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NOTIFICATION

Multilateral assessment and facilitative sharing of views in 2021

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

MA and FSV are integral parts of the international assessment and review (IAR) and international consultation and analysis (ICA) processes established by decisions 1/CP.16 and 2/CP.17, respectively. These processes are key to laying a solid foundation for operationalizing the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement and are important for building trust and confidence that countries are progressing towards implementing more ambitious climate action.

The most recent MA working group session and FSV workshop were held virtually for 20 and 12 Parties, respectively, during the 2021 session of the SBI (May–June), in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines set out in decision 2/CP.17 and established practice.

The next MA working group session will finalize the fourth cycle of the IAR process and will cover 10 Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties). The next FSV workshop will cover up to nine Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties).¹

The MA and FSV processes start with a period of written questions and answers between the Parties subject to MA and FSV and all other Parties. Please note that the upcoming question and answer period will run **from August to November 2021** in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines set out in decision 2/CP.17 and established practice.

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 next MA working group session and FSV workshop will be made available at <https://unfccc.int/ma> and <https://unfccc.int/fsv>, respectively.



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Please see annexes I–II for information on the preparations for the upcoming MA working group session and FSV workshop. The secretariat hopes that this information will assist Parties in preparing for and participating in the processes. Questions and requests for clarification on MA and FSV may be sent to ma-portal@unfccc.int and ica@unfccc.int, respectively.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed by)

Donald Cooper
Director of the Transparency division



Annex I

Overview of the preparation and conduct of multilateral assessment under international assessment and review

I. Background

1. The aim of the IAR process under the SBI is to promote comparability of Annex I Parties' efforts with regard to their quantified economy-wide emission limitation and reduction targets for 2020. The modalities and procedures for IAR are contained in annex II to decision 2/CP.17.
2. The fourth cycle of the IAR process (2020–2021) comprises:
 - a. The submission of fourth biennial reports (BRs) by Annex I Parties;
 - b. The technical review of the BR4s;
 - c. The MA of Annex I Parties' progress towards their 2020 targets.
3. For each Party, MA takes into account its BR and the respective technical review report, the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and any supplementary information on the Party's achievement of its 2020 target. There are three stages in the MA process:
 - a. A three-month written question and answer period before the working group session;
 - b. An oral presentation followed by oral questions and answers at the working group session;
 - c. Completion of the Party record including the preparation of the MA summary report for the Party after the working group session.
4. The outputs of the MA process for each Annex I Party form the basis of the Party record prepared by the secretariat. Each Party's record is available on its MA web page². For each IAR cycle, the MA page includes:
 - a. The Party's technical review report;
 - b. A compilation of questions and answers;
 - c. The summary report on the MA of the Party during the working group session;
 - d. Any observations submitted by the Party within two months of the MA working group session.
5. On the basis of the Party record, the SBI forwards the conclusions of the MA to relevant bodies under the Convention, as appropriate.

II. Parties being multilaterally assessed

6. A total of 10 Annex I Parties for which technical review reports on their BR4s have been completed will be multilaterally assessed at the upcoming session: **Croatia, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.**

² Accessible via <https://unfccc.int/ma>.



III. Question and answer period

7. In preparation for the upcoming MA working group session, background documents for the Parties will be made available on their individual MA web pages, including:

- a. The technical review report on the Party's BR4 and any other relevant review reports on the Party's annual GHG inventory;
- b. The Party's BR4 and latest national GHG inventory, including the latest national inventory review report;
- c. Supplementary information on the Party's achievement of its 2020 target, including on the role of land use, land-use change and forestry and on the use of units from market-based mechanisms.

8. In accordance with the IAR modalities and procedures, there will be a three-month written question and answer period prior to the MA working group session; in the first month any Party may submit questions to the Parties that will be multilaterally assessed at the upcoming session, and those Parties should provide their answers within the following two months.

9. To facilitate the exchange of questions and answers, Parties are invited to use the MA portal,³ which can be accessed by nominated users using login credentials. The secretariat can provide login credentials to representatives nominated by the Parties' national focal points.

