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## **Summary report on the multilateral assessment of the Russian Federation 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 related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.

3. The first MA of the Russian Federation took place at a working group session during SBI 42, on 5 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 the Russian Federation 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. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by the Russian Federation can be found on the IAR web page for the Russian Federation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/8832.php>>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. The Russian Federation was represented by Ms. Dinara Gershinkova, Deputy Head of Special and Scientific Programmes, Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring.

5. Ms. Gershinkova made an opening presentation, summarizing the Russian Federation's progress towards the achievement of its emission limitation and reduction commitment related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Ms. Gershinkova initially referred to the questions received prior to the working group session and the answers provided. She then described how the target for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol has been overachieved by a large margin, in particular owing to the adoption of legislation for energy efficiency improvement and renewable energy development and the results delivered by these policies. Ms. Gershinkova emphasized the observed decoupling of emission growth from economic growth in the country since 2000, which is also a result of increased energy efficiency and the structural economic changes that occurred in the Russian Federation.

6. Ms. Gershinkova also provided details of the Russian Federation's target under the Convention, which corresponds to the limitation of emissions to a level of no more than 75.0 per cent of the 1990 level by 2020. She described the action plan for 2014–2017 adopted by the Government containing economy-wide measures that support the achievement of this target, such as State regulations on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in various economic sectors, including carbon market mechanisms, and indicated that the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector is not included in the target. She further elaborated on policies and measures in the LULUCF sector, highlighting the importance of this sector and its contribution to addressing climate change in the Russian Federation, and the implementation of a wide range of measures for the sector for the period 2013–2020.

7. Ms. Gershinkova indicated that the Russian Federation is on track to achieve its target under the Convention, which is supported by different emission projection scenarios developed by independent groups. In the "with additional measures" scenario, which involves measures such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) capture and storage, the Russian Federation would achieve a level of GHG emissions corresponding to 66.9 per cent of the 1990 level, which is below the 75.0 per cent specified in the target. She also mentioned that in different emissions scenarios for the period 2010–2050, the net CO<sub>2</sub> removals by forests in the Russian Federation decrease gradually. Finally, Ms. Gershinkova referred to the Russian Federation's submission on 31 March 2015 of its intended nationally determined contribution, which aims to allow the country to move forward on the path of low-carbon development compatible with the long-term objective of the Convention to stay below the 2 °C increase in the global average temperature.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Australia, Brazil, China, European Union, Germany, India, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. These questions were on: the actions taken to reverse the trend of growing emissions in recent years; the list of quantitative details of the measures with the greatest mitigation potential; quantitative estimates of mitigation effects of domestic policies and measures and the intended use of Kyoto Protocol units in achieving the 2020 target; the drivers for the increase in net removals in the LULUCF sector since 1994 and relevant actions; the information on the action plan 2014–2017 and its key measures to meet the 2020 target. Further questions were on: the policies and measures put in place to achieve the target of reducing the energy intensity of the economy by 12 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2007; the programmes

implemented and the specific consideration of new technologies in the Russian Federation to increase the share of renewable energy in road transportation by up to 35 per cent by 2030 and the share of renewable energy in electricity production by up to 4.5 per cent by 2020; the differences in the role of local governments and the central government in the reduction of GHG emissions; the contribution of energy efficiency improvements as the major driver to the total emission reductions in the country; and the road map or time schedule for applying additional carbon pricing policies or measures, such as carbon markets and carbon taxation, and whether these will be implemented before or after 2020.

9. There were specific questions on reporting, such as the limited reporting on the assessment of the mitigation impact of the key policies and measures and their aggregated effect in the biennial report. Questions were also raised in relation to the Party's assessment of the social and economic consequences of response measures. In response, the Russian Federation provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for the Russian Federation.

10. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded the Russian Federation 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 the Russian Federation, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.

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