



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the forty-fifth 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 second round of the IAR process is to be conducted during the period 2016–2017 (the first round of the IAR process was 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 second round of MA of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland took place at a working group session during SBI 45, on 14 November 2016. 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 United Kingdom had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, Israel, Japan and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by the United Kingdom can be found on the IAR web page for the United Kingdom.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/9722.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow. The United Kingdom was represented by Mr. Archie Young, Head of International Negotiations and Head of Delegation.

5. Mr. Young made an opening presentation, summarizing the United Kingdom's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. As a member State of the European Union, the United Kingdom is committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint European Union quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. As part of this target, the United Kingdom's emission reduction target from sectors covered by the European Union effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the European Union Emission Trading System) is 16 per cent below the 2005 level by 2020. Mr. Young emphasized that, in addition to the joint European Union targets under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, the United Kingdom has also established a series of domestic carbon budgets that set a limit on the quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that the United Kingdom can emit over a five-year period aimed at achieving emission reductions of at least 80 per cent below the 1990 level by 2050. In this regard, the United Kingdom has recently set its domestic target for 2028–2032, which is equivalent to a 57 per cent reduction below the 1990 level by 2030.

6. Mr. Young presented emission trends and the key policies and measures for achieving the United Kingdom's emission reduction targets. He highlighted that the United Kingdom's total GHG emissions (including land use, land-use change and forestry) in 2014 were 35.2 per cent below the 1990 level, while its gross domestic product increased by more than 60 per cent over the same period. He further stated that the United Kingdom's total GHG emissions in 2020 are projected to be 46 per cent lower than the 1990 level, and should continue to decline beyond 2020. The main policies and measures include: support for an early market for ultra-low and zero-emission vehicles; implementation of renewable heat incentive schemes in the building sector; and investments for innovation and new energy technologies. Through these efforts, the United Kingdom will contribute its part to achieving the joint European Union quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, including through reducing its emissions from sectors covered by the European Union effort-sharing decision further below its target.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, Canada, China, Republic of Korea and Switzerland. Questions related to: projections relating to the land sector, and assumptions underlying the projections; the 2020 emission reduction target; the long-term low emission development strategy; the approaches, methodologies and institutions that are used for monitoring and tracking emissions; and experiences of emission reductions in the transport sector. In response, the United Kingdom provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for the United Kingdom.

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