10. The timeline for the question and answer period for the next MA working group session is outlined in the table below. The working language for the questions and answers is English.

Timeline for the multilateral assessment question and answer period

Dates	Action	Note
From 2 to 31 August 2021	Any Party may submit written questions to the Parties being multilaterally assessed. Questions should address one of the following elements: ⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emissions and removals related to the Party's quantified economy-wide emission reduction target;• Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of the Party's quantified economy-wide emission reduction target;• Progress towards the achievement of the Party's quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.	Questions may be submitted by nominated users via the MA portal and can be raised on the basis of the background documents provided on each Party's individual MA web page.
From 1 September to 29 October 2021	Parties being assessed should answer all questions submitted by 31 August 2021. Parties may answer questions submitted after that date if they wish but are not obligated to do so.	Responses will be available via the MA portal.
By 2 November 2021	The secretariat will compile the questions and answers for each Party.	The compiled questions and answers will be made available on the individual Party web pages.

³ <https://process.unfccc.int/sites/ma>.

⁴ As per decision 2/CP.17, annex II, para. 5.



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IV. Format, duration and related organizational issues

11. Further information on format, duration and related organizational matters will be shared once the dates of the MA working group session have been confirmed by the COP Bureau.

12. Questions, requests for clarification and nominations of representatives to use the MA portal may be sent to ma-portal@unfccc.int.



Annex II

Overview of the preparation and conduct of facilitative sharing of views under international consultation and analysis

I. Background

1. The aim of the ICA process under the SBI is to increase the transparency of mitigation actions and their effects through the technical analysis of non-Annex I Parties' biennial update reports (BURs) by teams of technical experts in consultation with the Parties concerned, followed by FSV. The modalities and guidelines for ICA are contained in paragraphs 56–62 of and annex IV to decision 2/CP.17.
2. The main outcome of the technical analysis of BURs is the summary reports thereon.
3. The FSV workshop, to which the BURs and summary reports serve as input, consists of a session lasting between one and three hours for each Party or group of Parties. The session comprises a brief presentation by the Party or Parties concerned on the submitted BUR(s), followed by oral questions and answers. Other interested Parties may submit written questions in advance of the workshop.
4. The outputs of the ICA process for each Party include:
 - a. A final summary report on the technical analysis of the Party's BUR;
 - b. An FSV record summarizing the proceedings of the FSV session for the Party.

II. Parties subject to facilitative sharing of views

5. The non-Annex I Parties that have submitted a BUR for which a final technical analysis summary report will have been published by 15 August 2021 will be subject to FSV at the next workshop. The Parties will be confirmed in late August 2021.

III. Written questions submitted in advance

6. Parties may submit written questions in advance of the FSV workshop⁵ via the FSV portal.⁶ The secretariat will contact all Parties (via nominated users of the FSV portal) to inform them of the steps involved. The working language for the questions and answers is English and the questions raised should be within the scope of the ICA process.
7. The timeline for the next FSV workshop is outlined in the table below.

⁵ In accordance with decision 2/CP.17, annex IV, para. 6.

⁶ <https://process.unfccc.int/sites/fsv/Pages/Home.aspx>.



Timeline for the next workshop for facilitative sharing of views

Dates	Action	Note
From 1 to 30 September 2021	Interested Parties have one month to submit in advance of the workshop written questions to the Parties that will be subject to FSV.	Questions may be submitted by nominated users via the dedicated FSV portal.
1 November 2021	The secretariat will publish the written questions and answers on the UNFCCC website.	
To be confirmed	The workshop will include a presentation by each Party on its BUR, followed by a question and answer period.	

IV. Format, duration and related organizational matters

8. Further information on format, duration and related organizational matters will be shared once the dates of the FSV workshop have been confirmed by the COP Bureau.
 9. Questions and requests for clarification on FSV may be sent to ica@unfccc.int. Questions about the FSV portal may be sent to fsvportal@unfccc.int.
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