



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Portugal 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 Portugal 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 Portugal had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The United States of America submitted written questions after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Portugal can be found on the IAR web page for Portugal.¹

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

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Portugal was represented by Mr. Paulo Canaveira, Senior Advisor of the Portuguese Environment Agency/Portuguese Carbon Fund.

5. Mr. Canaveira made an opening presentation, summarizing the questions received prior to the working group session and the answers provided. Mr. Canaveira described Portugal's greenhouse gas emission trends for 1990–2012, in particular, the significant decreasing trend since 2005, and highlighted the decoupling of emissions from economic growth, which is mainly due to the increased use of renewable energy sources in the country. Mr. Canaveira explained that as a European Union (EU) member State, Portugal is committed to achieving the joint unconditional quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of the EU of 20 per cent by 2020 compared with the 1990 level. He elaborated on Portugal's targets under the first and second commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol, highlighting its overachievement for the first commitment period of 17 per cent below the target.

6. Portugal expects to achieve a 25 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 below the 2005 level in the sectors covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 below the 2005 level in the sectors not covered by the EU ETS. This will be achieved through further implementation of adopted and new policies and measures within the framework of Portugal's green growth strategy. Mr. Canaveira emphasized Portugal's National Programme for Climate Change, National Plan for Energy Efficiency and National Plan for Renewable Energy, among other measures and actions addressing other sectors of the economy. These programmes and plans will allow Portugal to achieve more stringent national targets in reference to the EU target of a 21 per cent share of energy from renewable sources in final energy consumption by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2030, and to improve energy efficiency by 25 per cent by 2020 and 30 per cent by 2030 in comparison with the 'business as usual' scenario.

7. The opening presentation was followed by a further question and interventions from Australia and Brazil. The question was on Portugal's expectations on any specific policies to enhance the potential of solar energy, which currently has a relative small contribution to the primary energy sources in the country. In response, the Portuguese delegation provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Portugal.

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