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## **MESSAGE TO PARTIES**

### **Multilateral assessment and facilitative sharing of views**

I wish to draw the attention of all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the organization of the next multilateral assessment working group session and facilitative sharing of views workshop, which are mandated events organized under the SBI.

In its meeting on 22 June 2020 the COP Bureau decided that, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, SB 52 would be postponed until 2021. This decision will have an impact on the organization of the multilateral assessment working group session and the facilitative sharing of views workshop.

In view of the decision by the COP Bureau to postpone SB 52 and of the uncertainty on how the global situation will evolve in 2020 and beyond, the SBI Chair consulted with groups of Parties in late August and early September on matters relating to the multilateral assessment and the facilitative sharing of views. The consultations focused on identifying the best way to conduct the working group session and the workshop in accordance with the relevant mandates and on exploring the possibility of advancing technical work in a virtual setting this year so as to maintain momentum in the UNFCCC process and deliver on mandates by the expected deadlines.

The consultations by the SBI Chair were guided by the provisions of decision 2/CP.17 and the outcomes of the meeting of the COP Bureau on 25 August 2020, in which the Bureau emphasized the need to maximize progress and minimize delays in work under the Convention in the lead-up to COP 26, to maintain the original timeline for mandates and, to the extent possible, to hold events in 2020 that were scheduled to be held this year.

**Distribution:** To Parties and observer States to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through their national focal points for climate change and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany.



During the consultations with the SBI chair, Parties reiterated the importance of the multilateral assessment and the facilitative sharing of views as key vehicles for showcasing Parties' efforts under the Convention, in particular the implementation of the 2020 economy-wide emission reduction targets by developed country Parties and the implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties, as well as the identification of capacity-building needs by the latter.

When discussing opportunities for advancing the work of the working group session and the workshop in a virtual manner, Parties asked the SBI Chair and the secretariat to ensure the process is organized transparently and inclusively. In particular, they highlighted the importance of facilitating virtual participation by developing countries Parties by providing support to ensure their Internet connectivity and taking into account different time zones when scheduling events.

Taking into account the views expressed by Parties during the consultations, the secretariat plans to organize, under the guidance of the SBI Chair, the next multilateral assessment working group session and the facilitative sharing of views workshop in a virtual format during the Climate Dialogues from 23 November to 4 December 2020, following the modalities of decision 2/CP.17 and established practices for in-person events to the extent possible. Parties' participation in these virtual events will be voluntary.

It is essential that the working group session and the workshop continue to be organized as separate events and that the concerns relating to different time zones and Internet connectivity raised by the Parties during the consultations are addressed to the extent possible. In addition, in-person events during which Parties that have participated in the virtual events can make a short intervention may be organized in conjunction with SBI 52 in 2021.

Annexes I–II to this message contain operational details of the virtual multilateral assessment working group session and the facilitative sharing of views workshop and a list of activities and inputs by Parties in accordance with decision 2/CP.17, which aim to help Parties prepare for these events. Information on how to access the virtual events will be provided in due course.

The secretariat is fully committed to supporting Parties in implementing decisions of the COP, including decision 2/CP.17, through arrangements that facilitate transparency and inclusiveness, and continues to count on the patience, understanding and support of Parties in these challenging times.

The secretariat hopes the information provided in this message and its annexes will assist Parties in their preparation for, and participation in, the multilateral assessment and the facilitative sharing of views. Questions or requests for clarification can be addressed to [ma-portal@unfccc.int](mailto:ma-portal@unfccc.int) or [ica@unfccc.int](mailto:ica@unfccc.int), respectively.

Yours sincerely,

*(signed by)*

Donald Cooper

Director  
Transparency Division



## Annex I

### Operational details of the virtual MA working group session

#### I. Parties under multilateral assessment

1. Following the completion of the technical review of the BR4, the 10 developed country Parties, listed in table 1 below, undergo a multilateral assessment.

