



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Germany at the forty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, by decision 1/CP.16, decided that developed country Parties should enhance the reporting in their national communications and submit biennial reports on their progress in achieving emission reductions. It also established a new process under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – the international assessment and review (IAR) of emissions and removals related to developed country Parties' quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets – that aims to promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties. The first round of the IAR process is to be conducted during the period 2014–2015.

2. According to the modalities and procedures for IAR specified in annex II to decision 2/CP.17, the multilateral assessment (MA), being part of the IAR process, is to be conducted for each developed country Party at a working group session of the SBI, with the participation of all Parties. The aim of the MA is to assess each Party's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.

3. The first MA of Germany took place at a working group session during SBI 42, on 4 June 2015. Such a working group session is preceded by a three-month period of questions and answers; in the first month, any Party may submit written questions to the Party being assessed, which may respond to the questions within the remaining two months. Questions for Germany had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Brazil, China, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Germany can be found on the IAR web page for Germany.¹

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Germany was represented by Mr. Martin Weiß from the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8820.php>>.

5. Mr. Weiß made an opening presentation, summarizing Germany's progress in the implementation of its emission reduction and removal commitments related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. He explained that Germany, as a member State of the European Union (EU), has a target under the EU effort-sharing decision to reduce its emissions in the sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System by 14 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level. In addition, Germany has a national target of reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40 per cent by 2020 compared with the 1990 level. He also described the targets for Germany's energy transition plan for the period up to 2050, which aims to reduce GHG emissions, increase the share of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency. GHG emissions are estimated to be 27 per cent lower in 2014 compared with 1990, a reduction that was achieved despite the economic growth of 39 per cent in the same period. All sectors contributed to these emission reductions, with highest absolute reductions in the energy sector and highest relative reductions in the waste sector as a result of the banning of landfilled waste.

6. The main policies and measures (PaMs) that contributed to the reduction are the Renewable Energy Act, energy taxes, transport efficiency measures, building efficiency measures and corresponding support programmes and all EU-wide mitigation PaMs. In addition to emission reductions, the successful implementation of these PaMs led to a significant creation of jobs in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. According to the latest projections, Germany can achieve an emission reduction of 33–34 per cent by 2020 with existing PaMs. To close the gap to its national target of a 40 per cent reduction, the Federal Cabinet adopted the Climate Action Programme 2020 in December 2014. The programme is also considered an important milestone towards reaching its 2050 target of an emission reduction of 80–95 per cent, as it outlines the process for the elaboration of the Climate Policy Plan 2050, to be developed by 2016. The development of the Climate Policy Plan will be underpinned by a broad dialogue and participation process during 2015–2016 and will focus on long-term climate targets.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, China, Fiji, Japan, Maldives, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and United States. The questions were on: clarification regarding Germany's national target and the target under the EU effort-sharing decision, including their comparability and the potential effects of a more ambitious national target on other EU member States; progress made in the optimization of the introduction of renewable energy sources, including feed-in tariffs and the types of incentives for private households for installing solar energy generation devices; the PaMs to incentivize and protect investments for energy transformation; specifics of the PaMs affecting the waste sector; PaMs affecting shipping emissions; the status of implementation of PaMs in the Climate Action Programme; drivers of emission trends in recent years; the projected share of renewables and other energy sources in the energy mix by 2020 and the Party's experiences in comparing the national GHG emission inventory with external data. Questions were also raised in relation to Germany's assessment of the social and economic consequences of response measures. In response, Germany provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Germany.

8. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded Germany that it can submit any other observations on its MA process within two months of the working group session, and that they will form part of its Party record for the MA. The SBI Chair thanked the delegation of Germany, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.
