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## **Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Malta 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 Malta 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 Malta had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China and Japan. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Malta can be found on the IAR web page for Malta.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/9714.php>>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow and the SBI Rapporteur, Mr. Sidat Yaffa. Malta was represented by Ms. Simone Borg, Ambassador for Climate Change, Ministry for Foreign Affairs Government of Malta; Ms. Claire Qoul, Senior Analyst Climate Change, Malta Resources Authority, and assisted by Mr. David Muscat, Senior Analyst, Climate Change Unit, Malta Resources Authority.

5. Ms. Borg made an opening presentation, summarizing Malta'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, Malta 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. In addition, Malta's target from sectors covered by the European Union effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)) is to limit the growth of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 5 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020. Ms. Borg provided an overview of Malta's national circumstances and factors affecting the emission trends and emphasized that Malta's contribution is only 0.01 per cent of total GHG emissions of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. The specific challenges of Malta being a small island State were highlighted, including its dependence on oil and gas imports, its limited potential for renewable energy generation and financial and economic feasibility issues of investments.

6. Ms. Borg presented emission trends and key policies and measures for achieving Malta's 2020 targets. In 2014, Malta's GHG emission intensity was 22.0 per cent below the 2004 level. The Climate Action Act is the legal framework for implementing Malta's GHG emission reduction targets, further supported by the mitigation, adaptation and renewable energy strategies and the low carbon development strategy, the latter being under preparation. In the electricity sector covered under the EU ETS, Malta expects significant emission reductions resulting from the installation of new and efficient energy generating capacity, the submarine electrical connection to the European unified electricity grid, fuel switching from heavy fuel oil to natural gas and energy efficiency measures. Policies and measures contributing to the emission reductions in the sectors not covered by the EU ETS include activities in the transport, agriculture and waste sectors.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the delegation from India. Questions were raised with regard to mitigation actions in Malta's second biennial report compared with its first biennial report and the methodologies used to estimate the mitigation impacts of its policies and measures. In response, Malta provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Malta.

8. In closing, the SBI Rapporteur reminded Malta 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 Rapporteur thanked the delegation of Malta, all the other delegations, and the secretariat for this successful MA session.

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