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Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its fifty-ninth session, held in the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 6 December 2023

Addendum

Summary reports on multilateral assessments at the fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation



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Abbreviations and acronyms

CH ₄	methane
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CO ₂ eq	carbon dioxide equivalent
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
ESD	European Union effort-sharing decision
ESR	European Union effort-sharing regulation
ETS	emissions trading system
EU	European Union
EU ETS	European Union Emissions Trading System
GHG	greenhouse gas
IAR	international assessment and review
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
MA	multilateral assessment
N ₂ O	nitrous oxide
NDC	nationally determined contribution
PaMs	policies and measures
RES	renewable energy source(s)
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
UK ETS	United Kingdom Emissions Trading Scheme

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties 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 established the IAR process under the SBI to promote comparability of developed country Parties' efforts.¹ According to the modalities and procedures for IAR,² 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 MA is to assess each Party's progress in implementation towards achieving emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.
2. Each 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, and the Party may respond to the questions within the remaining two months.
3. Summary reports for each of the 13 Parties assessed during SBI 59 are presented below. The reports are also available on the individual Party MA web pages on the UNFCCC website.³
4. In closing the MA working group session, the SBI Vice-Chair, Gonzalo Guaiquil (Chile), emphasized that MA is an example of multilateralism in practice. He reiterated the positive outcomes of the process identified by Parties during the working group session, namely the sharing of experience and lessons learned, the capacity-building of national experts and international reviewers of biennial reports, and the contribution to the overall IAR process. In addition, he noted the common understanding of the importance of a robust measurement, reporting and verification system for supporting national policy planning and implementation, tracking progress towards targets and increasing the transparency of climate action. The Vice-Chair thanked all Parties and the secretariat for the successful working group session.

II. Summary reports on multilateral assessments at the fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

A. Bulgaria

5. The fifth MA of Bulgaria took place on 5 December 2023. Questions for Bulgaria had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Bulgaria, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for Bulgaria.⁴
6. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. Bulgaria was represented by Detelina Petrova from the Ministry of Environment and Water.
7. The representative made a statement summarizing Bulgaria's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an EU member State, Bulgaria was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Bulgaria had a national target for 2020 of limiting its emission growth to 20 per cent above the 2005 level for sectors covered by the ESD. Bulgaria met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.
8. Under the Paris Agreement, as an EU member State Bulgaria is committed to contributing to the achievement of the EU NDC target to reduce its GHG emissions by at

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, paras. 40 and 44.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex II.

³ <https://unfccc.int/MA>.

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/MA/Bulgaria>.

least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. Bulgaria's national target is to reduce its GHG emissions from sectors covered by the ESR by 10 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. Bulgaria has also set a long-term goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

9. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 51.5 per cent between 1990 and 2020,⁵ owing mainly to factors such as its transition from a centrally planned to a market-based economy, which led to a decrease in power production by thermal power stations; structural changes in industry; a decline in its cattle and sheep populations; and a reduction in the use of fertilizers in agriculture.

10. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving Bulgaria's Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (2021–2030). Supported by legislation such as the Climate Change Mitigation Act, the Energy Act, the Renewable Energy Act and the Energy Efficiency Act, they include modernizing and decentralizing energy and heat generation, transitioning to a low-carbon energy mix for electricity generation, developing low-emission networks for electricity transmission and distribution, and other PaMs in the energy, manufacturing, transport, waste, agriculture and LULUCF sectors.

11. This was followed by interventions and questions from Australia, China, India and the United Kingdom:

(a) Questions on GHG emissions and removals concerned challenges in mitigating emissions in order to meet targets under the ESR, and the hardest-to-abate sectors;

(b) Questions on PaMs related to lessons learned in implementing environment, energy and climate legislation, including measures envisaged for achieving net zero targets by 2050; progress of implementation of PaMs for advancing multimodal transport options; and PaMs implemented to promote the consideration of cleaner technologies already at the planning stage in order to reduce industry emissions.

