Session SB63 (2025)

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Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress

A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Slovakia exported on 16-10-2025 by the UNFCCC secretariat

Question by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday, 10 September 2025
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Question to Slovakia on energy

Thank you, **Slovakia**, for the opportunity to comment on your 1st Biennial Transparency Report. In your report, you mention that the closure of a coal-based power plant in Nováky raised concerns from the local population who relied on that plant for heating. Can you share how you worked with the local communities to find a solution to phasing-out the plant?

Answer by Slovakia
The closure of the coal power plant in Nováky is a part of the just transition process that Slovakia implemented through **the Just Transition Fund (JTF) [1]** under the Programme Slovakia (https://mirri.gov.sk/sekcie/program-slovensko-2021-2027/fond-spravodlivej-transformacie/zakladne-informacie/). The upper Nitra region has been identified as one of the most promising areas in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

During the preparation phase, several expert discussions and workshops took place, involving representatives of local communities, experts, and regional stakeholders. The aim of these meetings was to propose solutions that would help replace jobs in the mining and energy sectors, while also support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups, research and innovation.

Special attention was given to the younger generation, which will no longer find jobs in the declining mining sector. The outcomes of these discussions, including comments and minutes are publicly available on the website: https://www.eurofondy.gov.sk/otvorili-sme-siroku-odbornu-diskusiu-o-novom-operacnom-programe-slovensko/

Several communication activities with local residents were also carried out by the company Slovenské elektrárne, a .s as the power plant operator and the towns of Nováky and Prievidza during the search for a new way of supplying heat to the population.

<u>Examples of support - national projects financed by the JTF</u> :

I. The most important geothermal energy project in Slovakia is the national project ‘Use of geothermal energy in the Košice Basin’, funded by the Just Transition Fund. This project is the most important geothermal energy use project for heating in Slovakia.

A geothermal heating project in the city of Kosice in Slovakia will be receiving EUR 56.2 million the European Commission's Just Transition Fund, The estimated total cost of the project is approx. EUR 95,7 milion.

Detailed description of the project:

The geothermal area located in the cadastre of the municipalities of Ďurkov, Svinica, Olšovany and Bidovce has a depth of 2100-3 200 metres of water with a temperature of up to 135 °C, making it one of the best geothermal zones in Slovakia. The main objective of the project is to exploit the potential of geothermal energy in the Košice Basin and bring heat from geothermal wells (in the municipality of Ďurkov, ca. 15 km) to the hot water district heating network in Košice. The projected installed capacity of the new geothermal resource is around 30 MWt, producing approximately 180 GWh of heat per year. This represents almost 25 % of the total energy supplied to the basket heating plant. The overall share of renewables in the production of heat for Košice will increase up to 42 % through the implementation of this project. The start of the plant in Ďurkov is foreseen during 2027, with a gradual increase of the thermal output from 15 MW to 30 MW, with the project having the potential to create the preconditions for the use of up to 100 MW of thermal energy in the future. This would increase the share of heat generation from geothermal energy for Košice to up to 50 % in the medium term. The residual heat could be used for agricultural, recreational and other purposes in municipalities along the 15-kilometre hot-water route, from Ďurkova to Košice. The project creates the basic conditions for half of the total heat production for Slovakia's second largest city to come from geothermal energy in the future. At the same time, the consumption of fossil fuels (coal and gas) in the heating plant will be reduced, which will subsequently reduce its CO_2 emissions by up to 54,000 tonnes per year. The implementation partners for this project are GEOTERM KOSICE and MH Teplarensky holding.

II. National project Support for employability in the Upper Nitra II region (possible support from the FST: EUR 10.9 million): The aim is to mitigate the consequences of the end of coal mining and combustion for the affected employees and create conditions for their transition from a declining industry to new jobs in other sectors. Employees will be provided with targeted assistance and support focused on improving qualifications, retraining, and developing personal competencies and soft skills. The call for proposals was announced by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic in December 2023, the project was submitted, and the application was approved.

[1] https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/finance-and-green-deal/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-funding-sources_en#the-just-transition-fund

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Question by New Zealand at Tuesday, 09 September 2025
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Slovakia's new Climate Change Legislation

New Zealand notes Slovakia's BTR states that Slovakia has prepared new Climate Change legislation that introduces sectoral targets with shared responsibility among ministries and the private sector. Could Slovakia provide more detail on how these targets are being implemented, and what mechanisms are in place, if any, to monitor compliance?

Answer by Slovakia
Ministry of Environment has initiated the legislative process for the preparation of a new Act on Climate Change, which includes strong mechanisms for establishing a national legal framework for reporting on policies and measures and projections. The act, aimed at setting climate targets, will include a revised description of the national system for climate change tasks, including GHG emissions inventory preparation, GHG emissions projections, evaluation of policies and measures (PAMs), and international reporting.

The draft law on climate change and the low-carbon transformation of the Slovak Republic was discussed at the Economic and Social Council of the Slovak Republic on April 3, 2023, and, based on the conclusions of the meeting, was withdrawn from the legislative process. Work on this legal act is currently suspended.

However, some of its elements were implemented in the Slovak National and Energy Climate Plan (NECP) update (issues of sectoral targets, climate and energy targets, etc.) Slovak NECP update is available online: https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/7508acc9-b266-4100-ac2f-6fa4ecd77f17_en?filename=Slovakian%20final%20NECP-English%20version.pdf. The Slovak government also declared the preparation of the new Act on Climate Change in its Program Statement for 2023-2027 (available online: https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/28969/1).

