



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Poland at the forty-fifth 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 second round of the IAR process is to be conducted during the period 2016–2017 (the first round of the IAR process was 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 second round of MA of Poland took place at a working group session during SBI 45, on 14 November 2016. 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 Poland had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Poland can be found on the IAR web page for Poland.¹

¹ <<https://unfccc.int/9718.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow. Poland was represented by Ms. Sylwia Wasniewska, Chief Expert, National Centre for Emissions Management, Institute of Environmental Protection.

5. Ms. Wasniewska made an opening presentation, summarizing Poland's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. As a member State of the European Union, Poland is committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint European Union quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. As part of this target, Poland's target for emissions from sectors covered by the European Union effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System) is to limit the growth of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 14 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020.

6. Ms. Wasniewska presented emission trends and key policies and measures for achieving Poland's 2020 targets. She highlighted that, while Poland's gross domestic product more than doubled between 1990 and 2014, its total GHG emissions (excluding land use, land-use change and forestry) decreased by 19.7 per cent in 2014 compared to 1990 emission level and by 34.5 per cent compared to 1988 emission level. Ms. Wasniewska stated that emission reductions were mainly driven by Poland's economic transition towards a market economy and by technological shifts in the energy and industry sectors towards more efficient technologies. Poland's key policies and measures aim at increasing energy efficiency as well as a shift in the energy mix towards renewable energy sources and nuclear energy. These emission reductions are offsetting the increasing emission trends in the transport and agriculture sectors, despite already realized efficiency gains in those sectors. Through these efforts, Poland will contribute its part to achieving the joint European Union economy-wide emission reduction target, including through keeping its emissions levels from sectors covered by the European Union effort-sharing decision below its target.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: China, Republic of Korea and United States of America. Questions related to: experiences and challenges with the implementation of Poland's forest programme; policies and measures providing incentives to increase the share of electric vehicles; and anticipated changes in the energy mix with regards to the share of renewable energy sources and nuclear energy. In response, Poland provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Poland.

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