12. Bulgaria provided responses to all the questions.⁶

B. European Union

13. The fifth MA of the EU took place on 5 December 2023. Questions for the EU had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by the EU, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for the EU.⁷

14. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. The EU was represented by Jacob Werksman from the European Commission.

15. The representative made a statement summarizing the Party's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. The EU had a joint quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. An EU-wide emission cap was put in place for 2013–2020 for sectors covered by the EU ETS, covering mainly point emissions sources in the energy, industry and aviation sectors, with the goal of reducing emissions by 21 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2020. For all other sectors, covered by the ESD, the EU 2020 target was broken down to emission targets for individual member States, ranging from 20 per cent below to 20 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020, with an overall target for ESD sectors of reducing emissions by 10 per cent compared with the 2005 level. The EU and its member States achieved their joint target.

⁵ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627710>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461951>.

⁶ A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for Bulgaria is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session-part-i-mandated-event-sbi-2-d> (00:40:00–00:49:07).

⁷ https://unfccc.int/MA/European_Union.

16. Under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 climate and energy framework of the EU, the Party's 2030 target is to reduce its net GHG emissions by at least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level. A reduction target of 62 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030 has been set for emissions covered by the EU ETS. The EU is aiming to reduce its GHG emissions from ESR sectors, those not covered by the EU ETS, by 40 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. The European Green Deal includes a commitment to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

17. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 32.1 per cent between 1990 and 2020,⁸ owing to a variety of PaMs at EU and member State level that had a major impact in areas such as increasing use of RES; enhancing energy efficiency; shifting towards using less carbon-intensive fossil fuels; decreasing solid waste disposal to landfill; and reducing use of fertilizers. In addition, structural changes in the economy resulted in reduced activity in the industry sector and growth in the service sector. Furthermore, there was a contraction in economic activity owing to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019–2020, but the GHG emissions of the EU were already more than 20 per cent below the 1990 level in 2014–2019 anyway.

18. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 target under the Convention, notably the EU ETS and the ESD. Effort-sharing targets under the ESD were achieved through a combination of member State policies and EU legislation, such as standards for CO₂ emissions from cars and vans and regulations on fluorinated gas emissions and energy efficiency in buildings.

19. This was followed by interventions and questions from India, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States:

(a) Questions on GHG emissions and removals related to projections based on updates to PaMs following the adoption of the more ambitious EU target for 2030;

(b) Questions on achieving targets related to the contribution of the EU waste framework directive to achieving the 2020 target, challenges in meeting the 2030 target and plans to update the Fit for 55 target;

(c) Questions on PaMs related to streamlining mitigation actions in the waste sector, additional measures for meeting the 2030 target, PaMs targeting CH₄ and N₂O emissions, additional measures until 2030 in the transport sector, the mandatory marking of bilateral transactions for the transfer of emission allowances under the ETS 2, and the prerequisites identified for the creation of the ETS 2;

(d) Questions were also asked about the Party's retention of expertise and knowledge on the IAR process.

20. The EU provided responses to all the questions.⁹

C. Finland

21. The fifth MA of Finland took place on 5 December 2023. Questions for Finland had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Finland, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for Finland.¹⁰

22. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. Finland was represented by Outi Honkatukia from the Ministry of the Environment.

⁸ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627830>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461928>.

⁹ A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for the EU is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session-part-i-mandated-event-sbi-2-d> (00:12:21–00:34:37).

¹⁰ <https://unfccc.int/MA/Finland>.

23. The representative made a statement summarizing the Party's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an EU member State, Finland was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Finland had a national target for 2020 of reducing its emissions by 16 per cent compared with the 2005 level for ESD sectors. Finland met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.

24. Under the Paris Agreement, as an EU member State Finland is committed to contributing to the achievement of the EU NDC target to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. Finland's national target is to reduce its GHG emissions from ESR sectors by 50 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. Finland has also set a long-term goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2035 and emission reduction targets of 90–95 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2050.

25. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 32.8 per cent between 1990 and 2020,¹¹ owing mainly to developments in the energy sector, notably the increase in the share of RES in final energy consumption (being 42 per cent in 2022) and the decrease in the use of fossil fuels.

26. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 target under the Convention, such as the EU ETS for reducing emissions in the energy and industry sectors, promoting renewable energy and improving energy efficiency; the EU landfill directive and national legislation and strategies aimed at reducing the amount of waste generated and minimizing the amount of waste disposed to landfill; and regulations on fluorinated gas emissions.

27. This was followed by interventions and questions from India, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom:

(a) Questions on GHG emissions and removals related to the reducing trend in removals from the LULUCF sector since 1990;

(b) Questions on PaMs related to strengthening carbon sinks in the LULUCF sector; initiatives for promoting walking and cycling and the public response to these initiatives; measures for reaching net zero emissions by 2035, with a focus on the agriculture sector; and barriers to and opportunities for renewable electricity generation.

28. Finland provided responses to all the questions.¹²

D. Ireland

29. The fifth MA of Ireland took place on 5 December 2023. Questions for Ireland had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Ireland, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for Ireland.¹³

30. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. Ireland was represented by Niall McLoughlin from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

31. The representative made a statement summarizing Ireland's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an EU member State, Ireland was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide

¹¹ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627719>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461894>.

¹² A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for Finland is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session-part-i-mandated-event-sbi-2-d> (00:55:04–01:04:26).

¹³ <https://unfccc.int/MA/Ireland>.

emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Ireland had a national target for 2020 of reducing its emissions by 20 per cent compared with the 2005 level for ESD sectors. Ireland met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.

32. Under the Paris Agreement, as an EU member State Ireland is committed to contributing to the achievement of the EU NDC target to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. Ireland's national target is to reduce its GHG emissions from ESR sectors by 42 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. Ireland has domestic goals to increase the proportion of renewable electricity on the national grid to up to 80 per cent by 2030 and to significantly reduce transport emissions by 2030. Ireland has also set a long-term goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

33. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF increased by 6.1 per cent between 1990 and 2020,¹⁴ owing mainly to factors such as an increase in gross domestic product; a shift from coal and peat to natural gas and RES for electricity generation; growth in CO₂ emissions in the transport sector; and an increase in the cattle population, leading to greater CH₄ emissions from enteric fermentation, with the agriculture sector as a whole accounting for more than a third of national total GHG emissions.

34. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving Ireland's 2023 Climate Action Plan, such as facilitating the large-scale deployment of RES, constructing zero-emission buildings and retrofitting all homes, reducing transport emissions, reducing the use of chemical nitrogen as fertilizer, decreasing embodied carbon in construction materials that are produced and used in Ireland, and increasing the afforestation rate to 8,000 ha/year.

35. This was followed by interventions and questions from Australia, India, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom:

(a) Questions on GHG emissions and removals related to the sectors projected to account for the most significant emission reductions by 2030 under the 'with additional measures' scenario, and the update of the country-specific emission factors for fuels, especially for the transport sector;

(b) Questions were also asked on sectoral emission ceilings and carbon budgets;

(c) Questions on PaMs related to the status of implementation of the national common agricultural policy strategic plan, increasing the uptake of electric vehicles, and developing PaMs for implementing the Government's circular economy strategy.

36. Ireland provided responses to all the questions.¹⁵

E. Latvia

37. The fifth MA of Latvia took place on 5 December 2023. Questions for Latvia had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Latvia, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for Latvia.¹⁶

38. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. Latvia was represented by Liga Kurevska from the Ministry of Climate and Energy.

¹⁴ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627813>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/611860>.

¹⁵ A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for Ireland is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session-part-i-mandated-event-sbi-2-d> (01:09:55–01:23:24).

¹⁶ <https://unfccc.int/MA/Latvia>.

39. The representative made a statement summarizing Latvia's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an EU member State, Latvia was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Latvia had a national target for 2020 of limiting its emission growth to 17 per cent above the 2005 level for ESD sectors. Latvia met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.

