



DRAFT

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Record of the facilitative sharing of views at the fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Lebanon

Note by the secretariat

Abbreviations and acronyms

BUR	biennial update report
CO ₂ eq	carbon dioxide equivalent
COP	Conference of the Parties
ETF	enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement
F-gas	fluorinated gas
FSV	facilitative sharing of views
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICA	international consultation and analysis
MRV	measurement, reporting and verification
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 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 fifteenth FSV workshop was convened at SBI 59 from 3 to 4 December 2023 in the United Arab Emirates for the following

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 63.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV.

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

14 non-Annex I Parties for which there was a BUR and final summary report⁴ by 15 September 2023: Albania, Burundi, Colombia, Eritrea, Honduras, Israel, Lebanon, Malawi, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Vanuatu. The workshop was open to all Parties.

4. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Gonzalo Guaiquil, comprised three three-hour sessions.

5. As one of the participating Parties, Lebanon received 12 written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁵ from Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and addressed them via the FSV portal. This FSV record for Lebanon summarizes the proceedings and, together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its fourth BUR,⁶ constitutes the outcome of the fourth round of ICA for the Party.

II. Summary of proceedings

6. On 3 December 2023 Lebanon made a brief presentation on its fourth BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

7. Lebanon was represented by Hala Mounajjed from the Ministry of Environment.

8. Lebanon 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, support needed and received, and preparations at the national level for implementing the ETF.

9. Lebanon highlighted that its total GHG emissions in 2018 were 32,472.70 Gg and increased between 1994 and 2018 by 456.3 per cent with emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry, owing mainly to the energy sector. The Party explained that emissions from the energy and transport sectors constituted 82 per cent of Lebanon's total emissions in 2018 as the country's electricity is generated from imported heavy fuel oil and gas. The grid emission factor increased during 2010–2016 owing to the gradual deterioration and decreased efficiency of power plants concurrently with an increase in private power generation. Lebanon presented the inclusion of an uncertainty assessment and F-gas emissions as improvements since its previous BUR.

10. Lebanon presented its 2020 updated NDC target under the Paris Agreement, which is to reduce GHG emissions by 20 per cent unconditionally and 31 per cent conditionally by 2030 compared with the 'business as usual' scenario. The Party has also committed to increasing its share of renewable energy sources in electricity demand to 30 per cent and in heating demand in the building sector to 16.5 per cent. Lebanon also presented key policies and measures for achieving its target; its mitigation actions mainly relate to the energy sector and focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The results of implementing its mitigation actions in the energy sector are estimated emission reductions of 615,663 t CO₂ eq per year in 2016–2018.

11. Furthermore, Lebanon provided information on support needed and received, and capacity-building needs. Lebanon reported that it received USD 852,000 from the Global Environment Facility for preparing its third BUR and fourth national communication; a total of USD 802,500 from the European Union, Germany, Spain and the United Nations Development Programme for its NDC Support Programme; and other support for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Lebanon highlighted that while it has attempted for every BUR to improve the collection of information on support received, challenges remain in gathering information on the overall support that it receives for climate action. Hence, the information provided in the fourth BUR does not offer a comprehensive overview of the

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/2022/TASR.4/LBN.

financial, technical and capacity-building support received in relation to climate change in the country. It also does not present a complete picture of domestic support from the Lebanese Government.

12. Lebanon presented information on its current initiatives for enhancing its institutional arrangements for compliance with requirements under the ETF. The initiatives relate to establishing an MRV coordination unit to institutionalize the preparation of biennial transparency reports, among other activities included under a road map for transition to the ETF. The Party recently received approval for funding for preparation of the first and second biennial transparency reports and the fifth national communication.

13. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Lebanon on its efforts and asked questions seeking further clarification: China, European Union, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom.

14. Questions on the GHG inventory related to the challenges faced by Lebanon in including F-gases in its GHG inventory; the approaches used by Lebanon to overcome the lack of data for the waste sector; and the design by Lebanon of a mechanism for continuous spatial monitoring and assessment of land-use subcategories.

15. In response, Lebanon explained that it faced challenges in collecting data on F-gases from F-gas banks in the country. However, the Party successfully implemented a national cooling plan funded under the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program, enabling the computation of F-gas emissions using shared methodologies and tools. The waste sector poses significant challenges to Lebanon in estimating emissions owing to its diversity and the absence of a centralized data repository. Expert judgment and intensive consultation and collaboration with various stakeholders and actors, including non-State actors, municipalities and non-governmental organizations, enables the collection and validation of data from multiple sources. The Party has also made efforts to fund academic research and build stakeholder capacities in the waste sector. Regarding spatial monitoring and assessment, Lebanon is increasingly utilizing satellite imagery for data validation extending beyond land use, land-use change and forestry, such as for estimating methane emissions from landfills and assessing solar photovoltaic installations on rooftops.

16. Questions on mitigation actions and their effects related to stakeholder consultation to determine progress in implementing mitigation actions; success stories related to implementing gender-responsive climate policies; and the status of establishment of a national MRV coordination unit to track progress in achieving NDC targets.

17. In response, Lebanon explained that a key success factor in engaging stakeholders in tracking the progress of mitigation actions lies in fostering their motivation to report data while also providing them with a role in climate-related policymaking. Creating synergies among ministries, non-governmental organizations and international donors is critical as they all play a role in generating data related to progress indicators. Lebanon also explained that it is making efforts to mainstream gender considerations and, more recently, youth involvement in climate activities and reporting. Although challenging, the donor community's requirement for gender mainstreaming has facilitated the identification of indicators, as well as the collection and reporting of data on them, to capture the impact of climate change on women. Regarding tracking progress in achieving NDC targets, an MRV coordination unit is being established, a process that involves determining its members, reporting structures, legal status and the regulations under which reporting on performance by government employees and the donor community will be mandatory. In addition, a virtual platform, through which data will be directed to a centralized unit at the Ministry of Environment, is being developed to streamline reporting on indicators, under the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency.

18. Other questions related to best practices for the timely preparation and submission of BURs and best practices for reporting information on support needed and received. In response, Lebanon explained the importance of building and maintaining national capacity, establishing effective institutional arrangements and fostering a climate change community of practice for the timely preparation and submission of BURs. It also emphasized the need for adequate documentation and archiving to maintain institutional memory at the ministry level. The Party noted the Government's commitment to both reporting as part of the

UNFCCC process and creating a knowledge bank for evidence-based policymaking. Lebanon stressed that support received is better tracked from the donor perspective rather than from the government perspective; in that sense, it is plans to establish a donor coordination mechanism, requesting the donor community and financial institutions supporting climate initiatives to report on the aid provided. Challenges persist in capturing capacity-building activities and technology transfer. These challenges are attributable to reporting complexities and the lack of effective methodologies to capture data relating to these activities.

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

20. In closing the workshop, the SBI Vice-Chair congratulated Lebanon for successfully undergoing FSV and completing the fourth round of the 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://unfccc.int/event/fifteenth-facilitative-sharing-of-views-fsv-workshop-under-the-international-consultation-and-0>.