



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Spain at the forty-first 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 Spain took place at a working group session during SBI 41, on 8 December 2014. 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 Spain had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Algeria, China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and United States of America. Egypt and the United States also submitted written questions after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Spain can be found on the IAR web page for Spain.¹

¹ <http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/international_assessment_and_review/application/pdf/sbi41-spain-full.pdf>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Spain was represented by Mr. Eduardo Gonzalez, Deputy Director for Climate Actions Coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

5. Mr. Gonzalez made an opening presentation, summarizing the questions received prior to the working group session and the answers provided. He described Spain's national circumstances and explained its greenhouse gas emission trends since 1990, in particular, the significant decreasing trend since 2007, and highlighted the decrease in the emission intensity of the gross domestic product and the per capita emissions in the country in recent years. He emphasized that the decoupling of emissions from economic growth since 2005 is mainly due to policies and measures focused on electricity generation, use of renewable energy sources and improved building codes in the country. Mr. Gonzalez explained that as a European Union (EU) member State, Spain is committed to achieving the joint unconditional quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of the EU of 20 per cent by 2020, compared with the 1990 level. He elaborated on Spain's target for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and highlighted Spain's target under the EU effort-sharing decision of a 10 per cent reduction below the 2005 level by 2020 in emissions in sectors not included in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), including Spain's national targets on the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency improvements by 2020.

6. Mr. Gonzalez also provided details of assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to Spain's target under the Convention, and explained the shift in the climate strategy implemented in order to comply with the European and international commitments in the medium and long term and to promote a low-carbon, resource-efficient and inclusive economy. In particular, he explained Spain's "roadmap 2020" for sectors not covered by the EU ETS, which addresses the gap in compliance with the emissions reduction target for these sectors, and the new policies and measures implemented after 2012 at the EU and domestic level addressing other sectors of the economy.

7. The opening presentation was followed by further questions from Brazil, China, New Zealand and Pakistan. These questions were on the drivers that would lead to increases in emissions from the current levels to the 2020 levels in the different projection scenarios presented by Spain; the provision of more information on the tax on fluorinated gases (F-gases) and its expected effect on future F-gas emissions; the reason for taxing only F-gases, which are substances with short lifetime in the atmosphere; the specific policies and measures in place in the period 2004–2005 that helped to start a sharp decrease in emissions and emission reductions in the years that followed; and Spain's expectations of very high emission reductions as a result of the adoption of recently proposed measures that were not included in the projection scenarios for 2020, which currently show an increase in emissions. In response, the Spanish delegation provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Spain.

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