



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Estonia 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 (BRs) 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 Estonia took place on 3 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 Estonia had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the delegation of China. Brazil submitted written questions one day after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Estonia as well as the webcast of the session can be found on the IAR web page for Estonia.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 Dlamini. Estonia was represented by Ms. Getlyn Denks (Ministry of the Environment of Estonia).

4. Ms. Denks made an opening presentation, summarizing Estonia's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its

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-3>.

quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an European Union (EU) member State, Estonia 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. Estonia's emission reduction target for sectors covered by the EU effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)) is 11 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020.

5. Estonia's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) decreased by 51.0 per cent between 1990 and 2016. The decrease in total GHG emissions can be attributed mainly to the economic restructuring at the beginning of 1990s, which has been followed by a stabilization of emissions in recent years depending mainly on the weather conditions and the global economic situation.

6. Ms. Denks presented key policies and measures (PaMs) implemented by the Party to achieve its target, including the three main strategic documents adopted in 2017, namely the "General Principles of Climate Policy until 2050", the "Climate Change Adaptation Development Plan until 2030" and the "Estonian Energy Development Plan until 2030". The sectoral strategies and implementation plans take into account these vision documents and provide objectives, policy instruments, measures and activities across sectors. Estonia listed some of the implemented PaMs in the last years by sector such as: renovating boiler houses and support for renewable energy for the energy sector; renovating public and private buildings and a zero-energy standard for buildings; modern public transport and electromobility for transportation; introducing effective fertilization technologies for agriculture; and circular economy for the waste sector. Ms. Denks gave examples of the successful implementation of electromobility in the country and the free public transport offered in the capital city, Tallinn, and plans to expand the practice to other cities. Estonia is directing 100 per cent of the revenues from the EU ETS aviation auctions to supporting innovative solutions in start-ups.

7. Use of units from LULUCF activities, is not included in the target. With regard to the use of units from market-based mechanisms under the Convention and other mechanisms, the Party expects to exceed its 2020 target and therefore does not plan to use the market-based mechanisms to meet its Kyoto Protocol target.

8. Given that emissions from the EU ETS sectors of the Party are subject to an EU-wide cap, Estonia presented the projected level of emissions by 2020 from sectors not covered by the EU ETS under the 'with measures' (WEM) scenario, which is 6,008.68 kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂ eq). The projected emissions for 2020 are below the annual emission allocation allocated for 2020 (6,023.72 kt CO₂ eq) and therefore Estonia expects to meet its target under the WEM scenario.

9. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Canada, Malaysia and the United States of America. The questions related to the process used to monitor and check progress on existing strategies and the institutional arrangements to enable this; the strategy and challenges in addressing emissions of fluorinated gases (F-gases) as part of the long-term strategy of the Party; the implemented PaMs to promote electric vehicles; and the allocation of innovation financing to start-up companies. In response, Estonia provided further explanations. In particular, Estonia explained that ministries are responsible for implementing the strategic plans in their respective areas and report biannually on progress to the Government. The Party further clarified that the F-gases are addressed under the EU F-gas regulation, which applies to the Party. In addition, there are ongoing studies in Estonia on possible alternatives to using F-gases. Regarding the promotion of electric vehicles, the Party stated that there are various measures implemented, such as support for the necessary infrastructure. On the start-up companies to be supported, Estonia explained that they are selected via different calls for proposals and the proposed idea and its economic viability are considered during the selection.