



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Lithuania 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 Lithuania 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 Lithuania had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session at SBI 49 the delegation of China. Brazil submitted written questions one day after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Lithuania as well as the webcast of the session can be found on the IAR web page for Lithuania.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. Lithuania was represented by Mr. Tomas Aukštinaitis (Head of the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania).

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-9>.

4. Mr. Aukštinitis made an opening presentation summarizing Lithuania'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, Lithuania 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. Lithuania's emission limitation target for sectors covered by the EU effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)) is 15 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020.

5. Lithuania's total greenhouse gas emissions excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) decreased by 58 per cent between 1990 and 2016, owing mainly to its transition from a centrally planned to a market economy.

6. Mr. Aukštinitis presented key policies and measures implemented by the Party to achieve its target, including a multi-apartment building modernization programme, energy efficiency agreements with energy producers, promoting the use of renewable energy, investments in public transportation and cycling infrastructure, and promoting sustainable farming. According to the report on the technical review of Lithuania's BR3,⁴ Lithuania is not planning to use units from LULUCF activities or market-based mechanisms to reach its target.

7. Given that emissions from the EU ETS sectors of the Party are subject to an EU-wide cap, Lithuania presented the projected level by 2020 of its emissions from sectors not covered by the EU ETS under the 'with existing measures' (WEM) and 'with additional measures' (WAM) scenarios. According to the report on the technical review of Lithuania's BR3, the projected level of emissions for non-EU ETS sectors under the WEM and WAM scenarios is 10.9 and 14.7 per cent, respectively, below the annual emission allocation for 2020. Lithuania expects to meet its target under both scenarios.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the delegations of Canada and the United States of America. The questions related to the specific policies in place to promote renewable energy; past fluctuations in changes in forest carbon stock; and policies anticipated to be implemented in the LULUCF sector. In response, Lithuania provided further explanations. In particular, it explained that the EU ETS and EU structural funds contributed to increasing the use of renewable energy by energy and industrial plants. Grants provided through the Party's climate change programme for the residential sector also supported the uptake of renewable energy. On forestry, the Party explained that drought, forest fire and pests caused a decrease in the forest carbon sink. The national climate change strategy is currently under review and its implementation plan is being updated: the Party's afforestation targets for up until 2030 will most likely be increased by about 3,000 ha/year.

⁴ FCCC/TRR.3/LTU.