Table 1

**List of Parties under multilateral assessment**

| Name of the Party |
|-------------------|
| 1. Australia      |
| 2. European Union |
| 3. Finland        |
| 4. Germany        |
| 5. Italy          |
| 6. Netherlands    |
| 7. Norway         |
| 8. Portugal       |
| 9. Sweden         |
| 10. Switzerland   |

#### II. The question and answer period before the multilateral assessment session

2. In accordance with decision 2/CP.17, there will be a three month Q&A period prior to the working group session (WGS). During this time any Party can submit questions to the Parties being multilaterally assessed during the upcoming WGS. The first month is allocated for questions, and the following two months are allocated for the Parties to provide answers.

3. The timeline for the question and answer (Q&A) period for the next MA WGS is outlined in table 2 below. The working language for the Q&A period is English. Questions or requests for clarification and nominations can be addressed to the secretariat at: [ma-portal@unfccc.int](mailto:ma-portal@unfccc.int).



Table 2  
**Timeline of the question and answer period**

| <b>Timeline</b>            | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Note<sup>a, b</sup></b>   |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| 10 Aug. to<br>7 Sept. 2020 | <p>Any Party can submit questions to the Parties being assessed.</p> <p>Questions should fall into the following categories (annex II to decision 2/CP.17):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target;</li><li>• Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target;</li><li>• Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target</li></ul> | <p>Questions can be submitted by nominated users via the MA Portal and can be raised on the basis of the background documents accessible through the individual Party pages.</p> <p><i>By 14 September 243 questions were received from 11 Parties to all Parties under MA. The complete list of questions received has been posted on the MA website.</i></p> |
| 8 Sept. to<br>3 Nov. 2020  | <p>The Parties being assessed will endeavour to answer the questions from all Parties that were submitted by 7 Sept. 2020. Parties are not obligated, but may wish to answer questions submitted after this date</p>   | <p>Answers can be provided via the MA Portal</p>   |
| by 5 Nov. 2020             | <p>The secretariat will compile these Q&amp;A by Party and upload them to the individual Party page</p>  | <p>The compiled Q&amp;A will be made available on the individual Party page on the MA website</p>  |

<sup>a</sup> All information regarding the timeline of the question and answer period can be found at <https://unfccc.int/MA>.

<sup>b</sup> The MA portal is available at <https://process.unfccc.int/sites/ma>.



### III. Format, duration and other organizational issues

4. The MA WGS will be conducted for each of the 10 Parties under multilateral assessment in a virtual setting. Following the practice and procedures of the previous MA WGS, flexibility is envisaged in terms of the time allocated to each Party, and the time allocated will also take into account extra time needed due to the technical aspects of the virtual setting. In this regard, questions submitted in advance of the MA WGS could be used as an indication for planning purposes. Table 3 below shows possible timing of the MA WGS for each Party being multilaterally assessed.

5. For the oral presentation by Parties during the WGS, Parties can focus on the highlights of their climate change policy development and implementation, share success stories and innovative approaches and the experience and lessons learned while participating in the IAR process and in achieving their 2020 target. The presentations by Parties will be pre-recorded, in order to avoid technical issues during the session, and will be shown in the live session. The secretariat will facilitate the recording of the presentations.

6. Based on the anticipated nature of the audience and potential questions, it is expected that a representative with competences in policy issues will speak on behalf of the Party being assessed during the WGS with support provided by representatives with competencies in technical issues, as needed.

