



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Norway 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 Norway 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 Norway had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, the European Union (EU), France, New Zealand, Switzerland and the 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/9717.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Rapporteur, Mr. Sidat Yaffa. 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. Total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have grown since 1990 but in the period after 2008 the growth stabilized, resulting in an overall increase in GHG emissions of 3.3 per cent in 2013 compared with 1990. At the same time, population and gross domestic product (GDP) increased by approximately 23 and 80 per cent since 1990, respectively. Electricity is almost exclusively generated from renewable energy sources, predominantly by hydropower plants. Norway's emission reduction target under the Convention is 30 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020, which is made operational through commitment under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Upon the ratification of the Paris Agreement, Norway's Parliament put forward a decision to shift its carbon neutrality goal, initially announced for 2050, to 2030.

6. During the session, Norway presented the key policies and measures which are to a large extent based on carbon pricing instruments. They included the carbon dioxide (CO₂) tax and the EU Emission Trading System, which together cover around 80 per cent of total domestic GHG emissions, as well as carbon taxes in road transport, heating and on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs) in products. Norway introduced several important incentive instruments for the promotion and purchasing of electric vehicles, such as exemption from purchase tax, value added tax and taxes related to roads, as well as free parking and free passes for tolls and ferries. In addition, a ban on disposing organic matter in waste on landfills was introduced to reduce methane emissions. As well as the implementation of domestic mitigation actions, Norway is actively involved in the acquisition of units from market-based mechanisms in developing countries in order to achieve its target under the Convention.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States. The questions were on: measures and lessons learned in the promotion and purchasing of electric and low-emission vehicles and the building of necessary infrastructure (e.g. charging stations); an observed increase of emissions in the transport sector; and how to ensure the quality of purchased units from market-based mechanisms. In response, Norway provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Norway.

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