



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

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8824.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Ireland was represented by Ms. Petra Woods, Assistant Principal Officer, Climate Policy Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

5. Ms. Woods made an opening presentation, summarizing Ireland's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets.

6. Ms. Woods presented Ireland's target under the Convention as a contribution to the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of the European Union (EU) and its member States to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 20 per cent by 2020 compared with the 1990 level. In this context, some 27 per cent of Ireland's GHG emissions are covered and regulated by the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), with no specific target for Ireland but with an overall and decreasing cap set at the EU level to achieve an absolute emission reduction in the covered sectors of 21 per cent relative to the 2005 level by 2020. In addition, Ireland has a target for the sectors not covered by the EU ETS to reduce GHG emissions by 20 per cent relative to the 2005 level.

7. In her presentation, Ms. Woods highlighted that Ireland is making progress in its contribution to the joint EU emission reduction target, including through the possible use of units from market-based mechanisms under the Convention. Key policies and measures put in place to achieve Ireland's targets include: a carbon tax, in place since 2009; private car taxation based on carbon dioxide emissions, in place since 2008; feed-in tariffs for renewable energy; improved building standards; and afforestation and improved land management. In addition, Ireland is focusing on agricultural research since the agriculture sector is responsible for about 45 per cent of Ireland's GHG emissions from the sectors not covered by the EU ETS.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, India and New Zealand. The questions were on: the quantification of the effects of Ireland's policies and measures; Ireland's plans to use clean development mechanism (CDM) credits to comply with its targets and whether it restricts the purchase of CDM credits to specific developing countries; and Ireland's smarter travel policy in the context of reducing GHG emissions from the transport sector. In response, Ireland provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Ireland.

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