



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Sweden 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 Sweden 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 Sweden had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The United States of America submitted written questions after the deadline.¹

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

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Sweden was represented by Ms. Anna Lindstedt, Ambassador for Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment.

5. Ms. Lindstedt made an opening presentation, and provided an overview of Sweden's sixth national communication by addressing its national circumstances; greenhouse gas (GHG) emission trends; policies and measures, including the most effective ones; the total effect of implemented policies and measures; GHG emission projections up to 2025; GHG emission targets under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and domestically; and progress towards achieving the targets.

6. Ms. Lindstedt also presented the decreasing trend of total GHG emissions since 1990, mainly due to early implementation of comprehensive climate policies, including a general tax on carbon dioxide in 1991. She highlighted Sweden's emission trends by presenting the results of an analysis of the effect of the implemented policies and measures, which include the finding that Sweden's emissions would have increased by some 20 per cent compared with 1990 levels if no climate policies and measures had been implemented.

7. Ms. Lindstedt underlined that as a result of its climate policy, Sweden is on track to overachieve its international and domestic emission reduction targets while maintaining robust economic growth since 1990.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, Canada, China and Pakistan. These questions were on: emission reductions per sector during the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and in Sweden's projection scenarios; mitigation effects of policies and measures in the land sector; mitigation effects of policies and measures in Sweden's projection scenarios; and Sweden's mitigation pathway towards its domestic 2050 mitigation target. In response, the Swedish delegation provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Sweden.

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