



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Canada at the forty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, by decision 1/CP.16, 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 established a new process under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – the international assessment and review (IAR) of emissions and removals related to developed country Parties' quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets – that aims to promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties. The first round of the IAR process is to be conducted during the period 2014–2015.

2. According to the modalities and procedures for IAR specified in annex II to decision 2/CP.17, the multilateral assessment (MA), being part of the IAR process, 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 the MA is to assess each Party's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.

3. The first MA of Canada took place at a working group session during SBI 42, on 4 June 2015. 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 Canada had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, European Union, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland and United States of America. Canada submitted written answers after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Canada can be found on the IAR web page for Canada.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8817.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Canada was represented by Ms. Louise Métivier, Environment Canada.

5. Ms. Métivier made an opening presentation, summarizing Canada's national circumstances, the impacts of climate change felt in Canada, the institutional arrangements it has made with regard to its climate change policy, and its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission trends and projections. She also summarized the steps Canada has taken towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. According to Ms. Métivier, the implementation of current policies and measures (PaMs) will contribute a reduction of 130 million tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ eq) towards Canada's 2020 target, which is 17 per cent below 2005 emission levels by 2020, and the Party will require an additional reduction of 116 Mt CO₂ eq to reach the target. A comparison of GHG emission growth with the emission intensity of gross domestic product (GDP) shows that Canada has achieved some level of decoupling of its emissions from GDP growth.

6. Ms. Métivier emphasized that Canada's sector by sector regulatory approach focuses on the two most polluting sectors, transportation and coal-fired electricity production. Transportation emits about 25 per cent of Canada's total emissions; therefore, Canada intends to develop more stringent GHG emission standards for road transportation. Emissions from coal-fired electricity production are addressed by federal and provincial measures phasing out coal-fired electricity generation over the long term. In addition, Ms. Métivier noted that Canada puts great effort into research, development and demonstration for carbon dioxide storage and sequestration and that the mitigation efforts of provinces and territories are making a significant contribution to meeting the national target.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Australia, Brazil, China, European Union, Japan, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden and United States. These questions were on: the use of units from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) and the use of international market-based mechanisms to achieve the target; ways to deliver the required 116 Mt CO₂ eq reductions to achieve the 2020 target; the effects of current and additional PaMs; uncertainties in the estimation of emissions/removals in the LULUCF sector; new regulations in the electricity and transportation sectors; regulations addressing fluorinated gases; mapping the differences in the classification of economic sections versus the sectoral classification used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; scale of investments in clean technologies; and the roles of provinces and territories in the implementation of the climate change policy. Questions were also raised in relation to the Party's assessment of the social and economic consequences of response measures. In response, Canada provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Canada.

8. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded Canada that it can submit any other observations on its MA process within two months of the working group session, and that they will form part of its Party record for the MA. The SBI Chair thanked the delegation of Canada, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.
