



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

¹ <<https://unfccc.int/9720.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow. Sweden was represented by Mr. Lars Ronnås, Ambassador for Climate, Climate Ministry of the Environment and Energy and Ms. Susanne Åkerfeldt, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Finance.

5. Mr. Ronnås, followed by Ms. Åkerfeldt, made an opening presentation, summarizing Sweden's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. In 2013, greenhouse gas emissions in Sweden were 22 per cent below the 1990 level, while the gross domestic product increased by 58 per cent during the period 1990–2013. This accomplishment clearly demonstrates that emission reductions can be achieved without compromising the imperative of the long-term economic development. Sweden expects to achieve its 2020 target for the sectors not covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System through strengthening its existing policies and measures.

6. During the session, Mr. Ronnås and Ms. Åkerfeldt presented the key policies and measures in place before and after 1990 for achieving emission reductions. Sweden has a long history of applying energy and carbon taxes in order to reduce emissions. Prior to 1990, policies and measures involved urban and rural planning, infrastructure for district heating, building standards and public transportation. Since 1990, in addition to these policies, further policies were implemented, including policies that introduced a landfill ban on certain kinds of waste, green electricity certificates and investment programmes. In addition, a carbon dioxide tax was introduced in 1991, which has been the cornerstone of climate policy and the key driver of successful emission reduction in Sweden. The levels of the carbon dioxide tax have been increased gradually over the years, so as to give households and companies time to adapt.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Canada, China, India, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Switzerland. These questions were on: the contribution of bioenergy use to emission reductions; the role of county administrative boards in shaping national climate policy; challenges in estimating the effects of individual policies and measures; incentives for industry to install new treatment technologies; the role of biofuels in emission reductions in the transport sector; current and expected levels of biofuel blending; and political, social and economic conditions that support the implementation of complementary measures in the residential, commercial and institutional sectors. In response, Sweden provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Sweden.

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