



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Denmark at the forty-first 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 Denmark was held at a working group session during SBI 41, on 6 December 2014. 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 Denmark had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and United States of America. The United States also submitted written questions after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Denmark can be found on the IAR web page for Denmark.¹

¹ <http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/international_assessment_and_review/application/pdf/sbi41-denmark-full.pdf>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Denmark was represented by Ms. Mercan-Ellen Bodil Kaya Nielsen, Head of Delegation, Danish Energy Agency, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Building.

5. Ms. Nielsen made an opening presentation, summarizing the questions received prior to the working group session and the answers provided. She explained that as a European Union (EU) member State, Denmark is committed to achieving the joint unconditional quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of the EU of 20 per cent by 2020 compared with the 1990 level. Ms. Nielsen described Denmark's decreasing greenhouse gas emission trends since 1990 and highlighted the decoupling of emissions from economic growth and energy consumption, the three main reasons for which are: increased use of combined heat and power, increased use of renewable energy sources and energy savings. She elaborated on the assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to Denmark's targets under the first and second commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol and under the Convention, highlighting Denmark's domestic target of a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and its ambitious domestic energy targets of more than 35 per cent share of renewable energy in final energy consumption and of approximately 50 per cent of electricity consumption supplied by wind power generation, both by 2020.

6. Regarding the progress made by Denmark towards its target, Ms. Nielsen confirmed that it will achieve its 21 per cent reduction target for 2008–2012 as its contribution to the joint EU target for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, Denmark expects to achieve its 20 per cent reduction target for 2020 in emissions in sectors not included in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and stay below the target path for 2013–2020. This will be achieved through existing measures and further implementation of adopted policies and measures. Finally, Ms. Nielsen emphasized that Denmark's target of a 20 per cent reduction in emissions in sectors not included in the EU ETS by 2020 is one of the more ambitious targets among those of EU member States.

7. The opening presentation was followed by further questions from Brazil and China. These questions were on the existence of specific policies for improving the sharing of experience on the diffusion of renewable energy technologies and on technology transfer and of policies for improving this information and technology sharing; and the possibility of showing the share in Denmark's target of emission reductions in sectors not included in the EU ETS by 2020 compared with the 1990 level. In response, the Danish delegation provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Denmark.

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