



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Bulgaria 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 Bulgaria took place at a working group session during SBI 45, on 12 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 Bulgaria 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 Bulgaria can be found on the IAR web page for Bulgaria.¹

¹ <<https://unfccc.int/9703.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Rapporteur, Mr. Sidat Yaffa. Bulgaria was represented by Ms. Rayna Angelova, Head of the Department for the Implementation of European Union Policy on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Water.

5. Ms. Angelova made an opening presentation, summarizing Bulgaria's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Under the Convention, Bulgaria 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. The target will be achieved through the contribution of the sectors covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System, by the European Union member States jointly, and through the contribution of domestic emission limitations in accordance with the European Union effort-sharing decision (ESD). Under the ESD, Bulgaria has a target to limit the growth of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 20 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020. In addition, Bulgaria has committed to achieving a 16 per cent share of renewables in gross final energy consumption by 2020.

6. Ms. Angelova presented emission trends and key policies and measures for Bulgaria to achieve its targets. From 1990 to 2014, total GHG emissions excluding land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) decreased by 45 per cent, owing mainly to the structural change from a centrally planned economy to a market-based economy over the period 1990–2000. Bulgaria's total GHG emissions excluding LULUCF in 2020 and 2030 are projected to decrease by 45 and 47 per cent, respectively, below the 1990 level under the 'with existing measures' (WEM) scenario. The projected GHG emissions for 2020 suggest that Bulgaria will achieve its 2020 targets. Among the key policies and measures stemming from the European Union and national climate and energy legislation, Bulgaria highlighted: cleaner production of electricity from existing coal power plants; transition to a low-carbon electricity mix; increase of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources; utilization of landfill gas; modernization of road infrastructure; and increase of shares of biofuels and electricity in the transport sector.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Canada, India and New Zealand. The questions were related to: the drivers for the potential increases in projected GHG emissions under the WEM scenario from 2014 to 2020; the relationship between the national Energy Strategy and Energy Efficiency Action Plan; and reasons for the decline in GHG emissions in the agriculture sector from 1990 to 2014. In response, Bulgaria provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Bulgaria.

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