



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

¹ <<https://unfccc.int/9705.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Rapporteur, Mr. Sidat Yaffa. Denmark was represented by Mr. Caspar Olausson, Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate.

5. Mr. Olausson made an opening presentation, summarizing Denmark's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Under the Convention, Denmark is committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint European Union economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Denmark contributes to achieving the European Union target through its policies and measures leading to implementation of the European Union 2020 climate and energy package, which includes the European Union Emissions Trading System and the effort-sharing decision (ESD), according to which Denmark has committed to reducing its emissions from sectors covered by the ESD by 20 per cent below the 2005 level by 2020. Denmark has one of the three highest emission reduction targets among European Union member States under the ESD. From 1990 to 2014, Denmark's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (excluding land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF)) decreased by 28 per cent. In addition, total GHG emissions (excluding LULUCF) are projected to decrease by 37 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020 under the 'with measures' emission projection scenario. As such, Denmark is expected to achieve its 2020 targets.

6. Denmark's most significant mitigation actions are energy efficiency improvements and increased use of renewable energy sources the manufacturing industry and commercial and residential building sectors. By 2020, the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption is expected to be around 40 per cent. In conclusion, Denmark highlighted that it had achieved a decoupling of GHG emissions and economic growth as a result of its policies and measures, a more efficient use of power plants, the use of combined heat and power systems, and district heating improvements.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Canada, China, India, New Zealand, Switzerland and United States of America. The questions focused on: the challenges in achieving the renewable energy target; the social and economic implications of emission reductions in the energy sector; the emission data collection process in the Faroe Islands and Greenland; and the experiences of the Danish Council on Climate Change established in 2015. In response, Denmark provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Denmark.

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