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MESSAGE TO PARTIES

Multilateral assessment at SBI 51 in Santiago, Chile

I wish to draw the attention of all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the next Multilateral Assessment (MA) working group session, which will be convened during the fifty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 51) in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 13 December 2019. This MA session continues the third cycle of the international assessment and review (IAR) process and will be conducted for 10 developed country Parties (see table 1 in the annex to this notification for the complete listing).¹

The MA process is a part of the IAR process for developed country Parties that was established through decisions 1/CP.16 and 2/CP.17 and aims promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties; build confidence with regard to developed countries meeting their 2020 quantified economy-wide emission limitation and reduction targets; and enable Parties to discuss the review results of individual Parties. The IAR process comprises two steps:

- 1) A technical review of the national reports of each developed country Party;
- 2) The multilateral assessment of the progress towards achieving the 2020 economy-wide emission reduction targets by developed country Parties in a working group session under the SBI.

During the SBI MA session, developed Parties will be multilaterally assessed, with the participation of all Parties to the Convention. As you are aware, the MA process involves an important preparatory stage, including a question and answer period between Parties being multilaterally assessed and all other participating Parties. To ensure a successful MA process, engagement is needed from all Parties in the lead up to the SBI 51 MA session. Therefore, in order to prepare for the upcoming MA session the annex to this message contains a list of activities and inputs by Parties, called for in accordance with decision 2/CP.17 .

Distribution: To Parties and observer States through their national focal points for climate change and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany.

¹ Further information on the organization and the exact dates of this session will be posted on the MA webpage at <https://unfccc.int/ma>.



The annex also contains details of the MA working group session under the SBI 51 during the Conference of the Parties in Santiago, including information on the format and duration of the session, as well as other organizational matters. This follows the established practice and procedures from previous MA sessions, which were endorsed by Parties and the Chair of the SBI.

It is hoped that this information will assist Parties in their preparation for, and participation in, the MA at SBI 51. Questions or requests for clarification can be addressed to the secretariat MA-portal@unfccc.int.

The MA process is a key part of shaping the future enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. The IAR and its MA represents an important component of increasing ambition by building trust and confidence that countries are taking action to meet their 2020 targets. The secretariat is committed to supporting Parties as they implement their decisions to strengthen transparency under the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

(signed by Ovais Sarmad for)

Patricia Espinosa



Annex

Overview of the issues related to the preparation and conduct of multilateral assessment

I. Background for the multilateral assessment under the international assessment and review

1. The International assessment and review (IAR) process is a process under the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (SBI) that aims to promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties with regard to their quantified economy-wide emission limitation and reduction targets. Modalities and procedures of IAR are elaborated in annex II to decision 2/CP.17, document FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1, pages 36–38.

2. The third cycle of the IAR process (2018–2019) comprises:
- Submission by developed countries of their third biennial reports;
 - A technical review of the third biennial reports; and
 - A multilateral assessment (MA) of the progress made by developed country Parties towards their quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets.

The Multilateral Assessment is based on the Party's technical review report, the biennial report, the national GHG inventory, including the national inventory report and the national communication; and any supplementary information on the achievement of the Party's 2020 target. There are three stages to MA:

- A three month question and answer (Q&A) period before the MA SBI working group session (WGS);
 - An international assessment of the Parties under MA during the SBI WGS, through an oral presentation followed by an oral Q&A session; and
 - Completion of the Party record through a summary report after the SBI WGS.
3. The outputs of the MA process for each developed country Party forms the basis of a Party record prepared by the secretariat and are available on each developed country Party's MA webpage¹ including:
- Technical review reports;
 - The compilation of Q&As;
 - The summary report of the MA session;
 - Any observations by the Party under review that are submitted within two months of the MA WGS.
4. Based on the Party record, the SBI will forward conclusions to relevant bodies under the Convention as appropriate.

II. Parties under multilateral assessment

5. Following the technical reviews of the third biennial reports of developed Parties, the secretariat has published the review reports of the 10 developed country Parties listed in table 1 below at least three months before the WGS. The MA session for these Parties is scheduled to be conducted at SBI 51

¹ Developed country Party webpages can be found on the MA webpage at unfccc.int/ma



during the Conference of the Parties in Santiago, Chile from 2 to 13 December 2019. The exact dates of this WGS will be posted on the MA webpage (<https://unfccc.int/MA>) as the planning for the SBI session develops.

