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## Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Estonia 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 Estonia 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 and China. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Estonia can be found on the IAR web page for Estonia.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <<https://unfccc.int/9706.php>>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Rapporteur, Mr. Sidat Yaffa. Estonia was represented by Mr. Meelis Münt, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of the Environment.

5. Mr. Münt made an opening presentation, summarizing Estonia's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. Under the Convention, Estonia 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. Estonia, together with other European Union member States, contributes to achieving the European Union target through its policies and measures (PaMs) leading to implementation of the European Union 2020 climate and energy package, which includes the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and the effort-sharing decision. Estonia's target for 2020 is to limit its emission growth from sectors not covered by the EU ETS to 11 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020. Estonia demonstrated a significant reduction in its total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions excluding land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) (a 45.7 per cent reduction between 1990 and 2013), which was attributed mainly to the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from the energy sector. According to its projections, Estonia's total GHG emissions excluding LULUCF are projected to remain stable between 2013 and 2020 and are likely to decrease by 45.3 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Therefore, according to Mr. Münt, Estonia is on track to achieve its 2020 target with its existing PaMs.

6. Estonia has put in place a range of PaMs relating to renewable energy use, energy efficiency improvements, sustainable transport, industry and agriculture. In addition, Estonia has developed a Low Carbon Development Strategy, which provides a national road map for long-term emission reductions in the energy, transport, waste, forestry and industry sectors and aims to decrease total GHG emissions by 80 per cent below the 1990 level by 2050.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Canada and Switzerland. The questions were related to: energy efficiency improvements in the public sector; and reporting and review challenges faced by Estonia as a small economy. In response, Estonia provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Estonia.

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

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