



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland took place at a working group session during SBI 42, on 5 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 the United Kingdom 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 the United Kingdom can be found on the IAR web page for the United Kingdom.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8836.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. The United Kingdom was represented by Mr. Ben Lyon, Department of Energy & Climate Change.

5. Mr. Lyon made an opening presentation, summarizing the United Kingdom's progress in the implementation of its emission reduction and removal commitments related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets.

6. He presented the United Kingdom's target under the Convention (20 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 compared with the 1990 level) and targets for the first and second commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol (12.5 per cent reduction in emissions by 2012 compared with the base year level and a contribution to the joint commitment of the member States of the European Union (EU) of a 20 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 compared with the base year level, respectively), as well as the United Kingdom's contribution to the binding (20 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 compared with the 1990 level) and conditional (30 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 compared with the 1990 level) EU targets. He also presented the United Kingdom's binding emission reduction target of 80 per cent below the 1990 level by 2050, enshrined in the Climate Change Act (2008).

7. Mr. Lyon further presented information on the United Kingdom's national circumstances (population, energy demand and production, and gross domestic product (GDP)), followed by information on progress made towards achieving the United Kingdom's targets. More specifically, he reported on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission trends as well as GHG emissions by sector and by gas for 2012. The presentation also detailed total and sectoral GHG emission projections for 2030, including all implemented and adopted policies and measures. Furthermore, total and sectoral GHG emissions avoided as a result of the implementation of policies and measures were reported by year (2009–2030). Finally, brief information on domestic adaptation and on the United Kingdom's International Climate Fund financing activities was presented.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Australia, Brazil, China, Fiji, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and United States. The questions were on: the impact of GHG emission reduction efforts on GDP; GHG emission trends in the waste and transport sectors; policies and measures related to future technological development, the production of renewable energy, the built environment, transportation and domestic and international shipping; and the comparability of the United Kingdom's GHG emission reduction targets (domestic, EU, Kyoto Protocol and Convention) and the progress made so far in meeting them. Questions were also raised in relation to the United Kingdom's assessment of the social and economic consequences of its response measures. In response, the United Kingdom provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for the United Kingdom.

9. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded the United Kingdom 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 the United Kingdom, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.
