



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Germany at the forty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth session, 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 decided to establish the international assessment and review (IAR) process under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), which aims to promote comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties.¹ According to the modalities and procedures for IAR,² multilateral assessment (MA) 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 MA is to assess each Party's progress in implementation towards achieving emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.

2. The third round of MA of Germany took place on 7 December 2018 at a working group session during SBI 49. 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 Germany had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session at SBI 49 by the following delegations: Australia, China, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Thailand and the United States of America. Brazil and the United States of America submitted written questions one day after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Germany as well as the webcast of the session can be found on the IAR web page for Germany.³ The Party can submit any other observations on its MA process within two months of the working group session.

II. Proceedings

3. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Emmanuel Dumisani Dlamini. Germany was represented by Ms. Nicole Wilke (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany).

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 40 and 44.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex II.

³ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/national-communications-and-biennial-reports-annex-i-parties/multilateral-assessment/multilateral-assessment-of-third-biennial-reports/third-multilateral-5>.

4. Ms. Wilke made an opening presentation summarizing Germany's progress in implementation towards achieving emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an European Union (EU) member State Germany is committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Germany's emission reduction target from sectors covered by the EU effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)) is 14 per cent below the 2005 level by 2020. Germany has also set itself a national target of at least a 40 per cent emission reduction by 2020 compared with the 1990 level, which does not include emission reductions from the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector or use of market-based mechanisms.

5. Germany's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 27.9 per cent between 1990 and 2015, owing mainly to a shift from the use of solid fuels to lower-emission liquid and gaseous fuels since 1990; an increase in the use of renewable energy sources and the resulting substitution of fossil fuels; the commissioning of more efficient industrial plants and facilities; changes in conditions for raising livestock and reduction in the livestock population; and compliance with statutory provisions on waste management, which have significantly reduced methane (CH₄) emissions.

6. Ms. Wilke presented key policies and measures (PaMs) implemented by the Party to achieve its target, including the EU ETS, which is the most critical for Germany's contribution to achieving the joint EU emission reduction target for 2020; the Renewable Energy Sources Act; electricity-saving and conservation measures, such the Energy Saving Ordinance; and energy efficiency measures funded by the Special Energy and Climate Fund, the Energy Efficiency Fund and the National Climate Initiative, including promotional programmes for buildings funded by the German KfW Development Bank. Other measures that are expected to deliver significant emission reductions are the inclusion of lignite-fired power plants on standby for reserve capacity; the market incentive programme for renewable energy sources; the implementation of EU regulation 517/2014, which involves reducing emissions of fluorinated gases (F-gases) to 70 per cent below the 1990 level by 2030, and EU directive 2006/40/EC, which bans the use of F-gases with a global warming potential higher than 150 in new types of cars; and the funding programme for energy checks in small and medium-sized enterprises.

7. On the use of units from LULUCF activities, Germany does not intend to account for the contribution of LULUCF to achieving the joint EU target. With regard to the use of units from market-based mechanisms under the Convention and other mechanisms, Germany does not intend to use such units towards achieving either the joint EU target or its national target; however, there is a potential need to use units from market-based mechanisms (e.g. the clean development mechanism) to meet the target for the non-EU ETS sectors.

8. Germany's total GHG emissions excluding LULUCF in 2020 are projected to be 34.7 and 35.5 per cent below the 1990 level under the 'with measures' (WEM) and 'with additional measures' (WAM) scenarios, respectively. Given that its emissions from the EU ETS sectors are subject to an EU-wide cap, Germany explained that the level of emissions by 2020 from non-EU ETS sectors under the WEM and WAM scenarios is projected to be above the Party's annual emission allocation for 2020 by 3.7 and 1.9 per cent, respectively. Therefore, Germany may face challenges in meeting its target for these sectors under the WEM and WAM scenarios. The 2020 projections suggest that Germany may also face challenges in achieving its national target (a 40 per cent emission reduction by 2020 compared with the 1990 level) without the implementation of additional measures.

9. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Marshall Islands and the United States of America. The questions related to Germany's position regarding the target of net zero emissions by 2050 recently announced by the EU; the projected time frame for Germany to reduce its dependence on coal for electricity production and the reasons why it may not have been possible to reach the national target using options for reducing emissions from power capacities based on coal use; how Germany would seek to attain the target of a reduction of emissions in the transport sector by 2030 and what mitigation efforts have

been planned for this sector; why Germany has been successful in reducing emissions of non-carbon dioxide (CO₂) GHGs and in which areas and, in particular, whether Germany managed to achieve reductions of non-CO₂ GHGs in the areas considered to be “high-hanging fruit”; which additional policies Germany is considering to achieve emission reductions of non-CO₂ GHGs in order to achieve national carbon neutrality as specified in the national 2050 climate action plan; institutional arrangements and information on the consortium of institutions that prepared the GHG emission projection scenarios, including their roles; and whether the aggregation of sectoral projections to obtain a long-term projection of national emissions was calculated using optimization or only by ranking abatement costs with the aim of allocating emission reductions to each subsector.

10. In response, Germany provided further explanations. In particular, it explained that the GHG emission projections are estimated by a research consortium comprising three scientific and technical institutions using different methodological approaches and specialized models for different sectors; the institutions are responsible for modelling different sectors, subsectors or categories in accordance with their expertise and the latest available data. Germany also explained that the reduction in CH₄ emissions by around 54 per cent since 1990 is due in particular to measures and legal provisions introduced in the waste management sector and increased recovery and use of CH₄ for electricity generation, while the reduction in N₂O emissions by around 41 per cent since 1990 is due to the reduction of emissions from adipic acid production.

11. In addition, Germany indicated that reducing non-CO₂ emissions in the agriculture sector is difficult because there are few technological options for emission mitigation. Regarding the transport sector, Germany indicated that emission reduction actions to achieve its targets are currently being discussed in dedicated working groups tasked with proposing a set of possible measures in early 2019, such as supporting and extending public transport, using electric mobility in public transport, shifting to rail transport and improving air quality in cities, including public electric buses. Germany also indicated that the 2050 climate action plan includes goals for extensive carbon neutrality by 2050 in accordance with the recent announcement of the European Commission.

12. Finally, Germany explained that in the process of developing targets for individual sectors, an analysis of the possible emission reduction potential was performed for each sector, followed by in-depth consultations with the associated stakeholders. Possible abatement options were therefore not only identified theoretically but also through a combined approach involving discussions with all actors in the respective sectors. In developing the programme of action, now that 2030 targets for individual sectors have been defined, Germany is once again consulting with stakeholders and defining the measures to be put in place as part of the process of developing the targets indicated above to be concluded in the next year, and as part of the planned legislation needed to be established.
