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MESSAGE TO PARTIES

Multilateral assessment and facilitative sharing of views in 2021

I wish to draw the attention of all Parties and observer States to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement to the arrangements of the next multilateral assessment (MA) working group session and facilitative sharing of views (FSV) workshop, which are mandated events organized under the SBI.

At its meeting on 15 April 2021, the COP Bureau agreed¹ to extend the first sessional period of 2021, which will now be held from 31 May to 17 June 2021. This decision will have an impact on the organization of the MA session and the FSV workshop.

Noting the decision of the COP Bureau and the scenario note prepared by the SBI Chair,² the next MA working group session and FSV workshop will be organized virtually during the June sessional period in accordance with the modalities of decision 2/CP.17 (Annex II and IV) and established practice for in-person events to the extent possible. Special care was taken when scheduling the meetings to accommodate the different time zones of the participating Parties.

Annexes I–II to this message contain operational details pertaining to the virtual MA working group session and the FSV workshop and a list of activities and inputs by Parties in accordance with decision 2/CP.17 (Annex II and IV), with the aim of helping Parties to prepare for these events. Information on how to access the virtual events will be provided in due course.

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.

¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/message_to_parties_and_observers-outcomes_of_the_15_april_bureau_meeting.pdf.

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2021_sbi_scenario_note.pdf.



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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 MA and the FSV. Questions or requests for clarification can be addressed to ma-portal@unfccc.int or ica@unfccc.int, respectively.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed by)

Donald Cooper
Director
Transparency division



Annex I

Operational details of the virtual multilateral assessment working group session

I. Parties under multilateral assessment

1. Following the completion of the technical review of the fourth biennial reports, the following 20 developed country Parties will undergo a multilateral assessment (MA): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Spain.

II. Format, duration and other organizational issues

2. The MA working group session will be conducted individually for each of the 20 Parties under MA in a virtual setting. In line with the procedures applied to the previous MA session, conducted during the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020, a flexible approach will be taken in terms of the time allocated to each Party. In this regard, the number of questions submitted in advance of the MA session to a particular Party could serve as an indication of the time needed for the MA. The table below shows the expected timings of the sessions for each Party being multilaterally assessed.

3. For the oral presentation by Parties during the working group session, 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 Parties are asked to pre-record their presentations in order to avoid technical issues, and these recordings will be shown during the live session. The secretariat will assist Parties in recording their presentations if requested.

4. 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 session with support provided by representatives with competencies in technical issues, as needed.

5. The secretariat will liaise with the Party under MA to ensure that there are no connectivity or technical issues that could hinder the session.

6. Parties will have the chance to briefly summarize their main conclusions and positions relating to the MA process at the end of the working group session. Please inform the secretariat beforehand if your Party would like to give a brief statement.

7. The session will be chaired by the SBI Chair or a designate from the SBI Bureau.



Schedule for the multilateral assessment working group session

Date	Order	Name of the Party	Number of written questions received	Time (Bonn)	Time (local for the Party under MA)
Part I of the MA session Wednesday, 2 June		Opening of the MA session		15:00–17:00 (2 hours)	
	1	Austria	12		15:00–17:00
	2	Belgium	8		15:00–17:00
	3	Bulgaria	8		16:00–18:00
	4	Czechia	9		15:00–17:00
		<i>Followed by part I of the facilitative sharing of views</i>			
Part II of the MA session Friday, 4 June	5	Denmark	14	15:00–18:30 (3.5 hours)	15:00–18:30
	6	France	15		15:00–18:30
	7	Hungary	8		15:00–18:30
	8	Ireland	10		14:00–17:30
	9	Malta	6		15:00–18:30
	10	Slovakia	7		15:00–18:30
	11	Spain	11		15:00–18:30
Part III of the MA session Saturday, 12 June		<i>Preceded by part III of the facilitative sharing of views</i>		01:35–02:35 (1 hour)	
	12	Canada	26		19:35–20:35 (11 June)
	13	New Zealand	20		11:35–12:35
Part IV of the MA session Tuesday, 15 June	14	Japan	23	05:00–08:30 (3.5 hours)	12:00–15:00
	15	Cyprus	6		06:00–09:30
	16	Estonia	4		06:00–09:30
	17	Greece	8		06:00–09:30
	18	Latvia	4		06:00–09:30
	19	Lithuania	7		06:00–09:30
	20	Russian Federation	15		06:00–09:30
			Closing of the MA session		

