

Session SBI46 (2016)

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Multilateral assessment

Questions and answers Belarus

Question by European Union at Tuesday, 28 February 2017

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 28 February

Title: Impact of mitigation actions

Belarus committed to reduce GHG emissions by 8% until 2020 compared to 1990 . According to the information reported in BR2, the emissions dropped by 35.8% between 1990-2013 and projections show that the country is on track to meet this target.

- Could Belarus provide additional information on how its mitigation actions to-date have had an impact on emissions reductions?
- In its INDC, Belarus commits to reduce GHG emissions by 28% by 2030 against the 1990 base year level. Which are the priority actions currently undertaken in order to reach this target for 2030? Please could Belarus provide additional information on how believes its future implementation of actions will ensure it achieves its targets?

Answer by Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

At present and until the end of 2020 in the Republic of Belarus there are a number of legislative and other normative legal acts that contain policies and measures with target indicators of reducing the energy intensity and carbon intensity of the national economy.

The main program documents are as follows:

- The National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2030, approved by the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus in February 2015. The NSSD gives due attention to the principles of development based on a low-carbon economy, and the targets for 2030 are a decrease in the energy intensity of the gross domestic product (GDP) by at least 35 percent compared to 2015, an increase in the share of environmental expenditures to 2-3 percent of GDP.
- The State Program "Energy Saving" for 2016-2020 approved by the Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 248 of March 28, 2016.
- The concept of energy security of the Republic of Belarus approved by Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 1084 of December 23, 2015.

The State Program "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources" for 2016-2020, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No. 205 of March 17, 2016, is one of the recent policy documents.

Within the framework of this program a number of works aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as measures to adapt to climate change, are planned.

The main developments of 2016 are as follows:

1. The Draft of Low-carbon Development Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2030.
2. Assessment of the potential for accounting for greenhouse gas emissions and sinks in the "Land use, land use change and forestry" sector - 2016-2017.

The priority actions of the Republic of Belarus in the framework of its commitments in the INDC to reduce GHG emissions at 28% by 2030, are as follows:

- to strengthen the policy in the field of renewable energy (at present the share of RES is 5,47% in the structure of the fuel and energy balance of the Republic of Belarus);
- introduction of low-carbon and carbon-free technologies, excluding the use of high-carbon fuels such as fuel oil, peat, coal;
- construction of biogas plants in all major complex for growing cattle, pig farms, poultry-factories;
- implementation of integrated systems biogas energy, solar, wind for the agro-towns;
- introduction of a carbon tax and the formation of a national carbon market;
- an increased use of electric transport and decommissioning of gasoline and diesel vehicles of low environmental class.

These measures are already being implemented and will allow the country to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the nearest future and fulfill its obligations.

Belarus will do the best and provide an additional information on how our mitigation actions after BR 2 made an impact on emissions reductions in the BR3.

[Question by](#) China at Tuesday, 28 February 2017

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) nuclear power plant

In BR2, Belarus introduced a plan on installing nuclear power plant in 2018 to reduce carbon intensity. Could Belarus provide more information on the estimate mitigation effects of the nuclear power plant?

[Answer by](#) Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

According to forecasts and estimates of Belarusian experts, the reduction of GHG emissions due to the introduction of the nuclear power plant and subsequent replacement of fossil fuel

consumption (natural gas) will be as follows, in mln. tons CO₂ eqv.: 2020 – 4,6; 2025 – 11,7; 2030 – 11,7.

The plans for stimulation of the more wide usage of electric vehicles are under development. Detailed analysis will be made in the BR3.

[Question by](#) China at Tuesday, 28 February 2017

[Category:](#) Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) ambition of reduction target

According to the TRR, Belarus is on track to overachieve its 2020 target. Does Belarus have any plan on increase the reduction target with more ambition?

[Answer by](#) Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

At present the Republic of Belarus doesn't have more ambitious plans of the GHG reduction. First of all, we have to

fulfill our commitments which were taken.

[Question by](#) Brazil at Monday, 27 February 2017

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) table 6(a): BR1 and BR2

In BR1, in table 6(a) "Information on updated greenhouse gas projections under a 'with measures' scenario", the GHG emissions were projected for 2020. Why those estimates were not informed in BR2?

[Answer by](#) Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

In preparing the BR 2, it included last updated GHG emission projections which were made for the preparation of INDC. Its projections up to 2030 included an updated data from strategic documents and were prepared for total GHG emissions in CO2 equivalent without disaggregation by gas due to time limits with preparation of INDC. It is expected that BR3 report and 7NC will include projections on by gas basis.