Table 3  
**Schedule of the multilateral assessment working group session**

| Date                                  | Order | Name of the Party under MA | Number of written questions received | Time (Bonn) | Time (local for the Party under MA) |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Part I<br>Tuesday,<br>24 Nov. 2020    |       | Opening by the SBI Chair   |                                      | 15:00–17:00 |                                     |
|                                       | 1     | European Union             | 22                                   |             |                                     |
|                                       | 2     | Finland                    | 25                                   |             |                                     |
| Part II<br>Monday,<br>30 Nov. 2020    | 3     | Australia                  | 35                                   | 09:00–13:00 | Australia                           |
|                                       | 4     | Germany                    | 25                                   |             | 17:00–21:00                         |
|                                       | 5     | Italy                      | 19                                   |             | All others                          |
|                                       | 6     | Netherlands                | 21                                   |             | 09:00–13:00                         |
| Part III<br>Wednesday,<br>2 Dec. 2020 | 7     | Norway                     | 28                                   | 14:30–18:00 |                                     |
|                                       | 8     | Portugal                   | 18                                   |             |                                     |
|                                       | 9     | Sweden                     | 27                                   |             |                                     |
|                                       | 10    | Switzerland                | 23                                   |             |                                     |
|                                       |       | Closing of the session     |                                      |             |                                     |



7. The secretariat will liaise with the Party under MA in order to ensure connectivity and all technical aspects of their participation.
8. In order to give Parties a chance to summarize their main conclusions and positions from the MA process, a brief statement by Parties who wish to do so is allowed at the end of the WGS. Please inform the secretariat beforehand if your Party would like to give a brief statement.
9. The WGS will be chaired by the Chair of the SBI, or a designate from the Bureau of the SBI.
10. The WGS will be conducted in English and open to all observers and the media. However, as per paragraph 10 of Annex II to decision 2/CP.17, the oral questions and answers will be among Parties only. The MA session will be broadcast live<sup>1</sup> with the recording made available on the individual Party webpages after the session.
11. For further background information please refer to the notification letter to all Parties sent on 3 August 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> The broadcast link will be made available on the MA webpage: <https://unfccc.int/MA>.



## Annex II

### Operational details of the virtual workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> facilitative sharing of views

#### I. Parties under facilitative sharing of views

1. The Parties that have submitted a BUR and have a final summary report will be the focus for FSV at SBI 52. The list of Parties that will undergo FSV is provided in table 1 below.

Table 1

#### List of Parties under facilitative sharing of views

| Name of the Party       |
|-------------------------|
| 1. Azerbaijan           |
| 2. Brazil               |
| 3. China                |
| 4. Colombia             |
| 5. Côte d'Ivoire        |
| 6. El Salvador          |
| 7. Georgia              |
| 8. Indonesia            |
| 9. Mexico               |
| 10. Montenegro          |
| 11. Namibia             |
| 12. Panama              |
| 13. Papua New Guinea    |
| 14. Paraguay            |
| 15. Republic of Moldova |
| 16. Singapore           |
| 17. South Africa        |

#### II. Written questions in advance of the facilitative sharing of views

2. As provided in paragraph 6 of annex IV to decision 2/CP 16, Parties will be allowed to submit written questions in advance of the FSV workshop using an online platform. The secretariat has contacted all Parties (via nominated users to the FSV Portal) to inform them of the steps for submitting such written questions in advance as outlined in table 2 below.

3. The working language for the question and answer process will be English and the questions should be raised within the scope of the ICA process.



Table 2  
**Timeline for written questions**

| <b>Timeline</b>   | <b>Action</b>   |
|---|---|
| The session opened on 14 Sept. 2020. Parties will have 1 month for submitting questions (14 Sept. to 13 Oct 2020) | Other interested Parties may submit, through a dedicated on-line portal, questions to the Parties that are the focus of FSV at SBI 52   |
| 13 Oct. to 14 Nov. 2020   | Parties going through FSV will have the opportunity to provide written answers via the <a href="#">FSV Portal</a> if they wish to do so |
| 24 to 27 Nov. 2020  | Parties will make a presentation on their BURs, followed by a question and answer session   |

### **III. Format, duration and other organizational matters**

4. The FSV will be conducted virtually during the UNFCCC Climate Change Dialogues 2020 for each of the 17 Parties undergoing FSV. Following the practice and procedures of the previous FSV workshops, the time allocated will be the same as in the in-person sessions, however for organizational purposes, extra time is considered to solve any possible technical challenge linked to the virtual setting. In this regard, questions submitted in advance of the FSV workshop could be used as an indication for planning purposes. Table 3 below shows duration and possible timing for each Party undergoing FSV.

