



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Belarus at the forty-third 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 Belarus took place at a working group session during SBI 43, on 1 December 2015. 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 Belarus had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, European Union, New Zealand, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Belarus can be found on the IAR web page for Belarus.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/9123.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Belarus was represented by Ms. Irina Rudzko, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

5. Ms. Rudzko made an opening presentation, summarizing Belarus's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. Belarus has been a Party to the Convention since 2000, and has committed to an 8 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 compared with the 1990 level. Between 1990 and 2012, emissions decreased by 35.8 per cent, mainly in the energy sector in the early 1990s as a consequence of the economic recession in the country, and the subsequent decrease in production and fuel consumption. Between 1995 and 2012, emissions increased by 0.5 per cent annually on average; however, this increase was much smaller than that of gross domestic product (GDP) (7.9 per cent average annual growth). These trends indicate a decoupling of GHG emissions and GDP after the economic recession of the early 1990s.

6. The key policies and measures to achieve the target are the Renewable Energy Law, enforced in 2010, the Presidential Decree on Renewable Energy Sources of 2015, and the Energy Saving Law, which was enforced in 2015. Although Belarus acknowledged that there is still a high mitigation potential in the country, it also emphasized certain barriers for additional measures, including limited foreign investments, uncertainties regarding additional financial resources, and other priorities such as safeguarding national food and energy supplies.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Japan and New Zealand. The questions were on: the main sources of GHG emissions in Belarus; the share of the different renewable energy sources (RES) in the energy mix, their projected share by 2020 and strategies to expand the use of RES; the key mitigation actions to meet the target and their expected impacts; the inclusion of land use, land-use change and forestry in the target; and conversion to GHG emissions based on the use of the global warming potentials from the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In response, Belarus provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Belarus.

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