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English only

Record of the facilitative sharing of views during the forty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Lebanon

Note by the secretariat

I. Background and mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) decided by decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 63, to conduct under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) international consultation and analysis (ICA) of biennial update reports (BURs) from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive and respectful of national sovereignty. This process aims to increase transparency of the mitigation actions and their effects reported by non-Annex I Parties.
2. The COP, by decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 56, adopted the ICA modalities and guidelines contained in annex IV to the same decision. According to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the ICA process consists of two steps: a technical analysis of the BURs of non-Annex I Parties by teams of technical experts, resulting in a summary report for each Party; and a facilitative sharing of views, with the BURs and summary reports serving as input.¹
3. Pursuant to the ICA modalities and guidelines, the SBI convened on 3 and 7 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland, at SBI 49, the sixth workshop for the facilitative exchange of views, open to all Parties, for the 10 non-Annex I Parties, including Lebanon, for which there was a BUR and a final summary report by 30 September 2018.² Interested Parties were able to submit written questions in advance. As a result, Lebanon received six written questions in advance from the following Parties: the European Union and the United States of America.
4. The workshop, chaired by the SBI Chair and the SBI Vice-Chair, Mr. Emmanuel Dlamini (Eswatini) and Mr. Naser Moghaddasi (Islamic Republic of Iran), comprised two three-hour sessions and covered the 10 Parties.
5. This record of the facilitative sharing of views for Lebanon summarizes the proceedings and together with the summary report on the technical analysis of its BUR³ constitutes the outcome of the second round of ICA for Lebanon.

II. Summary of proceedings

6. On 7 December, Lebanon made a brief presentation on its second BUR. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, annex IV, paragraph 3.

² The BURs and the summary reports are available at <https://unfccc.int/BURs> and <https://unfccc.int/ICA-cycle2>, respectively.

³ FCCC/SBI/ICA/2018/TASR.2/LBN.

7. In its presentation, Lebanon provided an overview of its national circumstances and institutional arrangements; national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases (GHGs) not controlled by the Montreal Protocol; mitigation actions and effects; information on finance, technology and capacity-building needs; and support received. The Party also provided an overview of its national arrangements for domestic measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), experience and lessons learned from participating in the ICA process.

8. Lebanon provided information on its total GHG emissions from 1994 to 2013. In 2013, its total GHG emissions, including land use, land-use change and forestry, amounted to 26,285 Gg of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ eq). Emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry amounted to 3,518.80 Gg CO₂ eq, resulting in net total GHG emissions of 22,766 Gg CO₂ eq. The energy sector (including transport) was the largest contributor to GHG emissions and contributed 79 per cent of the total GHG emissions. The information provided also indicates that the most significant change in emissions was observed in the transport sector, amounting to 6.1 Mt CO₂ eq in 2013 due to increased registration of vehicles, from 500,000 in 1994 to 1,640,000 in 2013. GHG emissions have doubled since 1994 and follow the trend in the energy sector, which constituted 53 to 59 per cent of emissions during this period. The main driver for this trend is the increased demand for electricity due to changing national circumstances and expansion of the national grid. The Party also highlighted a reduction in GHG emissions for 2007 and 2010 and an increase in 2009, mainly due to the impact of the July 2006 war with damage to roads and electricity infrastructure and rehabilitation of damaged areas, respectively. A significant increase in emissions was also noted in the waste sector, and population increase was identified as the main driver.

9. Lebanon also provided an overview of its mitigation actions and their effects, mainly for the energy, transportation and forestry sectors. The information provided on the progress of implementation and the results achieved for these actions include estimated emission reductions for 2013 for the electricity and forestry sectors, resulting in GHG emission reductions of 513,063 t [CO₂ eq] and 18,996 t CO₂ eq, respectively. The GHG emission reduction within the electricity sector was achieved mainly through energy efficiency, the expansion of solar water heaters and the replacement of incandescent lamps. The Party noted that all mitigation initiatives implemented since 2013 are expected to yield an estimated annual reduction of 1,313 kt CO₂ eq. For the transport sector, the Party provided information on a master plan to revitalize public transport on land and to shift to mass transit systems.

10. Lebanon provided information on the challenges encountered with tracking and estimating the emissions achieved from the mitigation actions in all sectors and indicated that the Party submitted a project proposal to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, aimed at improving its MRV system. Obstacles and barriers were also identified in areas related to the BUR and sustaining the national team, such as preparing GHG inventories and reporting on mitigation actions, needs and support received. The Party indicated that the information on financial support received was prepared using a single data source identified as the Ministry of Environment, and it experienced challenges in tracking similar information from other ministries and non-state actors. Information was also provided on capacity-building received, such as training on the use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and software, developing nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the forestry sector and tracking climate change finance. Capacity-building needs were identified for areas related to GHG inventories and mitigation actions, such as establishing and operating a database to systematically collect GHG inventory data and developing progress indicators to calculate and quantify emission reductions. Information was also provided on its transparency framework, institutional arrangements and MRV system.

11. Over the course of the presentation, Lebanon addressed written questions submitted in advance, through the secretariat, by interested Parties.

12. Following the presentation, the following Parties made interventions commending Lebanon for its effort and asked questions seeking further clarification: Australia, China, the European Union, Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United States. The questions and answers were mainly focused on the challenges encountered in preparing the BUR and GHG inventory, improvements to the national inventory system to facilitate data collection, effectiveness of engaging the private sector in the GHG process and experiences with the quality assurance process for the GHG inventory, tracking progress of mitigation actions, progress made in preparing the second BUR and best practices that can be replicated by other countries, institutional arrangements related to the different areas covered in the BUR, managing the BUR preparation with inadequate financial and technical resources, enhancing templates to facilitate the collection of financial support, approaches to ensure sustainability to meet reporting obligations and the prioritized capacity-building needs for submission to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency.

13. The full details of the presentation and subsequent interventions are available in the webcast of this workshop.⁴

14. In closing the workshop, the SBI Vice-Chair congratulated Lebanon for successfully undergoing the facilitative sharing of views and completing the second round of its ICA process. He thanked Lebanon and all other participating Parties for engaging in the workshop in a truly facilitative manner. He also thanked the secretariat for its support.

⁴ <https://unfccc-cop24.streamworld.de/webcast/6th-workshop-of-the-facilitative-sharing-of-view-3>.