The approved NECP update, through modelling in the WAM scenario, showed the possibility of reducing non ETS emissions in sectors covered by the ESR by 31.5% in 2030 compared to 2005, if the assumptions for reducing these emissions by sectors covered by the ESR were met as follows:

· the road transport sector does not exceed a 10% increase in emissions by 2030 compared to the 2005 reference year;

· the buildings sector will reduce emissions by 43% compared to the 2005 reference year by 2030;

· the agriculture sector will reduce emissions by 20% by 2030 compared to the reference year 2005;

· the waste sector will reduce emissions by 51% by 2030 compared to the 2005 reference year;

· the industrial processes and solvent use sector, including fluorinated greenhouse gases, will reduce emissions by 45% by 2030 compared to the reference year 2005;

· fugitive emissions will be reduced by 85% by 2030 to the reference year 2005.

Policies and measures in non-ETS sectors that should ensure the achievement of the ESR target in Slovakia (-22.7%) are currently directly dependent on the degree of implementation of policies and measures that are under the responsibility of the relevant ministries (f. e. Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, etc.).

Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: New technologies in GHG Inventory development

How have you been able to leverage new technologies such as artificial intelligence to improve GHG inventory development?

Answer by Slovakia
So far, the role of artificial intelligence in our GHG inventory process has been relatively limited. We have mainly used AI as a supportive tool — for example, to assist with data classification, improve the efficiency of writing and debugging scripts, and to speed up

some routine documentation tasks. While these applications are modest, they already help streamline parts of the process. Looking ahead, we see significant potential for a broader use of AI, especially in automating quality checks, identifying anomalies in large datasets, and supporting scenario analysis. We are therefore trying to exploring opportunities to gradually integrate AI more systematically into the inventory development process.

Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: GHG Inventory methodologies and mitigation measures

What processes do you have in place to ensure inventory methodologies effectively reflect changes in activities/practices resulting from mitigation measures?

Answer by Slovakia
As part of the EMISIE project (https://oeab.shmu.sk/en/about-us/projects.html), we have been developed new guidelines and calculation manuals to strengthen methodological robustness, aiming to align national methodologies and projections with international rules and the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, the National Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals System, together with our established quality assurance and control processes, ensures that methodologies remain consistent, transparent and responsive to evolving practices and mitigation measures.

In most cases, our inventory methodologies are based on activity data such as fuel consumption, which inherently reflect the impact of mitigation measures. This means that changes in energy use, transport patterns, or industrial processes are directly captured in the input data, even if it is not always possible to attribute them to a single measure.

Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Archiving system of GHG Inventory

Could you please give a brief overview of key processes part of your national GHG inventory archiving system that support its efficient maintenance?

Answer by Slovakia
Data are stored from every submission, both for GHG and air pollutants, as well as projections. For this purpose, MESAP software and new computing techniques were put into operation. The MESAP system is used at the Department of Emissions and Biofuels to convert the inputs required for emissions and projections into the necessary and prescribed forms (units). MESAP is a modular client/server platform for managing, analyzing, and reporting energy and environmental data, particularly national emission inventories. It serves as a central data hub that integrates information from diverse sources (activity data, emission factors, emissions, fuel parameters) into a structured, warehouse-like system. It is used for data management with flexible handling of time series, metadata, documentation, and version histories. It is also used for automation of processes with configurable workflows for data collection, calculations, validation, and reporting without programming. It contains various modules such as tools for importing data, emission calculations, quality control (QA/QC), uncertainty analysis and Excel-based reporting. MESAP also has the function of an archiving environment. The system archives all inputs (even non-numerical ones) and logically connects them as needed (EF resources, literature, etc.). A more detailed description of the MESAP software can be found at this link: https://oeab.shmu.sk/en/about-us/projects.html

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Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Quality management system of GHG Inventory

Could you please share some examples of good practices used to ensure that QA/QC checks are done thoroughly for all sectors as well as for cross-cutting areas of the GHG inventory?

Answer by Slovakia

In the framework of the National System, we have established comprehensive QA/QC plans as well as improvement plans that are updated regularly to ensure consistency across all sectors and cross-cutting areas. These plans define responsibilities, procedures, and documentation requirements for checks at both the sectoral and inventory-wide level. Similarly, lists of recommendations are prepared from each review, and the comments are then specifically implemented in individual improvement plans for all sectors, including general (cross-cutting). All documents are sent to experts for the given sectors, and their implementation is then supervised by the QA/QC quality manager and NS coordinator.

As good practice, we also organize dedicated QA/QC meetings and peer reviews, including exchanges with neighboring countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Austria), to compare approaches and discuss solutions for methodological or data-related issues. This external perspective helps us identify potential gaps and align our procedures with international standards.

Sector-specific quality control may also be conducted. The sector-specific QC activity form is used to check and maintain data quality. It is not completed annually for all sectors or categories, but is completed for key categories or categories in which significant methodological changes or data revisions have been made. It contains procedures that should be performed as part of the overall QC activity in a given, selected sector. Checks include verification according to standardized procedures, as well as the provision of forms for documentation and corrective measures.

Information from QA/QC process and meetings can be found in our NID reports and on our webpage http://oeab.shmu.sk/en.

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