



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Iceland 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 Iceland 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 Iceland had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, Canada, China, European Union (EU), New Zealand and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Iceland can be found on the IAR web page for Iceland.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8823.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Iceland was represented by Mr. Hugi Ólafsson, Department of Oceans, Water and Climate, Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources.

5. Mr. Ólafsson made an opening presentation, summarizing Iceland's progress in the implementation of its emission reduction and removal commitments related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Mr. Ólafsson highlighted Iceland's unique greenhouse gas (GHG) emission profile, where emissions from industrial processes are the major contributor to the total national GHG emissions without emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry. The total GHG emissions increased by 26 per cent from 1990 to 2012.

6. Mr. Ólafsson noted that Iceland, jointly with the EU, participates in efforts to reach the economy-wide emission reduction target for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol of reducing GHG emissions by 20 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level. Iceland intends to contribute to the achievement of this target by participating in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and by implementing mitigation actions in the sectors not covered by the EU ETS. The mitigation action plan that Iceland has put in place aims to reduce national GHG emissions, and in particular GHG emissions from sectors not covered by the EU ETS, by 20 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level. Iceland has identified significant mitigation potential in afforestation and revegetation as well as in the transport and fisheries sectors.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from China and India. These questions were on the policies and measures targeted at the reduction of GHG emissions from heavy industry and research on hydrogen vehicles. In response, Iceland provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Iceland.

8. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded Iceland 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 Iceland, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.
