



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Norway 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 Norway 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 Norway had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, Canada, China, European Union (EU), New Zealand, Switzerland and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Norway can be found on the IAR web page for Norway.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8829.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Norway was represented by Mr. Peer Stiansen, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Climate and Environment.

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

6. Under the Convention, Norway made a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent by 2020 compared with the 1990 level. This target will be reached by Norway through its commitment for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, with average annual emissions over the period 2013–2020 projected to be at 84 per cent of the 1990 level. Mr. Stiansen highlighted Norway's long-term objective to become a low-emission society and reach carbon neutrality by 2050 (2030 if part of an ambitious new global climate agreement).

7. In his presentation Mr. Stiansen outlined that Norway is on track to achieve its emission reduction target under the Convention. Achieving it will require enhanced domestic efforts as well as the use of units from market-based mechanisms under the Convention, both by purchasing assigned amount units and certified emission reductions/emission reduction units through the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and by purchasing clean development mechanism (CDM) credits through the Norwegian purchase programme.

8. With regard to Norway's key domestic policies and measures, Mr. Stiansen stated that Norway is building its climate change policy based on a comprehensive set of policies and measures, with some 80 per cent of its emissions being already subject to fiscal and economic instruments (carbon taxes and/or emissions trading). Most notable in the Norwegian policy mix are carbon dioxide taxes in the transport sector and the offshore petroleum sector, equivalent taxes on hydrofluorocarbons/perfluorocarbons, and the EU ETS, which covers more than 50 per cent of Norway's domestic emissions. In addition, Mr. Stiansen emphasized the importance of advancing carbon dioxide capture and storage technologies for achieving Norway's long-term goal of reaching carbon neutrality.

9. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, China, EU, Fiji, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Samoa, South Africa, Switzerland and United States. These questions were related to: success factors and the quantification of the effects of policies and measures in Norway, in particular relating to fiscal and economic instruments; the application of renewable energies in the energy mix in the energy and transport sectors; the Norwegian purchase programme for CDM credits, its volume and its purchase criteria; and emissions and removals from the land sector. In response, Norway provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Norway.

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