40. Under the Paris Agreement, as an EU member State Latvia is committed to contributing to the achievement of the EU NDC target to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. Latvia's national target is to reduce GHG emissions from ESR sectors by 17 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. Latvia has also set a long-term goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

41. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 59.7 per cent between 1990 and 2020,¹⁷ owing mainly to factors such as economic trends and changes in the energy mix. In 2019–2020 the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a 6.7 per cent decrease in emissions from the transport sector owing to a fall in the number of road and rail journeys being made.

42. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 target under the Convention, such as programmes for the transition to RES (e.g. solar, biomass, heat pumps) for industrial, district and residential heating; programmes for increasing energy efficiency in individual buildings and apartment blocks; energy audits and energy certification obligation schemes; programmes for promoting the use of electric vehicles and the establishment of charging infrastructure; mandatory biofuel blending; public procurement of clean vehicles for public services; greening of transportation in the Riga metropolitan area; fiscal instruments (taxes on emissions of CO₂ and air pollutants); and public information and education programmes.

43. This was followed by interventions and questions from Australia, India, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Questions related to energy efficiency programmes in the building sector and their contribution to meeting the 2020 target, PaMs for increasing the use of RES in energy production, impact and success factors of PaMs for effecting behavioural change to improve energy efficiency, and additional PaMs envisaged for achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

44. Latvia provided responses to all the questions.¹⁸

F. Lithuania

45. The fifth MA of Lithuania took place on 5 December 2023. Questions for Lithuania had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Lithuania, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for Lithuania.¹⁹

46. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. Lithuania was represented by Stasile Znutiene from the Ministry of Environment.

47. The representative made a statement summarizing Lithuania's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an EU member State, Lithuania was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Lithuania had a

¹⁷ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627722>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461910>.

¹⁸ A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for Latvia is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session-part-ii-mandated-event-sbi-2-d> (00:06:45–00:17:39).

¹⁹ <https://unfccc.int/MA/Lithuania>.

national target for 2020 of limiting its emission growth to 15 per cent above the 2005 level for ESD sectors. Lithuania met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.

48. Under the Paris Agreement, as an EU member State Lithuania is committed to contributing to the achievement of the EU NDC target to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. Lithuania's national target is to reduce GHG emissions from ESR sectors by 21 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. Lithuania has also set a long-term goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

49. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 58.1 per cent between 1990 and 2020,²⁰ owing mainly to factors such as its transition from a centrally planned to a market-based economy and the restructuring of the manufacturing, energy and agriculture sectors. National GHG emissions excluding LULUCF have remained stable at approximately 20,000 kt CO₂ eq/year since 2009.

50. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 target under the Convention, such as the EU ETS, subsidies for electric vehicles, phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, promoting RES (regulating electricity demand and supply from wind turbines by eliminating subjective assessment), increasing energy efficiency and setting energy efficiency targets, producing green hydrogen, promoting biomethane production and increasing afforestation. The updated National Energy and Climate Plan with measures until 2030, recently adopted green energy package, Law on Alternative Fuels and carbon pricing (from 2025) will support the attainment of longer-term emission reduction targets.

51. This was followed by interventions and questions from Australia, India, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom:

(a) Questions on GHG emissions and removals related to barriers to reducing emissions from road transport;

(b) Questions on PaMs related to Lithuania's model for engaging with industry in implementing its Law on Alternative Fuels, identifying and planning new agricultural policy solutions, PaMs for increasing forest cover, additional measures required to implement the long-term climate strategy beyond 2030 and lessons learned in implementing its rural development programme.

52. Lithuania provided responses to all the questions.²¹

G. Monaco

53. The fifth MA of Monaco took place on 5 December 2023. Questions for Monaco had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Canada, EU, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Monaco, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for Monaco.²²

54. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. Monaco was represented by Jérémie Carles from the Department of the Environment.