[Question by](#) Brazil at Monday, 27 February 2017

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) CTF Table 3: current estimates

Regarding “CTF Table 3 Progress in achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target: information on mitigation actions and their effects”, are there any current estimates of mitigation impacts since the respective years of implementation?

[Answer by](#) Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

Mitigation impact assessments for the period after BR 2 submission will be made during this year and included in BR 3.

[Question by](#) Brazil at Monday, 27 February 2017

[Category:](#) Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) CTF Table 3: Lessons learned and barriers

Regarding “CTF Table 3 Progress in achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target: information on mitigation actions and their effects”, only one mitigation impact was quantified for 2020. Please, inform the reasons for not doing so for other mitigation actions. What are the difficulties?

[Answer by](#) Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

The main reason is that there are a few programs that include qualitative parameters and targets which allow to assess of GHG mitigation impacts directly. In the CTF table provides data on effect from mitigation actions based on available information.

[Question by](#) Brazil at Monday, 27 February 2017

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) Translation

Could Belarus please explain the reasons for presenting its BR in Russian, and why there is only an informal translation to English in the UNFCCC website?

[Answer by](#) Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

As Russian language is one of the UN official languages, we may submit our national reports in Russian.

Informal translation means that BR2 was translated into English by the Belarusian specialists, the translation is correct, but does not have a special seal Apostille, which is to be stamped by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Belarus.

[Question by](#) France at Monday, 27 February 2017

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) Provision of financial and technical assistance and support to developing countries in cap

The Republic of Belarus has been providing support to the developing countries in the spheres of education, capacity building, research and development related to the climate change problems.

Would you please describe one or two examples of support provided ?

[Answer by](#) Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

About 2000 foreign students are studying the disciplines related to environmental protection and climate issues at Belarusian universities. Among them, citizens from 26 countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Vietnam, Egypt, Israel, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, China, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Morocco, Moldova, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Syria, Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Turkmenistan, Russia).

Foreign students who have continued their studies in Belarus in magistracy and postgraduate studies, upon their return, become specialists who determine their countries' state policy in the field of environmental and climate protection.

Question by France at Monday, 27 February 2017

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 28 February

Title: Assessment of the Reduction and Absorption of Emissions, Use of Units through Market Mecha

In Belarus, forests cover about 40% of its territory. The Republic of Belarus intends to ecologically rehabilitate not less than 10 thousands hectares

Efforts will be directed for promotion of the sustainable use of specially protected natural areas covering not less than 8,6% of the country's territory.

Would you please give more details about the sustainable use of specially protected natural areas?

Answer by Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

Sustainable use of specially protected natural areas (SPNA) includes the next measures:

- full restriction of economic activities at the territory of the reserves and national parks
- in the protected areas of local importance, the possibility of using them for amateur fishing, gathering berries and mushrooms, recreation is permitted only for people of the country, and not for legal entities
- the development of ecological tourism in SPNAs
- the strengthen of ecological culture among the population and cultivation of a careful attitude to the natural resources

- the expansion of existing reserves and national parks.

Question by Thailand at Monday, 20 February 2017

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 28 February

Title: Supports to NAI

In Section 5: Provision of Financial Assistance, Belarus mentioned that “The Republic of Belarus, however, has been providing and will provide support to the developing countries mainly in the spheres of education, capacity building, research and development related to the climate change problems”, which countries received this support, when?, and supports are in what forms?

Answer by Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

About 2000 foreign students are studying the disciplines related to environmental protection and climate issues at Belarusian universities. Among them, citizens from 26 countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Vietnam, Egypt, Israel, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, China, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Morocco, Moldova, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Syria, Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Turkmenistan, Russia).

Foreign students who have continued their studies in Belarus in magistracy and postgraduate studies, upon their return, become specialists who determine their countries' state policy in the field of climate protection.

Question by Thailand at Monday, 20 February 2017

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 28 February

Title: WOM and WAM

In Section 4.1. Description of Scenarios, in Figure 12 GHG emissions after 2020 in the cases of with and without measures will have the same increasing rate. That means “with measures” will not be effective after 2020, and will meet the same emission level of “without measures” in 2030. Why?

Answer by Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

The figure 12 doesn't mean that with measure and additional measure scenario will not have affect after 2020. May be it is some misunderstanding due to English translation. Projections were not included BAU scenario (i.e. without measure scenario) and provide estimates for GHG emissions for with measure and for additional measure scenario. These projections were prepared for INDC purposes and doesn't account for BAU scenario. INDC's projections were last updated projections available at the time of preparation of BR2 and therefore were included in it.

