



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

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/9709.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow. Germany was represented by Ms. Nicole Wilke, Head of Division, International Climate Policy, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

5. Ms. Wilke made an opening presentation, summarizing Germany's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. As a European Union member State, Germany is committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint European Union quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent reduction below the 1990 level by 2020. Germany's emission reduction target from sectors covered by the European Union effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System) is 14 per cent below the 2005 level by 2020.

6. In addition, Germany presented its national short- and medium-term emission reduction targets, including a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions below the 1990 level of 40 per cent by 2020 and ranging from 80 to 95 per cent by 2050. Ms. Wilke also highlighted the underlying targets of the German energy transformation, including a targeted share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption of 18 per cent by 2020 and 60 per cent by 2050, as well as energy efficiency and energy consumption targets for primary energy consumption (a decrease of 20 and 50 per cent below the 2008 level by 2020 and 2050, respectively) and electricity consumption (a decrease of 10 and 25 per cent below the 2008 level by 2020 and 2050, respectively). With its current GHG mitigation policies, Germany will achieve an emission reduction of 33 to 34 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020, according to its emission projections. Thus, Germany's Climate Action Programme 2020, which includes 100 additional measures in all sectors, was adopted by the Cabinet in December 2014 in order to close Germany's gap towards the achievement of its 2020 target. With these additional measures, Germany is expected to achieve its 2020 targets.

7. Ms. Wilke furthermore provided an overview of Germany's national circumstances and factors affecting GHG emission trends. In 2014, GHG emissions had decreased by 26.9 per cent below the 1990 level, while gross domestic product and final energy productivity increased by 45.0 and 60.2 per cent, respectively, during the same period. The GHG emission trend was driven mainly by an increase in renewable energy use in electricity production, which was supported by the Renewable Energy Sources Act. Additional measures in the Climate Action Programme 2020 include the National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, the climate-friendly building and housing strategy, and several measures in the transport sector.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, Canada, China, India, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Switzerland and United States of America. Interventions and questions were raised with regard to: the additional measures in the Climate Action Programme 2020; the policy tools for increasing the renewable energy supply; the policies under consideration for further electrifying energy end-use; Germany's experience and lessons learned regarding the socioeconomic implications of the conversion of the energy mix in electricity production from fossil to renewable sources; Germany's experiences in increasing solar photovoltaic electricity generation; Germany's experiences in promoting the participation of civil society; whether Germany has developed any targets or other tools to guide the public sector in reducing its emissions; the efforts made by semiconductor manufacturers to reduce GHG emissions; how the Circular Economy Act is fostered in Germany to help reduce emissions in waste management; and the estimates of the mitigation impacts of

policies and measures and possible difficulties in calculating these estimates. In response, Germany provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Germany.

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