55. The representative made a statement summarizing the Party's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. Under the Convention, Monaco was committed to reducing its GHG emissions by 30 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2020, which, in absolute terms, means reducing its emissions to 71.92 kt CO₂ eq by 2020. Monaco achieved its 2020 target.

²⁰ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627650>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461769>.

²¹ A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for Lithuania is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session-part-ii-mandated-event-sbi-2-d> (00:25:40–00:34:34).

²² <https://unfccc.int/MA/Monaco>.

56. Under the Paris Agreement, Monaco is committed to reducing its GHG emissions by 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. Monaco is also committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

57. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 31.4 per cent between 1990 and 2020,²³ which in the most recent years is due mainly to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

58. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 target under the Convention, such as the National Energy Transition Pact, clean mobility subsidies, developing public transport infrastructure, providing free electric charging points for vehicles, replacing combustion engine buses with electric buses, promoting cycling and car sharing, banning use of domestic fuel oil for heating buildings and water (introduced in 2022), the extensive development of district heating-cooling networks based on ocean thermal energy, introducing mandatory energy audits for all buildings, establishing a waste recovery and sorting centre to maximize energy production and reduce GHG emissions, and offsetting emissions through electricity generated from the incineration of waste imported from France.

59. This was followed by interventions and questions from the EU, India, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States:

(a) Questions on targets related to achieving net carbon neutrality by 2050, particularly in the light of the limited options for using forestry as a carbon sink;

(b) Questions on PaMs related to the Party's experience and extensive use of thermal energy for district heating and cooling, the ban on the use of domestic fuel oil for heating buildings, the uptake of alternative heating technologies in the residential sector, measuring the impact of PaMs in the road transportation sector, and the replicability of public awareness initiatives concerning the environment and climate change.

60. Monaco provided responses to all the questions.²⁴

H. Netherlands (Kingdom of the)²⁵

61. The fifth MA of the Kingdom of the Netherlands took place on 5 December 2023. Questions for the Kingdom of the Netherlands had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for the Kingdom of the Netherlands.²⁶

62. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. The Kingdom of the Netherlands was represented by Bastiaan Hassing from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

63. The representative made a statement summarizing the Kingdom of the Netherlands' achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an EU member State, the Party was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. It had a national target for 2020 of reducing its emissions by 16 per cent compared with the 2005 level for ESD sectors. The Kingdom of the Netherlands met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.

²³ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627691>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461765>.

²⁴ A recording of the questions asked and answers provided during the MA working group session for Monaco is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session-part-ii-mandated-event-sbi-2-d> (00:38:29–00:51:58).

²⁵ The scope of the MA was limited to the Party's territory in Europe.

²⁶ <https://unfccc.int/MA/Netherlands>.

64. Under the Paris Agreement, as an EU member State the Kingdom of the Netherlands is committed to contributing to the achievement of the EU NDC target to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. The Party's national target is to reduce GHG emissions from ESR sectors by 48 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. It has also set a long-term goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

65. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 25.9 per cent between 1990 and 2020,²⁷ owing mainly to factors such as the significant reduction in non-CO₂ emissions from industry as a result of the implementation of the EU ETS, measures for improving insulation in buildings, an increase in the use of highly efficient boilers, policies in the road transportation sector, and a significant reduction in the amount of solid waste disposed to landfill. The Party's total GHG emissions decreased by 8.8 per cent in 2019–2020, owing mainly to a fall in coal combustion, an increase in the use of RES for energy and heat production, and a reduction in total energy consumption and vehicle use as a result of the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

66. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 target under the Convention, such as increasing the deployment of RES (offshore wind, solar photovoltaics, green hydrogen), phasing out use of coal and natural gas, and promoting efficient and zero-emission transportation.

