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## Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Slovakia 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.<sup>1</sup> According to the modalities and procedures for IAR,<sup>2</sup> 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 Slovakia 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 Slovakia had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session at SBI 49 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 Slovakia as well as the webcast of the session can be found on the IAR web page for Slovakia.<sup>3</sup> 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 Vice-Chair, Mr. Naser Moghaddasi. Slovakia was represented by Ms. Gabriela Fischerova (Ministry of Environment of Slovakia).

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 40 and 44.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, annex II.

<sup>3</sup> <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-13>.

4. Ms. Fischerova made an opening presentation summarizing Slovakia'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, Slovakia 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. Slovakia'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 to limit its emission growth to 13 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020 and reduce its emissions by 12 per cent below the 2005 level by 2030.

5. Slovakia's total greenhouse gas emissions excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) decreased by 44.5 per cent between 1990 and 2016, owing mainly to stricter air protection legislation after 1990, introducing fees for basic pollutants, implementing best available technologies in renovations, the shift from oil and coal to natural gas and renewables, as well as to the restructuring of the economy to less energy-intensive activities.

6. Ms. Fischerova presented key policies and measures (PaMs) implemented by the Party to achieve its target, including those at the EU level, as well as the key strategies at the national level, including the National Reform Programme, National Sustainable Development Strategy for the Slovak Republic, the new National Environmental Strategy (which is in the last stages of preparation), the updated Strategy for the Adaptation of Slovak Republic to Impacts of Climate Change, and the long-term low-carbon strategy (under development). Ms. Fischerova pointed out progress regarding improved energy efficiency and the increased share of renewables, as well as the ongoing discussions on the phasing out of coal subsidies.

7. On the use of units from LULUCF activities, LULUCF is not included in the target, but the sector has increased as a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) sink in the last three years. With regard to the use of units from market-based mechanisms under the Convention and other mechanisms, a limited number of certified emission reductions and emission reduction units may be used to achieve the target, although it is likely that such credits will represent efforts beyond the target.

8. Given that emissions from the EU ETS sectors of Slovakia are subject to an EU-wide cap, the Party presented the projected level of emissions by 2020 from sectors not covered by the EU ETS (non-ETS sectors) under the 'with measures' (WEM) and 'with additional measures' (WAM) scenarios. According to the Party's BR3, the projected level of emissions under the WEM and WAM scenarios from non-EU ETS sectors is 22.3 and 25.4 per cent, respectively, below Slovakia's annual emission allocations for 2020. This suggests that Slovakia expects to meet its target for non-EU ETS sectors under the WEM and WAM scenarios.

9. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: New Zealand, Republic of Korea and the United States of America. The questions related to the newly proposed EU ETS Modernisation Fund, phasing out coal subsidies and implemented waste measures. In response, Slovakia provided further explanations. In particular, it explained that it is preparing the legislation for the next phase of the EU ETS, including the Modernisation Fund. The focus would be on seeking support for the fuel switch (particularly for district heating plants which are still using coal) and renovation of the distribution network, along with other energy efficiency projects. Regarding the phasing out of coal subsidies, the Party clarified that according to the documents under preparation for approval by the Government the preliminary deadline for the end of coal burning is by the end of 2023. The changes in the waste sector are linked to the push towards the waste-to-energy approach and recycling practices. Lots of new legislation has been implemented in the sector, including the obligation for municipalities to have their own waste management plans and the increased fees for landfills.