



---

## **Summary report on the multilateral assessment of New Zealand 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 New Zealand 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 New Zealand had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, European Union, France, Japan and Switzerland. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by New Zealand can be found on the IAR web page for New Zealand.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <<https://unfccc.int/9716.php>>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Rapporteur, Mr. Sidat Yaffa. New Zealand was represented by Mr. Mark Sinclair, Climate Change Ambassador, Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

5. Mr. Sinclair made an opening presentation, summarizing New Zealand's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. According to Mr. Sinclair, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in New Zealand have grown significantly since 1990 as a result of population and economic growth. However, the emission intensity of the economy decreased by 34 per cent during the period 1990–2013. New Zealand's assessment is that it is on track to meet its 2020 emission reduction target, which is 5 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020, through a combination of domestic emission reductions, the removal of carbon dioxide by forests, the recognition of surplus units from the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and participation in international carbon markets.

6. During the session, Mr. Sinclair presented New Zealand's nationally determined contribution, for which the emission reduction target is 30 per cent below the 2005 level by 2030, as well as its longer-term target, which is 50 per cent below the 1990 level by 2050. In New Zealand, the emissions trading scheme (ETS) is the key policy instrument for achieving the long-term targets in GHG emission reductions. The ETS has been in place since 2008 and covers all sectors of the economy. As at 2016, approximately 50 per cent of gross emissions were covered under the ETS. The ETS is currently under a comprehensive review in order to ensure its effectiveness in meeting the targets and in transitioning New Zealand to a low-emission economy. Mr. Sinclair also presented policies and measures in place for the energy, agriculture and forestry sectors, and described how these policies and measures have contributed to emission reductions in New Zealand.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: China, European Union, France, India, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The questions were on: key policies and measures for achieving the carbon budget plan at the national level; the potential for emission reductions in the energy sector; sharing of experience from the ETS review; addressing environmental integrity in the ETS; measures to ensure that obligations under the ETS are met; details of measures in the agriculture, forestry and transport sectors; and estimation of the effects of policies and measures. In response, New Zealand provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for New Zealand.

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

---