



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of the Netherlands 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 the Netherlands took place at a working group session during SBI 41, on 8 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. Questions for the Netherlands had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by the Netherlands can be found on the IAR web page for the Netherlands.¹

¹ <http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/international_assessment_and_review/application/pdf/sbi41-netherlands-full.pdf>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. The Netherlands was represented by Mr. Ivo de Zwaan, Head of Delegation, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands.

5. Mr. de Zwaan made an opening presentation, summarizing the progress of the Netherlands in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. According to the 2014 annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory submission of the Netherlands, emissions excluding the land use, land-use change and forestry sector were 9.5 per cent lower in 2012 than in 1990. The Netherlands will achieve its target for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol without the use of credits from market-based mechanisms.

6. Within the European Union (EU) framework, the Netherlands has a target of reducing emissions from the sectors outside the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) sectors by 16 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level. In 2011, this overall non-ETS target was translated into more specific sectoral targets for 2020, further divided, within each sector, into carbon dioxide (CO₂) and non-CO₂ targets. According to its GHG emission projections, with additional measures, the Netherlands is on track to achieve its 2020 and 2030 targets. Mr. de Zwaan provided some examples in the Netherlands of broad-based coalitions for the implementation of climate policies, such as the long-term agreements on energy efficiency, green deals, the energy agreement for sustainable growth and the Dutch climate coalition.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, Canada, China, Fiji, Saudi Arabia and United States. These questions were on the disaggregation of sectors reported for GHG emissions that is different from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines; the Netherlands's experience with energy sector subsidies, especially in the context of promotion of renewable energy sources; the expected impacts of the national carbon capture and storage strategy; the compatibility of the 2020 emission reduction targets under the Convention and the target for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; the potential sectoral contribution to the move from a 20 per cent emission reduction target to a conditional 30 per cent reduction target; and the decision-making process in implementing policies and measures that supplement ETS sectors. A point was also raised on the Netherlands's Delta Works. In response, the Netherlands delegation provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for the Netherlands.

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