



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Japan 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 Japan 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 Japan had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, European Union, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Japan can be found on the IAR web page for Japan.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8825.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Japan was represented by Mr. Hideaki Mizukoshi, Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5. Mr. Mizukoshi made an opening presentation, summarizing Japan's progress in the implementation of its emission reduction and removal commitments related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets.

6. Mr. Mizukoshi presented Japan's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission trends by sector and by gas and explained how they are linked to changes in national circumstances, more specifically the Great East Japan Earthquake, which led to the shutdown of Japan's 48 nuclear power stations. He also explained how changes in national circumstances modified the trend in electricity supply sources, the energy consumption pattern and the GHG emission intensity of the economy.

7. Furthermore, Mr. Mizukoshi reported that Japan achieved its emission reduction target for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol using removals by forests and other carbon sinks, as well as units from mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol. He then presented Japan's quantified economy-wide GHG emission reduction target for 2020 and its underlying assumptions, followed by emission projections by sector and by gas for up to 2020. He explained the main policies and measures on which Japan relies to reduce emissions (the Basic Environment Law and Basic Environment Plan, and the Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures) and presented the joint crediting mechanism that Japan plans to use to achieve its 2020 target.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Fiji, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and United States. The questions were on: Japan's revision of its 2020 target (3.8 per cent below the 2005 emission level) and how Japan will ensure that the target will not be weakened; Japan's participation in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; civil-society actions, a low-carbon society and regional development; Japan's plans for the future use of its nuclear energy production capacity; Japan's strategy for reducing emissions from shipping; the estimated quantitative mitigation effects of Japan's policies and measures and the policies and measures that are expected to contribute the most to reducing emissions; and the joint crediting mechanism (the rationale behind it, how credits would be shared among Parties, and the independent nature of the verification of, and accounting rules for, the mechanism). Questions were also raised in relation to the Party's assessment of the social and economic consequences of its response measures. In response, Japan provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Japan.

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