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## **Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Finland at the forty-first 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 Finland took place at a working group session during SBI 41, on 6 December 2014. 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 Finland had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: China, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The United States of America submitted written questions after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Finland can be found on the IAR web page for Finland.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <[http://unfccc.int/files/national\\_reports/biennial\\_reports\\_and\\_iar/international\\_assessment\\_and\\_review/application/pdf/sbi41-finland-full.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/international_assessment_and_review/application/pdf/sbi41-finland-full.pdf)>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Finland was represented by Mr. Harri Laurikka, Chief Negotiator of the Ministry of the Environment of Finland.

5. Mr. Laurikka made an opening presentation, summarizing Finland's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Emissions excluding the land use, land-use change and forestry sector decreased between 1990 and 2012 in Finland, with an annual decrease in both the emission intensity of the economy and emissions per capita over the same period. The use of bioenergy more than doubled during this period, which contributed to replacing fossil fuels in the energy supply. According to Mr. Laurikka, Finland is estimated to overachieve its target in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol by 13.5 Mt of carbon dioxide equivalent. Finland is also prepared to ratify the Doha Amendment in order to implement its emission reduction commitment for the period 2013–2020.

6. Mr. Laurikka presented Finland's targets by 2020 at a disaggregated level, covering targets for the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) sectors, sectors outside the EU ETS, renewable energy, biofuels in transport and improvements in energy efficiency. Based on current greenhouse gas emission projections, Finland is on track to meet these targets. Key policies and measures are in place to ensure the achievement of the target for 2020 and beyond, including the national energy and climate strategy and a road map on climate and energy policy up to 2050. In addition, the Climate Change Act was prepared and presented to the Parliament in June 2014.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: China, Brazil and United States. These questions were on the additional efforts that Finland will need to make in order to transition from the current 20 per cent emission reduction target to the conditional 30 per cent target; the current share of renewable energy sources (RES) in the energy mix, as an indication of whether Finland is on track to meet its 2020 RES target; actions related to the National Forest Programme. Moreover, further explanation was demanded on why the land sector is not included in the 2020 target given the significance of this sector in the Finnish economy. In response, the Finnish delegation provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Finland.

8. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded Finland that any other observations by the Party on its MA process can be submitted within two months of the working group session, and that this will form part of its Party record for the MA. The SBI Chair thanked the delegation of Finland, all the other delegations, and the secretariat for this successful MA session.

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