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## **Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Latvia 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 Latvia took place 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. A question for Latvia had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the Chinese delegation. The question received and the answer provided by Latvia can be found on the IAR web page for Latvia.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <[http://unfccc.int/files/national\\_reports/biennial\\_reports\\_and\\_iar/international\\_assessment\\_and\\_review/application/pdf/sbi41-latvia-full.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/international_assessment_and_review/application/pdf/sbi41-latvia-full.pdf)>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Latvia was represented by Ms. Alda Ozola, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.

5. Ms. Ozola made an opening presentation, summarizing Latvia's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. Latvia's emissions have significantly decreased since 1990: by 58 per cent below the 1990 level during the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The emission decrease is not only due to the transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy in the early 1990s, but also to the switch to less carbon-intensive fuels and the decarbonization of the energy mix in Latvia.

6. Within the European Union (EU) framework, Latvia has a target of limiting emission growth in the sectors outside the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) to 17 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level. This target is challenging given the large share of emissions from non-ETS sectors in Latvia. However, Latvia has put a number of policy tools in place to achieve the target, including regulatory measures within the EU framework, feed-in tariffs and investment support programmes aimed at increasing the share of renewables, and energy efficiency measures, as well as policies and measures in the transport, agriculture and waste management sectors. According to its 2013 greenhouse gas emission projections, in the scenario with additional measures, Latvia will limit emission growth in non-ETS sectors to 14.8 per cent by 2020.

7. The opening presentation was followed by questions from the following Parties: Australia, Brazil, China and Pakistan. These questions were on the projected trend of the share of renewable energy sources in energy generation and factors affecting that trend; the operation of Latvia's Green Investment Fund and Green Public Procurement scheme; the plan to meet the challenge of emission reductions in ETS sectors; and the plan to meet the 2020 target given the increasing emission trend during the period 2005–2013. In response to these questions, Latvia provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Latvia.

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

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