Table 1
List of Parties under multilateral assessment at SBI51

Name of Party
1. Austria
2. Belgium
3. Bulgaria
4. Cyprus*
5. Greece
6. Kazakhstan
7. Luxembourg
8. New Zealand
9. Portugal
10. Switzerland

**Please note that although Cyprus will participate in the multilateral assessment working group session in SB 51, it has already gone through the question and answer period before SB 50.*

III. The question and answer period before multilateral assessment session

6. To prepare for the MA session, background documents for all developed country Parties are available on the individual Party webpages¹. These background documents include:

- The technical review report of the biennial report and any other relevant review reports of the annual GHG inventory and national communications;
- The biennial report, the national GHG inventory, including the national inventory report, and the national communication report; and
- Supplementary information on the achievement of the Party's quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, including on the role of land use, land use change and forestry, and carbon credits from market-based mechanisms.

7. In accordance with decision 2/CP.17, there will be a three month Q&A period prior to the WGS of the SBI. 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 last two months are allocated for the Parties to provide answers.

8. To facilitate the Q&A period, Parties can use the the MA Portal to prepare Q&A. The MA Portal can be accessed by nominated users. To access the MA Portal, log-in credentials are required. The secretariat can provide log-in credentials for all relevant persons nominated by the National Focal Points to access the portal. If you require an update to the nominated users, please contact the secretariat at MA-portal@unfccc.int.

¹ Individual developed country Party webpages are found at: <https://unfccc.int/MA>.



9. The timeline for the Q&A period for the SBI 51 MA WGS is outlined in table 2 below. The working language for the question and answer period is English. Questions or requests for clarification and nominations can be addressed to the secretariat using the email address: MA-portal@unfccc.int.

Table 2
Timeline of the question and answer period

Timeline	Action	Note
30 Aug. to 30 Sept. 2019	<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">• All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target;• Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target;• Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target	<p>Questions can be submitted by nominated users via the MA Portal https://process.unfccc.int/sites/ma, and can be raised on the basis of the background documents accessible through the individual Party pages at https://unfccc.int/MA</p>
1 Oct. to 29 Nov. 2019	<p>The Parties being assessed will endeavour to answer the questions from all Parties that were submitted 30 September 2019. Parties are not obligated, but may wish to answer questions submitted after this date</p>	<p>Answers can be provided via the MA Portal https://process.unfccc.int/sites/ma</p>
by 1 Dec. 2019	<p>The secretariat will compile these Q&A by Party and upload them to the individual Party page</p>	<p>The compiled Q&A will be made available on the individual Party at https://unfccc.int/MA</p>

IV. **Format, duration and other organizational issues of the multilateral assessment working group session**

10. The MA WGS will be conducted for each of the 10 Parties under multilateral assessment. Following the practice and procedures of the previous MA WGS, flexibility is envisaged in terms of the time allocated to each Party. In this regard, questions submitted in advance of the MA WGS could be used as an indication for planning purposes. Table 3 below shows three scenarios for the format and duration of the MA WGS for each Party being multilaterally assessed.

11. 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.



12. 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 WGS with support provided by representatives with competencies in technical issues, as needed.

Table 3
Format and duration of the working group session

Scenario	Duration	Format
Average	One hour for each Party	10-15 minutes of oral presentation by the Party, followed by 50 minutes in-session questions and answers
Minimum	15 minutes for a single Party if it receives few questions or no questions in advance of the working group session	5 minutes of oral presentation by the Party, followed by 10 minutes in-session questions and answers
Maximum	Two hours for a single Party if it receives a large number of questions in advance of the working group session	20 minutes of oral presentation by the Party, followed by 100 minutes in-session questions and answers

13. It is planned that the representative of the Party being assessed will speak from their seat on the floor, to ensure proximity to the technical experts that might be needed for advice and to facilitate a swift transition to the next Party.

14. The WGS of MA will be conducted during SBI 51. 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.

15. The WGS will be chaired by the Chair of the SBI, or a designate from the Bureau of the SBI.

16. The WGS will be conducted in English and open to all observers and the media. The MA session will be broadcast live¹ with the recording made available on the the individual Party webpages after the session.

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