



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Kazakhstan at the forty-sixth 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) – international assessment and review (IAR) – that aims to promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties. According to the modalities and procedures for IAR specified in annex II to decision 2/CP.17, the multilateral assessment (MA) 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.

2. The second round of MA of Kazakhstan took place at a working group session during SBI 46, on 12 May 2017. 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 Kazakhstan had been submitted by the following delegations: Brazil, China, the European Union and Thailand. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Kazakhstan, as well as the broadcast of the session can be found on the IAR web page for Kazakhstan.¹ The Party can submit any other observations on its MA within two months of the working group session.

II. Proceedings

3. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Mr. Zhihua Chen. Kazakhstan was represented by Ms. Irina Yesserkepova, Ministry of the Energy of Kazakhstan.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/10098.php>.

4. Ms. Yesserkepova made an opening presentation summarizing Kazakhstan's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. Under the Convention, Kazakhstan made a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 15.0 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020.

5. Kazakhstan's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) decreased by 22.7 per cent between 1990 and 2015. The decrease in the total GHG emissions can be attributed mainly to the economic downturn in the period from 1990 to 1999; however, the decrease was followed by an increased emissions trend owing to the country's steady economic recovery and the revival of industrial production activities, which began in 2000.

6. Ms. Yesserkepova presented Kazakhstan's key policies and measures (PaMs) for achieving its target, including the overarching strategy "Concept for the Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Green Economy" until 2020, the related implementation programme "Agriculture and Industry Complex Development Program of Kazakhstan" and the annual action plans for implementation of this programme. These documents set out the national targets and climate change related actions for their implementation such as: increasing the share of renewable energy sources to 3.0 per cent of the total electricity production by 2020; increasing the share of natural gas in electricity production to 20.0 per cent by 2020; and reducing the energy intensity of Kazakhstan's gross domestic product by 25.0 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2008 level. Ms Yesserkepova noted that while promoting the use of renewable energy sources, Kazakhstan has implemented a fixed feed-in tariff system and a guaranteed purchase of electricity production from renewable energy sources. On its use of units from LULUCF activities and market-based mechanisms under the Convention and other mechanisms, according to its second biennial report, Kazakhstan does not intend to use them to achieve its target.

7. Kazakhstan's total GHG emissions excluding LULUCF in 2020 and 2030 are projected to be 343,079.00 and 439,344.00 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂ eq), respectively, under the 'with measures' scenario, which is a decrease of 11.4 per cent and an increase of 13.5 per cent, respectively, below the 1990 level. Under the 'with additional measures' scenario, emissions in 2020 and 2030, amounting to 321,934.00 and 322,383.00 kt CO₂ eq, respectively, are projected to be lower than those in 1990 by 16.9 and 16.7 per cent, respectively. The 2020 projections suggest that Kazakhstan may face challenges in achieving its 2020 target under the Convention with existing PaMs and will reach the target if the additional PaMs are implemented as indicated in the 'with additional measures' scenario.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Austria, China, the European Union, India, New Zealand and Sweden. The questions were related to: mitigation actions to limit the increase in emissions from the energy sector and the non-forestry part of the LULUCF sector (e.g. cultivated land); national arrangements for tracking progress towards the target; additional PaMs needed to achieve the target; national system arrangements for the monitoring of PaMs implementation and GHG emission projections; the status of the national emission trading system; and lessons learned and success stories in the implementation of fixed feed-in tariffs for the promotion of renewable energy sources.

9. In response, Kazakhstan provided further explanations. In particular, Kazakhstan explained that to limit the increase in emissions from the energy and agriculture sectors, Kazakhstan is making efforts to increase the share of natural gas used for electricity production and to gradually increase the share of cultivated land with zero-tillage practice. With regard to the additional PaMs needed to achieve the target by 2020, efforts are being made to introduce actions which will further increase energy efficiency on both the supply

and demand sides and promote the use of renewable energy sources. Kazakhstan's National Council on Green Economy, with representatives from relevant ministries, is the principal body for monitoring the implementation of PaMs in Kazakhstan. It was also explained that the national emission trading system is suspended until 1 January 2018 owing to the observed inconsistencies in some of the relevant regulations and the apparent overallocation of allowances in the first phase. The main lesson learned in the application of the fixed feed-in tariff is the need for periodical adjustments to factor in effects of inflation and exchange rate fluctuations.
