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## **Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Malta 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 Malta 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 Malta had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by Brazil and China. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Malta can be found on the IAR web page for Malta.<sup>1</sup>

### **II. Proceedings**

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Malta was represented by Ms. Simone Borg, Ambassador of the Ministry for Sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/8827.php>>.

Development, the Environment and Climate Change, and Ms. Claire Qoul from the same ministry.

5. Ms. Borg made an opening presentation, summarizing Malta's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. She elaborated on the national circumstances of Malta, which are key to explaining the emission profile of Malta and the country's limited potential in the development of renewable energy sources (RES). The greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity decreased by 56 per cent in 2012 compared with the 1990 level, while national gross domestic product per capita increased by 260 per cent, indicating a decoupling of GHG emissions from economic growth in Malta.

6. Ms. Qoul presented Malta's target for 2020 in the context of the European Union (EU) climate and energy package, with an emphasis on Malta's emission reduction target for sectors outside the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). As a member State of the EU, Malta has a target under the EU effort-sharing decision to limit the growth of its emissions in the sectors not covered by the EU ETS by 5 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level. Despite the limited mitigation potential in Malta, the existing policies and measures in the transport, agriculture and waste sectors are projected to produce mitigation effects that will keep Malta on track to meet its 2020 target for sectors outside the EU ETS. In addition, Ms. Qoul elaborated on the Party's policies and measures in electricity generation, which will make a major contribution to the overall GHG emission reduction in Malta in the lead-up to 2030.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Algeria, Botswana and China. These questions were on the limited potential for the development of large-scale and centralized RES and of distributed RES, and the drivers of the decrease in GHG emissions during 2015–2016. A point was also raised on Malta's financial support for the efforts of developing countries to tackle climate change. In response, Malta provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Malta.

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

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