This figure describes the GHG emission in transport sector. Assessment of the additional potential of energy saving in the transport sector in the Program for Energy Saving for 2011-2015 was not available as well as energy saving in the transport sector was not considered in other regulatory legal documents of the Republic of Belarus. Therefore, the expert assessments served as a basis for assessing the effect of supplementary measures in the transport sector. These assessments didn't considered any changes in existing policy as there weren't any signals from the Government of such transformations but rather some addition measures in frame of existing policy.

[Question by Thailand](#) at Monday, 20 February 2017

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) Mitigation Actions and Their Effects

In Section 3: PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING DETERMINED QUANTIFIED TARGETS OF EMISSION REDUCTION ECONOMY-WIDE AND RELEVANT INFORMATION, it is not clear on "Mitigation Actions and Their Effects"

[Answer by Belarus](#), Friday, 28 April 2017

Section 3 contains main National programs and measures aimed at GHG emission reductions. Mitigation actions in different sectors of the national economy have a serious effect in achieving determined quantified targets of emission reduction economy-wide. Exact data on mitigation actions and their effects are in the CTF 3. However, there are a few programs that include qualitative parameters and targets which allow to asses of GHG mitigation impacts directly. In the CTF table provides data on effect from mitigation actions based on available information.

Unfortunately, there are a few programs in which their impact on reducing GHG emissions has been calculated.

[Question by Thailand](#) at Monday, 20 February 2017

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) INDC

In Section 2: DETERMINED QUANTIFIED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION TARGETS ECONOMY-WIDE, Belarus used GWP from IPCC SAR. Why?

[Answer by Belarus](#), Friday, 28 April 2017

GHG emissions and absorption were calculated according to the GL of 1996 and GWP was taken from 2 AR.

In GHG inventories submissions 2016, 2017 emissions were recalculated using the new IPCC reporting GL 2006 and GWP from 4 AR.

[Question by Thailand](#) at Monday, 20 February 2017

[Category:](#) Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) consistency of data

In Section 1.1, "1995 is the base year for HFC, PFC and SF6". In terms of consistency, how do emissions of these gases compared to other gases which are based on 1990 base year?

[Answer by Belarus](#), Friday, 28 April 2017

Indeed, for HFCs, PFCs and SF6, the base year is 1995. Due to their insignificant use, these substances do not affect the total GHG emissions, their share is about 0,003%. So, it is no necessity to compare them with other GHGs.

[Question by Thailand](#) at Monday, 20 February 2017

[Category:](#) All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) Key category

What are the results of key category analysis of emissions in the GHG inventory?

[Answer by Belarus](#), Friday, 28 April 2017

In general, greenhouse gas emissions in the Republic of Belarus are determined by such sectors as "Energy", "Transport", "Agriculture" and "Waste".

The bulk of greenhouse gas emissions is associated with fuel combustion. All greenhouse gas emissions from fuel combustion are included into the energy sector.

The main key sources in recent years, as in 1990, are associated with fuel combustion, such as: Electricity and heat production, Production and construction, Transport, Residential sector.

In Waste sector: non-managed solid waste disposal sites.

In Agriculture: Enteric fermentation, Cattle, Milk cattle; Cleaning, storage and use of manure; Direct emissions of N₂O from cultivated soil / use of mineral fertilizers, etc.

[Question by Thailand](#) at Monday, 20 February 2017

[Category:](#) Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 28 February

[Title:](#) IPCC guideline

Did Belarus apply the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands (Wetlands Guidelines)?

[Answer by Belarus](#), Friday, 28 April 2017

No, Belarus didn't use the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National

Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands Guidelines. We will use it in the 2018 submission.

Question by Thailand at Monday, 20 February 2017

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 28 February

Title: IPCC guideline

In the beginning of BR2, it is not clear that which IPCC GL is used for estimation of GHG inventory, and which global warming potential values (GWP) are used in GHG inventory.

Answer by Belarus, Friday, 28 April 2017

1996 GL and GWP from AR 2 were used.

Taking into account the decision 24/CP.19 information on greenhouse gas emissions is based on the following methodological guidelines:

- Revised Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, IPCC, 1996 (1997a, 1997b, 1997c);
- Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, IPCC, 2000. (Edition of 2003);
- 100-year global warming potentials of the 2nd IPCC Assessment Report.

In GHG inventories submissions 2016, 2017 emissions were recalculated using the new IPCC reporting GL 2006 and GWP from 4 AR.

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