



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

¹ <<https://unfccc.int/9712.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow. Latvia was represented by Ms. Alda Ozola, Deputy State Secretary, Management, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.

5. Ms. Ozola made an opening presentation, summarizing Latvia's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Under the Convention, Latvia 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 (EU ETS) by the European Union member States jointly, and through the contribution from domestic emission reductions in accordance with the European Union effort-sharing decision (ESD). Under the ESD, Latvia has a target to limit the growth of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from sectors not covered by the EU ETS (non-ETS) to 17 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020. Latvia expects to overachieve its non-ETS target by limiting the growth of its GHG emissions to 7 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020.

6. Ms. Ozola presented emission trends and key policies and measures for achieving Latvia's 2020 targets, including the European Union climate policy schemes and the green investment support programmes and taxes. She also highlighted that Latvia has achieved noticeable GHG reductions in the energy sector through its energy efficiency improvements in district heating in buildings as well as owing to a significant decrease in the final energy intensity, the final heat energy consumption and the final electricity consumption in households since 2005. The significant increase in the use of renewable energy sources was driven mostly by the national green investment support programmes, which, for example, increased the use of biomass in the district heating sector by 258 per cent from 2005 to 2014.

7. No questions were raised to Latvia following its presentation.

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