67. This was followed by interventions and questions from Australia, India, New Zealand and the United Kingdom:

(a) Questions on GHG emissions and removals related to the significant increase in emissions in the agriculture sector from the application of urea to soils;

(b) Questions on PaMs related to the national agricultural soils programme and its contribution to achieving the 2020 and future targets, reducing emissions from transport, PaMs related to applying urea to soils as fertilizer, success stories and lessons learned from adaptation projects implemented under the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development, and the impact of and response to the campaign to reduce energy consumption in homes and businesses through behavioural change.

68. The Kingdom of the Netherlands provided responses to all the questions.²⁸

I. Slovakia

69. The fifth MA of Slovakia took place on 5 December 2023. Questions for Slovakia had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United Kingdom. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Slovakia, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for Slovakia.²⁹

70. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. Slovakia was represented by Šimon Lacena from the Ministry of Environment.

71. The representative made a statement summarizing Slovakia's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an EU member State, Slovakia was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Slovakia had a national target for 2020 of limiting its emission growth to 13 per cent above the 2005 level for ESD sectors. Slovakia met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.

²⁷ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627838>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461907>.

²⁸ A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for the Kingdom of the Netherlands is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session-part-ii-mandated-event-sbi-2-d> (00:56:01–01:10:43).

²⁹ <https://unfccc.int/MA/Slovakia>.

72. Under the Paris Agreement, as an EU member State Slovakia is committed to contributing to the achievement of the EU NDC target to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. Slovakia's target is to reduce GHG emissions from ESR sectors by 22.7 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. Slovakia has also set a long-term goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

73. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 49.6 per cent between 1990 and 2020,³⁰ owing mainly to factors such as industrial and technological restructuring in connection with the shift from the use of coal and oil to natural gas, economic restructuring to promote less energy-intensive production (particularly in the recent years), and temporary changes in production intensity (driven by global and EU markets). The road transportation sector, with an increase in emissions of 3.6 per cent between 1990 and 2020, is the exception to the trend of decreasing emissions.

74. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 target under the Convention, such as decommissioning coal-fired utility power plants, reassessing the use of domestic heating appliances, fostering energy efficiency improvements and deploying innovative technologies in industry (through an investment of around EUR 700 million in industrial decarbonization), providing direct support to users of low-emission vehicles, setting stricter requirements for the periodic technical inspection of vehicles, and promoting the use of public transport.

75. This was followed by interventions and questions from the Sudan and the United Kingdom. Questions on PaMs related to mitigation actions in the forestry sector for increasing biomass carbon stock, reducing emissions from agriculture and livestock, the measurement, reporting and verification system for PaMs, and progress in and barriers to taxing highly polluting activities as part of a fiscal reform.

76. Slovakia provided responses to all the questions.³¹

J. Slovenia

77. The fifth MA of Slovenia took place on 6 December 2023. Questions for Slovenia had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Slovenia, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for Slovenia.³²

78. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. Slovenia was represented by Tina Kobilsek from the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy.

79. The representative made a statement summarizing Slovenia's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an EU member State, Slovenia was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Slovenia had a national target for 2020 of limiting its emission growth to 4 per cent above the 2005 level for ESD sectors. Slovenia met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.

80. Under the Paris Agreement, as an EU member State Slovenia is committed to contributing to the achievement of the EU NDC target to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. Slovenia's target is to reduce GHG emissions from ESR sectors by 27 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. Slovenia has also set a long-term goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

³⁰ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627771>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461849>.

³¹ A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for Slovakia is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-working-group-session-part-ii-mandated-event-sbi-2-d> (01:23:08–01:30:53).

³² <https://unfccc.int/MA/Slovenia>.

81. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 15 per cent between 1990 and 2020,³³ owing mainly to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and political conditions. After Slovenia gained independence in 1990, significant structural changes resulted in a reduction in emissions from manufacturing industries and in the Party's total emissions.

82. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 target under the Convention, such as the Resolution on Slovenia's Long-Term Climate Strategy until 2050, which sets a target of reducing GHG emissions by 80–90 per cent compared with the 2005 level and achieving net zero emissions (removals equalling the remaining anthropogenic GHG emissions) or climate neutrality by 2050; the National Energy and Climate Plan; and phasing out fossil fuels.

