



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of France 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 France 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 France had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session at SBI 49 by the following delegations: Australia, China, Republic of Korea, Thailand and the United States of America. Brazil submitted written questions one day after the deadline. A list of the questions received, and the answers provided by France as well as the webcast of the session can be found on the IAR web page for France.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. France was represented by Mr. Laurent Michel (General Director for Climate and Energy in the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy of France).

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-4>.

4. Mr. Michel made an opening presentation summarizing France'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, France 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. France'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 14 per cent below the 2005 level by 2020 and 37 per cent below the 2005 level by 2030. In addition to the joint EU commitment, France has committed under its Energy Transition for Green Growth Act (August 2015) to achieving a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and a 75 per cent reduction by 2050, compared with the 1990 level.

5. France's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry decreased by 16.1 per cent between 1990 and 2016, owing mainly to improvements in energy and carbon efficiency in the manufacturing industries sector and to a reduction of GHG emissions from electricity production and urban heating.

6. Mr. Michel presented key policies and measures (PaMs) implemented by the Party to achieve its target, including the National Low Carbon Strategy, France's main policy framework relating to climate change, which defines carbon budgets for three five-year periods (2015–2018, 2019–2023 and 2024–2028), with shares by sector (e.g. transport, buildings and industry). Mr. Michel also presented the multi-year plan for energy for 2018–2028 and its objectives and actions: (1) lowering fossil energy consumption by a third by 2028 by, for example, closing four coal plants by 2022 and replacing one million oil boilers by 2023; (2) lowering energy consumption, for example, through retrofits and renewable energy integration in buildings and by having 4.8 million electric vehicles on the road by 2028; and (3) diversifying the energy mix by developing renewable energies and reducing the share of nuclear power.

7. Given that emissions from the EU ETS sectors of the Party are subject to an EU-wide cap, France presented the projected level of emissions by 2020 from sectors not covered by the EU ETS (non-ETS sectors) under the 'with measures' (WEM) scenario, which is 20 per cent below the 2005 level. France expects to meet the 2020 target (14 per cent) under the WEM scenario. Further, France presented the projected level of emissions by 2030 from non-EU ETS sectors under the WEM scenario, which is 28 per cent below the 2005 level. France explained that it would need additional measures in order to meet the 2030 target (37 per cent).

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, Japan and the United States of America. The questions related to internal coordination for developing projections; the review of the National Low Carbon Strategy and its impact on targets and policies; and experience of and plans for carbon capture and storage. In response, it provided further explanations. In particular, France explained that projections are validated by the relevant ministries; that it has indicators to evaluate the National Low Carbon Strategy and that every two years those indicators are assessed, including the impact of PaMs on GHG emissions; and that it is currently experimenting with carbon capture and use, and that geological storage of carbon dioxide is only at the research stage and has not progressed further due to the low price of carbon.
