Framework Convention on Climate Change

FCCC/WEB/2022/FSVR.3/ARM

Distr.: General
22 May 2023

English only

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

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

2006 IPCC Guidelines	*2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*
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 report[4] 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 for 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, Armenia received 17 written questions in advance of the FSV workshop[5] from Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. This FSV record for Armenia 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 November, Armenia made a brief presentation on its third BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

7. Armenia was represented by Gayane Gabrielyan, Deputy Minister of Environment of Armenia.

8. Armenia 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. Armenia also presented its NDC target under the Paris Agreement, updated in 2021, which is to reduce GHG emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 from the 1990 emission level (25,855 Gg CO_2 eq).

10. Armenia highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2017 were 10,623.75 kt CO_2 eq and they decreased between 1990 and 2017 by 58.9 per cent without emissions and removals from LULUCF and by 59.6 per cent with emissions and removals from LULUCF, owing mainly to the energy sector. The Party explained that the main drivers of the emission trends are changes in electricity exports and in electricity production by natural gas fired power plants, increased fluorinated gas emissions, increased emissions from livestock due to an increase in the livestock population and increased use of fertilizers. Armenia presented the following as improvements from its previous BUR: emission estimates for six new reporting categories; use of a higher-tier method for five subcategories; key category analysis by both level and trend; assessment of uncertainties for all subcategories; recalculation of the entire time series to ensure consistency; and improvement in methods and activity data.

11. Armenia presented key policies and measures for achieving its NDC target, including mitigation actions in the energy, industry, agriculture, forestry and other land use and waste sectors. Mitigation actions in the energy sector are the most significant; they relate to power generation (e.g. installation of solar photovoltaic systems, building hydroelectric power plants and reducing distribution losses), demand management (e.g. in buildings, lighting, transport and small and medium-sized enterprises) and regulatory measures such as the tariff policy aimed at promoting the development of renewable energy. The Party assessed the total mitigation potential of the energy sector in the 'with measures' and 'with additional measures' scenarios as 2,512 and 3,524 kt CO_2 eq respectively, noting that the 'with additional measures' scenario can be realized with the provision of adequate financial and technological support.

12. Furthermore, Armenia provided information on financial, technology and capacity-building support received from multilateral and bilateral sources. The multilateral support was received from the Global Environment Facility (e.g. for the preparation of the third BUR and Armenia's national transparency framework), the Green Climate Fund (e.g. for implementing mitigation projects on energy efficiency in buildings and developing national

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

[6] FCCC/SBI/ICA/2021/TASR.3/ARM.

adaptation plans) and other multilateral financial institutions for the implementation of mitigation projects. The bilateral support included that received from the Government of Germany and the European Union for environmental and energy efficiency projects.

13. Armenia presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. The initiatives relate to amendments to the Law on Ambient Air Protection obliging legal entities that contribute to GHG emissions to provide the GHG inventory compilers with the information required as well as to the development of a GHG information management system. The Party is developing its request to the Global Environment Facility for funding for its first and second biennial transparency reports and fifth national communication.

14. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Armenia on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, Austria, European Union, Germany, Ghana, India, New Zealand, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

15. Questions on the GHG inventory related to drivers of variability in the agriculture sector emissions over the time series; challenges in reporting methane emissions from the biological treatment of solid waste; the sharp decrease in the GDP intensity of emissions (the amount of GHG emissions produced per unit of GDP) since 1990; the advantages of providing a detailed GHG inventory in a separate report from the BUR; and how any challenge faced in making improvements to the GHG inventory was overcome.

16. In response, Armenia explained that the variability of agriculture sector emissions resulted from the uncertainty in the statistical data on livestock population, manure management and fertilizer application. Armenia also explained that its energy crisis in the 1990s led to a reduction in forests. Among the steps taken to address the reduction in forest cover are reducing illegal logging from forests, encouraging the use of gas as a fuel source in rural communities and establishing ambitious plans for reforestation and afforestation. Armenia did not report methane emissions from biological treatment of solid waste because there is no such treatment in the country. The sharp decrease in GDP intensity of emissions since 1990 was a result of structural changes in the economy due to the transition to a market economy as well as a decoupling of emissions from economic growth due to an increase in the share of renewable energy in the energy supply and improvements in energy efficiency. The advantages of submitting the GHG inventory as a separate report relate to enhanced transparency of the submission, built technical and institutional capacity for a detailed report on GHG emissions; and ensuring the sustainability of the GHG inventory development process. Examples of overcoming challenges in making improvements to the GHG inventory include lack of data for the estimation of sulfur hexafluoride emissions and the use of higher-tier methods.

17. Questions on the mitigation actions and their effect related to planned measures to reduce the share of transport sector emissions and to increase green cover and carbon sinks; the benefits of mitigation actions supporting the installation of solar water heaters and solar photovoltaic systems in rural areas and the implications of such programmes for women; updates on Armenia's plan for developing renewable energy, nuclear energy and energy efficiency measures; how findings related to variability in agriculture sector emissions could inform mitigation policy across the land sector; and initial findings on the effectiveness of the Party's electric vehicle policy.

18. In response, Armenia explained that mitigation actions addressing transport sector emissions include promoting and electrifying public transport, introducing electric buses and increasing the share of bigger buses; and promoting the use of electric vehicles by exempting their import from value-added tax and by developing the infrastructure for charging stations. Mitigation actions supporting the installation of solar water heaters and solar photovoltaic systems in rural areas have additional benefits such as poverty alleviation and improving the health of women and children by reducing indoor pollution. Armenia plans to improve the share of solar energy in electricity generation by 15 per cent along with improvements in energy efficiency and an increased use of nuclear energy to achieve its NDC target for 2030. Armenia considers the management of fertilizers as a key challenge in mitigating emissions from the agriculture sector. The success of the electric vehicle policy depends on whether the

energy is derived from renewable sources. Armenia is working on linking charging stations to renewable energy sources to enhance the climate benefits of electric vehicles.

19. Question on constraints and gaps, and related needs related to how the installation of household solar photovoltaic systems and solar water heaters will be supported.

20. In response, Armenia explained that it promotes the installation of solar water heaters and solar photovoltaic systems in households, especially in women-led households and families with three or more children in rural communities. This is accomplished by creating a demand for such systems through establishing a system of net metering, making it more affordable by providing government support that lowers the interest rates and using grant resources available from donors including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Green Climate Fund and bilateral donors.

21. Other questions related to the main challenges in establishing appropriate institutional arrangements for sustainable data collection and preparation of the BUR and plans to address them for meeting the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework; and reasons for the short-term focus of Armenia's adaptation actions. In response, Armenia explained that it is developing legislative provisions to ensure the sustainability of data collection for its measurement, reporting and verification system. For example, under the Law on Ambient Air Protection, private sector entities are required to report their GHG data. On planning adaptation actions, Armenia explained that it prepares national adaptation plans that include action plans of a five-year duration but with a longer-term vision. This is because adaptation is a dynamic process and it is difficult to plan for longer periods.

22. The presentation and subsequent interventions are accessible via the webcast of the workshop.[7]

23. In closing the workshop, the SBI Vice-Chair congratulated Armenia for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the third round of the ICA process. He thanked Armenia 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.