



United Nations

FCCC/WEB/MA/SVK/2015

Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Distr.: General
8 July 2015

English only

Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Slovakia 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 Slovakia 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 Slovakia 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 Slovakia can be found on the IAR web page for Slovakia.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8833.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Slovakia was represented by Ms. Helena Princova from the Ministry of the Environment.

5. Ms. Princova made an opening presentation, summarizing Slovakia's progress in implementation of its emission reduction and removal commitments related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. She elaborated on the national circumstances of Slovakia, which is a small landlocked country and a member State of the European Union (EU). She explained that Slovakia's target for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol was overachieved, with emissions 41.7 per cent lower in 2012 than in 1990. This was achieved mainly through stricter legislation, by introducing best available technologies and by fuel-switching from coal and oil to natural gas. Altogether, this led to a decoupling of economic growth from the level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the period 1990–2012, during which the emission intensity of Slovakia's gross domestic product decreased by 68 per cent. This trend continued during the economic crisis in the late 2000s, with emission intensity decreasing by 36 per cent between 2005 and 2012. In 2012, energy remained the most significant sector in terms of GHG emissions, with a share of 69.6 per cent of Slovakia's total emissions, and within that sector emissions from transport showed the largest increase.

6. Slovakia is committed to contributing to the target of the EU under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol of a 20 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 compared with the 1990 levels. In accordance with the EU effort-sharing decision, Slovakia has a target to limit the growth in its emissions from the sectors not covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to 13 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level (+13 per cent). The main policies and measures (PaMs) in place to achieve that target focus on improvements in energy efficiency and the increase of the share of renewables. The PaMs include: the National Reform Programme and its Action Plan, with targeted sectoral policies, including climate and energy policies; the National Environmental Strategy; the Energy Security Strategy; taxation of energy products and electricity; the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency; the National Action Plan for Biomass Use; the National Renewable Energy Action Plan; the Concept of Energy Efficiency in Buildings; the Waste Act; and the implementation of several EU-wide measures. According to Slovakia's GHG emission projections, total emissions, taking into account implemented and adopted PaMs, are expected to decrease by 12.1 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level. Thus, Slovakia considers that it is on its way to achieving its 2020 target for emissions from the sectors not covered by the EU ETS. In addition, Ms. Princova explained that the EU and its member States are committed to a binding target of a reduction in domestic GHG emissions of at least 40 per cent by 2030 compared with the 1990 level.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from China and the Republic of Korea. The questions were related to Slovakia's renewable energy target, PaMs in place to reduce emissions from international aviation and shipping, and the target for the sectors covered by the EU ETS. In response, Slovakia provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Slovakia.

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