR and final summary report by 31 March 2021.⁵ Interested Parties were able to submit written questions in advance through the secretariat. The Republic of Korea received 22 written questions in advance from Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

4. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Yeonchul Yoo, and the SBI Rapporteur, Aysin Turpanci, comprised three sessions covering the 12 Parties.

5. This FSV record for the Republic of Korea summarizes the proceedings and, together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its third BUR,⁶ constitutes the outcome of the third round of ICA for the Party.

II. Summary of proceedings

6. On 11 June 2021, the Republic of Korea made a brief presentation on its third BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

7. The Republic of Korea was represented by Il Young Oh from the Ministry of Environment. The Ambassador for Climate Change of the Republic of Korea, Yeonchul Yoo, also delivered a brief introductory speech.

8. The Republic of Korea 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 policies and actions, support provided and awareness of climate change.

9. The Republic of Korea presented its NDC target under the Paris Agreement, which is to reduce GHG emissions by 24.4 per cent by 2030 compared with the 2017 level. In October 2020, the Republic of Korea announced its plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The Party will present its updated NDC at COP 26.

10. The Republic of Korea highlighted that its total GHG emissions including land use, land-use change and forestry in 2018 were 727.6 Mt CO₂ eq, a 250 per cent increase since 1990 and a 2.5 per cent increase since 2017. In 2018, total GHG emissions excluding land use, land-use change and forestry reached 664.7 Mt CO₂ eq, with carbon dioxide accounting for 91.4 per cent, methane 3.8 per cent, nitrous oxide 2.0 per cent, hydrochlorofluorocarbons 1.3 per cent, sulfur hexafluoride 1.2 per cent and perfluorocarbons 0.4 per cent of the total emissions. In 2018, total GHG emissions from the energy sector were 632.4 Mt CO₂ eq, accounting for 86.9 per cent of the total emissions, industrial processes accounting for 7.8 per cent, agriculture 2.9 per cent and waste 2.3 per cent.

11. The Republic of Korea presented its climate policy milestones from 2008 to 2020, including enacting its Framework Act on Low Carbon Green Growth and submitting its updated NDC in 2020. It presented key policies and measures for achieving its target, including KETS, which was launched in January 2015 and covers six sectors – power, transport (domestic aviation), industry, waste, building and public services. As at 2019 the system covered 610 companies. Total volume of traded emissions in 2019 was 6.7 times more than in 2015, whereas average trading price and total payment increased by 2.6 and 16 [times] [fold], respectively. The GHG and Energy Target Management System, which was launched in 2011 to meet the national midterm GHG emission reduction target as a precursor to KETS,

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

⁵ The BURs and summary reports are available at <https://unfccc.int/BURs> and <https://unfccc.int/ICA-cycle3>, respectively.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2020/TASR.3/KOR.

manages the GHG emissions and energy consumption of business entities that are not covered by KETS.

12. The Republic of Korea provided a comprehensive overview of its mitigation policies and measures by sector, covering energy, industry, buildings, transport, waste, agriculture, forestry and public services. The Party presented projects it supports in other countries, such as pilot projects for reducing emissions from REDD+ in developing countries such as Cambodia and Indonesia.

13. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea provided information on international support and cooperation. It highlighted its role as a provider of financial support and contributions to the Green Climate Fund and the Global Green Growth Institute, as well as providing technical and capacity-building support to various climate related activities.

14. After the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending the Republic of Korea on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, China, European Union, India, Luxembourg, Malaysia and Switzerland. The questions related to estimation emission reductions in the GHG projections, the agricultural and rural voluntary GHG reduction project, the functioning of the renewable energy portfolio standard, supporting developing countries, challenges in developing the 2030 national GHG reduction road map and establishing a new monitoring and evaluation framework; the GHG and Energy Target Management System and related institutional arrangements; expected challenges in achieving climate neutrality by 2050; and the main achievements and challenges during phase two of KETS.

15. The Republic of Korea provided responses, in particular explaining that its GHG emissions per unit of gross domestic product have been declining since 1998. The Government plans to expand the use of renewable energy by encouraging active public sector participation in power generation with a focus on clean energy (solar and wind). The renewable energy supply volume under the Renewable Portfolio System is to increase to 25 per cent which was initially limited to 10 per cent for expansion of power generation market. In 2017, the Korean Government announced the Renewable Energy 3020 Implementation Plan. It sets a goal to produce 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, which currently is being faithfully implemented. It is also planned to increase the ratio of power generation from 30 to 35 per cent by 2040.

16. In March 2017, the Republic of Korea formed a donor agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme on the provision of financial support to the Climate Technology Centre and Network. Hence, the Republic of Korea made financial contributions to fulfil the agreement. The Party explained that in 2019, out of 314 business entities, 277 business entities achieved their emission reduction targets. Transition to low-carbon energy sources has been achieved in many areas of industry, leading to improved carbon intensity, continued efforts to enhance energy efficiency and long-term commitment to developing new low-carbon technology per industry. In 2019, the second compliance year of phase two of KETS, emissions decreased by 2.3 per cent compared with the 2018 level, and emissions are also expected to decrease in 2020. Trading volume in phase two has trebled since the previous phase owing to the introduction of auction.

17. The Republic of Korea provided written answers to the questions from Australia and China, related respectively to the agricultural and rural voluntary GHG reduction project and challenges in developing the 2030 national GHG reduction road map and establishing a new monitoring and evaluation framework.⁷

18. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.⁸

⁷ Available at <https://unfccc.int/event/SBI-may-june-2021#eq-7>.

⁸ Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WutHMux9iFM>. [2:13:38]

19. In closing the workshop, the SBI Rapporteur congratulated the Republic of Korea for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the third round of its ICA process. She thanked the Republic of Korea and all other participating Parties for engaging in the workshop in a facilitative manner. She also thanked the secretariat for its support.
