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## Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Switzerland 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 Switzerland 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 Switzerland had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, European Union and Japan. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Switzerland can be found on the IAR web page for Switzerland.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/9721.php>>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow. Switzerland was represented by Mr. Franz Perrez, Ambassador for the Environment, Federal Office for the Environment, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications.

5. Mr. Perrez made an opening presentation, summarizing Switzerland's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Switzerland's emission reduction target under the Convention is a 20 per cent reduction below the 1990 level by 2020, which is consistent with a quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment of 84.2 per cent for the period 2013–2020 relative to the 1990 level, as defined in the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. From 1990 to 2014, total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions decreased by 9.3 per cent. In the same period, population and gross domestic product increased by approximately 21 and 45 per cent, respectively, which indicates a decoupling of GHG emissions from economic and population growth.

6. During the session, Switzerland presented its key policies and measures to achieve its 2020 target, including a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levy on heating and process fuels; a national emissions trading scheme; the national building refurbishment programme; the partial compensation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fuels used in transport; the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions regulation for new passenger cars; and the replacement of nuclear power plants with new gas-fired combined cycle power plants, which will be obligated to offset their GHG emissions. Switzerland also emphasized that electricity in the country is almost exclusively generated from renewable energy sources, predominantly by hydropower plants, and nuclear energy. In addition to the implementation of these policies and measures, Switzerland intends to use units from market-based mechanisms in line with strict quality criteria prescribed in domestic legislation at the end of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to achieve its 2020 target.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, Canada, European Union, New Zealand and Norway. The questions focused on: Switzerland's policies and measures in the energy sector; strengthening of Switzerland's existing policies and measures under the 'with additional measures' emission projection scenario in order to achieve its 2020 target; Switzerland's policies for promotion of electric or hybrid vehicles; interaction between federal and cantonal governments on policy response to climate change; lessons learned from the Swiss energy programme promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy; and estimation of the effects of Switzerland's mitigation actions. In response, Switzerland provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Switzerland.

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

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