



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of the Russian Federation 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 the Russian Federation took place at a working group session during SBI 46, on 13 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 the Russian Federation 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 the Russian Federation, as well as the broadcast of the session can be found on the IAR web page for the Russian Federation.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 Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow. The Russian Federation was represented by Mr. Aleksander Nakhutin from the Institute of

¹ <https://unfccc.int/10104.php>.

Global Climate and Ecology, the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring of the Russian Federation.

4. Mr. Nakhutin made an opening presentation summarizing the Russian Federation's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. Under the Convention, the Russian Federation made a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by not less than 25 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020.

5. The Russian Federation's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) decreased by 29.6 per cent between 1990 and 2015 and by 45.7 per cent, including emissions and removals from the LULUCF in the same period. The decrease in the total GHG emissions can be attributed mainly to the decrease in GHG emissions from the energy and industrial sectors due to the Russian Federation's economic downturn in the early 1990s.

6. Mr. Nakhutin presented the Russian Federation's key policies and measures for achieving its target, including economy-wide policies, such as the Strategy of Ecological Safety (2017) and the action plan for the improvement of the government regulation of GHG emissions and preparation for the ratification of the Paris Agreement (2016), and the sectoral plans, such as the Energy Efficiency and Energy Development State Programme, and the State Programme for Development of Forestry. Mr. Nakhutin highlighted the successful reduction of emissions from natural gas flaring and improvements in energy efficiency in power generation achieved due to the implementation of mitigation measures in the energy sector. On its use of units from LULUCF activities and from market-based mechanisms under the Convention and other mechanisms, as noted in the second biennial report, the Russian Federation does not plan to use them to achieve its 2020 target.

7. The Russian Federation presented the projected level of emissions by 2020 and 2030 under a 'with measures' scenario excluding LULUCF, which amounts to 70.2 and 67.1 per cent, respectively, and including LULUCF, which amounts to 57.5 and 56.1 per cent, respectively, of the emissions level in 1990. The 2020 projections suggest that the Russian Federation expects to overachieve its 2020 target under the Convention.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, Germany, Luxembourg, New Zealand, the European Union and Switzerland. The questions were related to: the mitigation effect of policies and measures (PaMs) and emission projections in 2020 and beyond; PaMs in the LULUCF sector and their effects; PaMs to promote renewable energy sources; and methodology to assess the progress towards the target.

9. In response, the Russian Federation provided further explanations. In particular, the Russian Federation explained that the responsible institutions are reporting qualitative and quantitative information to the government periodically on progress in the implementation of PaMs. Currently, the share of renewable energy sources in the electricity, other than electricity from large hydro plants, is about 1 per cent and under the scenario of accelerated growth of the renewables the share can increase by 9-13 times by 2034 compared with the current level. The process for the development of projections has been enhanced and the updated projections will be presented in the third biennial report.