8. The working group session will be conducted in English and be 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 live¹ and the recording will be made available on the respective Party’s MA web page after the session.

9. For further background information please refer to the notification letter sent to all Parties on 5 March 2021.²

Questions about the MA process may be addressed to the secretariat at ma-portal@unfccc.int.

¹ The link to the broadcast will be made available at <https://unfccc.int/MA>.

² [Notification of 5 March 2021](#).



Annex II

Operational details of the virtual workshop for the 10th facilitative sharing of views

I. Parties under facilitative sharing of views

1. Parties that have submitted a biennial update report and have a final summary report will be the focus of the 10th facilitative sharing of views (FSV) workshop. These Parties are Afghanistan, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Benin, Botswana, Costa Rica, Kuwait, Lebanon, Maldives, Oman, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan and Uganda.

II. Format, duration and other organizational matters

2. The FSV will be conducted virtually from 2 to 14 June for each of the 15 Parties undergoing FSV. In line with the procedures applied to previous FSV workshops, including the workshop held during the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020, the time allocated per Party will be 30 minutes for both the presentation and the question and answer session. The table below shows the timings for each Party undergoing FSV and the total time allocated per session.

3. 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 Parties are asked to pre-record their presentations in order to avoid technical issues, and these recordings will be shown during the live session. The secretariat will assist Parties in recording their presentations if requested.

4. 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.

5. The secretariat will liaise with the Parties undergoing FSV to confirm connectivity and ensure that there are no connectivity or technical issues that could hinder the session.

6. The FSV workshop will be chaired by the SBI Chair or a designate from the SBI Bureau.

7. 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.



Schedule for the facilitative sharing of views workshop

Date	Order	Name of the Party	Time (Bonn)	Time (local for the Party under FSV)
Part I of the FSV session Wednesday, 2 June		<i>Preceded by part I of the multilateral assessment</i>	17:05–18:35 (1.5 hours)	
		Opening of the FSV session		17:05–18:35
	1	Botswana		17:05–18:35
	2	Andorra		16:05–17:35
Part II of the FSV session Friday, 11 June	3	Benin	23:00–01:30 (2.5 hours)	
	4	Argentina		18:00–20:30
	5	Antigua and Barbuda		17:00–19:30
	6	Peru		16:00–18:30
	7	Costa Rica		15:00–17:30
	8	Republic of Korea		06:00–08:30 (+1)
		<i>Followed by part III of the multilateral assessment</i>		
Part III of the FSV session Monday, 14 June	9	Maldives	05:00–08:30 (3.5 hours)	08:00–11:30
	10	Tajikistan		08:00–11:30
	11	Afghanistan		07:30–11:00
	12	Oman		07:00–10:30
	13	Uganda		06:00–09:30
	14	Lebanon		06:00–09:30
	15	Kuwait		06:00–09:30
				Closing of the FSV session

8. The session will be open to all Parties, based on confirmed attendance (the secretariat will contact Parties on ways to confirm attendance). As per paragraph 7 of annex IV to decision 2/CP.17, the oral questions and answers will be among Parties only. The FSV workshop will be broadcast live³ and the recording will be made available on the FSV web page after the session.

9. For further background information please refer to the notification letter sent to all Parties on 5 March 2021.⁴

Questions about the FSV process may be addressed to the secretariat at ica@unfccc.int.

³ The link to the broadcast will be made available at <https://unfccc.int/FSV>.

⁴ [Notification of 5 March 2021](#).