



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Hungary 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 Hungary 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 Hungary had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil and China. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Hungary can be found on the IAR web page for Hungary.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8822.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Hungary was represented by Mr. Akos Lukacs, Head of Climate Policy Department, Ministry of National Development.

5. Mr. Lukacs made an opening presentation, addressing the questions received prior to the working group session and the answers provided. He described the historical and projected impacts of climate change in Hungary for the period 1901–2100. In addition, he explained the emission trends in Hungary for the period 1990–2012. He then elaborated on the national circumstances of Hungary, which experienced a significant reduction (by 36 per cent during 1990–2012) in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions owing to the collapse of the central planning economic system. In the period after 1992, Hungary demonstrated a significant economic restructuring, reduction in energy intensity and decoupling of economic development from the emission trajectory.

6. Mr. Lukacs explained that, as a European Union (EU) member State, since 2004 Hungary has been committed to achieving a joint unconditional quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. This target is formalized in the EU climate and energy package, which includes the EU Emissions Trading System and the effort-sharing decision (ESD). Under the ESD, Hungary has committed to a target of limiting its emissions growth to 10 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2020. In 2012, emissions from sectors covered by the ESD were already 18 per cent below the 2005 level. Hungary appears to be on track to meet its target and is likely to overachieve it.

7. Regarding the progress made towards achieving the 2020 targets, it was acknowledged that a number of policies and measures (PaMs) have been put in place by Hungary to address its joint EU commitments under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. Hungary's major PaMs include its National Climate Change Strategies, the Decarbonisation Roadmap, the Green Investment Scheme and the measures to promote the use of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency improvements and an increase in the use of biofuels.

8. The opening presentation was followed by questions from Algeria and China on the following: the projected GHG emissions by 2020; PaMs included in the emission projection scenario for the period ending in 2020; and institutional arrangements and financial provisions made for the implementation of those PaMs. In response, Hungary provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Hungary.

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