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

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

2006 IPCC Guidelines	<i>2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories</i>
BTR	biennial transparency report
BUR	biennial update report
CO ₂ eq	carbon dioxide equivalent
COP	Conference of the Parties
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
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
NAMA	nationally appropriate mitigation action
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 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 Lebanon, 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. Lebanon received 14 written questions in advance from Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, 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 Lebanon 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 14 June 2021, Lebanon made a brief presentation on its third BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

7. Lebanon was represented by Lea Kai from the Ministry of Environment.

8. Lebanon 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, obstacles and barriers, support needed and received, and transition to the ETF.

9. Lebanon presented its target under the Paris Agreement, as provided in its updated NDC which was submitted on 16 March 2021. Its updated NDC calls for reducing GHG emissions by 20 per cent under unconditional terms and by 31 per cent under conditional terms by 2030 compared with its ‘business as usual’.

10. Lebanon provided information on its total GHG emissions in 1994–2015. In 2015, its total GHG emissions, excluding land use, land-use change and forestry, amounted to 27,107.66 Gg CO₂ eq. Emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry amounted to 3,311.38 Gg CO₂ eq, resulting in net total GHG emissions of 23,796.28 Gg CO₂ eq. Lebanon’s GHG emissions increased at an annual rate of 7 per cent, with the energy sector being the largest source of emissions (accounting for 62 per cent in 2015). Lebanon explained that the main drivers of the emission trends are the growing demand for electricity and the increase in the vehicle fleet.

11. Lebanon presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, which are mainly for the energy (including transportation) and forestry sectors. The GHG emission reduction in the electricity sector was achieved mainly through the installation of solar water heaters (728.27 Gg CO₂ eq) and energy efficiency measures (689.66 Gg CO₂ eq). For the transport sector, the Party presented information on a master plan to revitalize land-based public transport and to shift to mass transit systems. The forestry and land-use mitigation actions focused on afforestation and reforestation projects and initiatives, including managing wildfire risk. The estimated results achieved from the implemented forests and land use projects in 2015 amounted to removals of 25 Gg CO₂ eq. In addition, Lebanon explained that it is preparing its long-term strategy for low-emission climate-resilient development, the aim of which is to decouple economic growth from GHG emissions and to increase the resilience of the economy, communities and ecosystems to sustain any future shocks, including climate events.

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/LBN.

12. Furthermore, Lebanon provided information on support received for the energy sector, barriers relating to BUR and GHG inventory preparation and relating to reporting on mitigation actions and on needs and support received. The Party presented its institutional arrangements for BUR and GHG inventory preparation, its MRV system and short-, medium- and long-term plans for transition to the ETF.

13. After the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Lebanon on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, China, the European Union, Finland, India, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The questions related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the NDC target; the establishment of the NDC committee; challenges in applying the 2006 IPCC Guidelines; the renewable energy target set in the National Renewable Energy Action Plan; technical and financial support for implementation of NAMAs, including challenges and needs for clean energy development; reporting on climate finance for technology transfer; the establishment of an MRV coordinating entity; and experience in using the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the ETF in order to transition to preparing the biennial transparency report, including any synergies with the current MRV system.

14. Lebanon provided responses, explaining that it has no plans to update the NDC to reflect the impacts of COVID-19 and other economic impacts that Lebanon is currently facing, in order to preserve the consistency of its NDC target overtime to facilitate tracking progress. An NDC committee was established in 2018 to coordinate implementation of Lebanon's NDC. It has a legal status and is composed of representatives of all line ministries that have a role in addressing climate change, as well as representatives of the private sector and academic institutions. It is expected that the NDC committee will have a role in the MRV coordination process and the MRV structure.

15. Lebanon explained that the main challenges of applying the 2006 IPCC Guidelines were in terms of methodology rather than activity data. Other difficulties faced were validation of activity data and applying the methodology for estimating GHG emissions from the waste sector. Overall, Lebanon was able to make the transition to application of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines at a favourable time before the submission of its first BTR.

16. In addition, Lebanon explained that there is no official update on its renewable energy target yet. It will report on progress in its first BTR, where it will also be able to provide the official update on the progress of its NDC implementation. On funding for NAMAs, the Party clarified that it was not able to mobilize any funding for the waste and transport NAMAs. However, it has developed a full proposal on its NAMA for the transport sector and is aiming to submit it to the Global Environment Facility for potential funding for implementation.

17. Regarding specific challenges and needs relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency, the Party indicated that these have been very clearly identified in its third BUR and will be further clarified in its fourth BUR. They relate mainly to legal reshuffling to allow a broader and more flexible participation of the private sector for renewable energy investments. On reporting on finance for technology transfer, Lebanon explained that identifying and determining the component of the technology transfer that can be attributed to climate finance is a challenge. It is updating its technology needs assessment and hoping to be able to have some indicators or to identify specific sources of information so that it can start identifying climate finance required for technology transfer.

18. Regarding the establishment of an MRV coordination entity, the Party is waiting to receive funding from the Global Environment Facility. The entity will have a more diverse and heterogeneous composition than the NDC committee. The entity is also expected to put in place clear mandates for relevant ministries for preparation of BTR.

19. On transitioning to the ETF, the Party explained that its first step was to move to using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, thus facilitating the improvement of areas other than the GHG inventory. Lebanon expects some challenges in reporting on adaptation, improving reporting on mitigation actions and tracking progress of NDC implementation. Through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency project, the Party is aiming to prepare itself to make the transition to ETF as early and successfully as possible.

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 Lebanon for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the third round of its ICA process. He thanked Lebanon 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI2q3y1b9MM>.