83. This was followed by interventions and questions from India, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States:

(a) Questions were asked about the drivers for GHG emissions in the LULUCF sector;

(b) Questions were also asked about indicative targets under the National Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 and emission trends in the transport sector under the two projection scenarios (indicative targets in the current Plan for until 2030 and preliminary targets in the draft updated Plan for until 2030);

(c) Questions on PaMs related to challenges in phasing out fossil fuels; energy efficiency, specifically PaMs targeting socially disadvantaged households; green procurement initiatives and impact assessments of green procurement practices; and reducing emissions from the LULUCF sector.

84. Slovenia provided responses to all the questions.³⁴

K. Spain

85. The fifth MA of Spain took place on 6 December 2023. Questions for Spain had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Spain, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for Spain.³⁵

86. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. Spain was represented by Ignacio Sanchez from the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

87. The representative made a statement summarizing Spain's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an EU member State, Spain was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Spain had a national target for 2020 of reducing its emissions by 10 per cent compared with the 2005 level for ESD sectors. Spain met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.

88. Under the Paris Agreement, as an EU member State Spain is committed to contributing to the achievement of the EU NDC target to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 55 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. Spain's national target is to reduce GHG emissions from ESR sectors by 37.7 per cent compared with the 2005 level by 2030. Spain has also set a long-term goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

³³ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627717>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461867>.

³⁴ Owing to technical issues, a recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for Slovenia is not available.

³⁵ <https://unfccc.int/MA/Spain>.

89. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 5.4 per cent between 1990 and 2020,³⁶ owing mainly to factors such as PaMs implemented by Spain following the 2007–2008 global financial crisis. The increase in emissions observed since 2013 is attributable to the growth in gross domestic product. In 2020, Spain's emissions significantly decreased, primarily owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic growth and transport.

90. The representative presented key strategic documents and regulatory PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 and longer-term climate targets, such as the Strategic Framework for Energy and Climate, which includes law 7/2021 on climate change and the energy transition, the National Integrated Climate and Energy Plan, the Second National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change, the Just Transition Strategy and the Long-Term Decarbonization Strategy 2050 (for carbon neutrality).

91. This was followed by interventions and questions from India, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States:

(a) Questions were asked about the Party's Energy Storage Strategy, recent developments in and forecasts for organic farming in Spain and capacity-building for developing clean or green technologies;

(b) Further questions were asked about the Spanish carbon footprint registry and Citizen Assembly for Climate.

92. Spain provided responses to all the questions.³⁷

L. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

93. The fifth MA of the United Kingdom took place on 6 December 2023. Questions for the United Kingdom had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, EU, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and United States. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by the United Kingdom, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for the United Kingdom.³⁸

94. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. The United Kingdom was represented by Matt Toombs from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

95. The representative made a statement summarizing the United Kingdom's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. The United Kingdom was committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. The United Kingdom had a national target for 2020 of reducing its emissions by 16 per cent compared with the 2005 level for ESD sectors. The United Kingdom met its 2020 commitment under the Convention through its contribution to achieving the joint EU target.

96. Under the Paris Agreement, the United Kingdom is committed to reducing its GHG emissions by at least 68 per cent compared with the 1990 level by 2030. The Party has committed to domestic targets that encompass both emissions under the UK ETS and emissions from sectors not covered by it. For 2030, the Party plans to adjust the emission cap under the UK ETS in line with a pathway to net zero emissions by 2050.

97. The Party's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 49.3 per cent between 1990 and 2020,³⁹ owing mainly to factors such as the

³⁶ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627837>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461783>.

³⁷ Owing to technical issues, a recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for Spain is not available.

³⁸ https://unfccc.int/MA/United_Kingdom.

³⁹ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627795>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461920>.

shift from coal to natural gas and RES for electricity generation, the introduction of abatement technology in adipic acid and nitric acid production, the tightening of regulations on landfills and the increasing use of landfill CH₄ in gas flares and engines.

