



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

¹ <<https://unfccc.int/9708.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow and the SBI Rapporteur Mr. Sidat Yaffa. Finland was represented by Ms. Outi Honkatukia, Chief Negotiator for Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment.

5. Ms. Honkatukia made an opening presentation, summarizing Finland's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Under the Convention, Finland is committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint European Union quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. The target will be achieved through the contribution of the sectors covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System, by the European Union member States jointly, and through the contribution from domestic emission reductions in accordance with the effort-sharing decision (ESD). Under the ESD, Finland has a target to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 16 per cent below the 2005 level by 2020.

6. Among Finland's key policies and measures, Ms. Honkatukia highlighted those in the forestry and the energy sectors. The National Forest Strategy 2025 focuses on sustainable forest management, which could be linked with national welfare, and includes the development of electronic information and customer services for private forest owners, forest management incentive schemes and the promotion of timber entry into market. Regarding the increasing share of renewable energy in the Party's final energy consumption, Finland is promoting the use of biomass, wind power and the use of biofuels in transport. By 2014, Finland had already achieved its 2020 target of 38 per cent final energy consumption from renewable energy sources.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the delegations of Canada and China. In response to the questions raised by these delegations, Finland elaborated on its ambitious long-term action plan to reduce GHG emissions by 80 per cent below the 1990 level by 2050. In response to a question regarding the high quality of the national GHG inventory, Finland noted that to prioritize GHG inventory improvements it considers the annual self-assessment process, the recommendations stemming from the international review process and the cost-efficiency of the improvements. Details of the answers can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Finland.

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