5. For the oral presentation by Parties during the workshop, Parties can showcase their climate action, share success stories and innovative approaches and the experience and lessons learned while participating in the ICA process. The presentations by Parties will be pre-recorded, in order to avoid technical issues during the session, and will be shown in the live session. The secretariat will facilitate the recording of the presentations.

6. Based on the anticipated nature of the audience and potential questions, it is expected that a representative with competences in policy and technical background will speak on behalf of the Party. One or more representatives are welcome to intervene on behalf of the Party during the session.





**Table 3  
Schedule of the facilitative sharing of views workshop**

| Date                 | Order                    | Name of Party               | Time (Bonn) | Time (local for the Party under FSV) |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>FSV session 1</b> |                          |                             |             |                                      |
| 24 Nov. 2020         | Opening by the SBI Chair |                             | 8:00–11:30  | 17:00-20:30                          |
|                      | 1                        | Papua New Guinea            |             |                                      |
|                      | 2                        | China                       |             |                                      |
|                      | 3                        | Indonesia                   |             |                                      |
| <b>FSV session 2</b> |                          |                             |             |                                      |
| 25 Nov. 2020         | 4                        | Singapore                   | 09:00–12:00 | 16:00-19:00                          |
|                      | 5                        | Azerbaijan                  |             | 12:00-15:00                          |
|                      | 6                        | Georgia                     |             | 12:00-15:00                          |
|                      | 7                        | Moldova                     |             | 10:00-13:00                          |
| <b>FSV session 3</b> |                          |                             |             |                                      |
| 25 Nov. 2020         | 8                        | Brazil                      | 15:00–17:30 | 11:00-13:30                          |
|                      | 9                        | Paraguay                    |             | 11:00-13:30                          |
|                      | 10                       | Colombia                    |             | 9:00-11:30                           |
| <b>FSV session 4</b> |                          |                             |             |                                      |
| 26 Nov. 2020         | 11                       | Panama                      | 15:30–18:00 | 9:30-12:00                           |
|                      | 12                       | El Salvador                 |             | 8:30-11:00                           |
|                      | 13                       | Mexico                      |             | 8:30-11:00                           |
| <b>FSV session 5</b> |                          |                             |             |                                      |
| 27 Nov. 2020         | 14                       | Namibia                     | 10:00–13:00 | 11:00-14:00                          |
|                      | 15                       | South Africa                |             | 11:00-14:00                          |
|                      | 16                       | Montenegro                  |             | 10:00-13:00                          |
|                      | 17                       | Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) |             | 9:00-12:00                           |
|                      |                          | Closing session             |             |                                      |

7. The secretariat will liaise with the Parties undergoing FSV to confirm connectivity and ensure that all technical aspects of their participation are sorted out.
8. The FSV workshop will be chaired by the Chair of the SBI, or a designate from the Bureau of the SBI.
9. As per the established practice for in-person sessions, the FSV will be conducted in English and no interpretation to other languages will be provided.
10. The session will be open to all Parties, based on confirmed attendance (the secretariat will contact Parties on ways to confirm attendance). As per para 7 of Annex IV to decision 2/CP.17, the oral



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questions and answers will be among Parties only. The FSV will be broadcast live with the recording made available on the FSV webpage<sup>2</sup> after the session.

11. For further background information please refer to the notification letter to all Parties sent on 3 August 2020

**Questions about the FSV process can be addressed to the secretariat at [ica@unfccc.int](mailto:ica@unfccc.int).**

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<sup>2</sup> The broadcast link will be made available on the FSV webpage: <https://unfccc.int/FSV>.