98. The representative presented key PaMs implemented for achieving the Party's 2020 and longer-term targets, such as a package of documents called Powering Up Britain, launched in March 2023, which sets out how the Government will enhance the country's energy security, seize the economic opportunities of the transition and deliver on net zero commitments; the Net Zero Growth Plan, which focuses on action to ensure that the United Kingdom remains a leader in the net zero transition and meets carbon budgets; and the Energy Security Plan, which sets out steps to achieving the vision of powering the country using clean, affordable, domestically produced energy.

99. This was followed by interventions and questions from Australia, Austria, Canada, Czechia, the EU, India, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and New Zealand:

(a) Questions on GHG emissions and removals related to the projected increase in emissions of perfluorocarbons, the trends in CH₄ and N₂O emissions from the waste sector and whether the United Kingdom is on track to meeting its third carbon budget (2018–2022);

(b) Questions were also asked about the publication status of the Net Zero Strategy and the key PaMs within it; PaMs related to the new energy supply policy; PaMs related to developing offshore wind power installations, including innovative floating wind in line with the Party's commitment to deliver up to 50 GW offshore wind by 2030; PaMs related to the rise in emissions of perfluorocarbons, CH₄ and N₂O; the Party's experience of engaging with businesses under climate change agreements; and recommendations for CO₂ capture, use and storage and its contribution to the Party's Net Zero Strategy;

(c) Further questions were asked about lessons learned regarding the United Kingdom's institutional arrangements for reporting to the UNFCCC, and how the Party experienced and benefited from the review of its national communication and biennial report.

100. The United Kingdom provided responses to all the questions.⁴⁰

101. In addition, a representative of Argentina delivered a statement regarding the United Kingdom's presentation.⁴¹

M. United States of America

102. The fifth MA of the United States took place on 6 December 2023. Questions for the United States had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Australia, Canada, EU, Japan, New Zealand and United Kingdom. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by the United States, the Party's presentation and the webcast of the session can be found on the MA web page for the United States.⁴²

103. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair. The United States was represented by Rick Duke from the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate.

104. The representative made a statement summarizing the Party's achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. Under the Convention, the United States set a target of reducing its GHG emissions in the range of 17 per cent compared with the 2005 level in 2020. The United States achieved its 2020 target.

105. The United States has communicated its NDC under the Paris Agreement, including an economy-wide target of reducing its net GHG emissions by 50–52 per cent compared with the 2005 level in 2030. The NDC covers all sectors and gases and will be accounted for using

⁴⁰ A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for the United Kingdom is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-ma-working-group-session-of-the-fifth-cycle-of-the-international-1> (00:00:00–00:33:35).

⁴¹ A recording of the statement is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-ma-working-group-session-of-the-fifth-cycle-of-the-international-1> (starting at 00:16:09).

⁴² https://unfccc.int/MA/United_States_of_America.

a net-net accounting approach based on the estimates of emissions and removals reported in the Party's most recent GHG inventory. Moreover, the United States has a target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

106. The Party's total GHG emissions including emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 21.6 per cent between 2005 (the base year for the United States' 2020 target) and 2020.⁴³ Its emissions excluding emissions and removals from LULUCF decreased by 7.1 per cent between 1990 and 2020, owing mainly to factors such as the combined impacts of long-term trends in many areas, including population, the economy and the energy market; and technological changes affecting energy efficiency and the carbon intensity of the energy mix.

107. The representative presented key recently implemented PaMs, such as mobilizing the federal Government in tackling the climate crisis, in particular by establishing a national climate task force; action across sectors and gases aimed at achieving 100 per cent clean electricity by 2035; and launching an action plan for reducing CH₄ emissions and the national phasedown of the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons. He cited two key pieces of legislation that would have a significant transformative impact, namely the recently enacted Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which is focused on power grid upgrades and clean energy, and the Inflation Reduction Act, which includes a USD 370 billion investment in climate action, clean energy and environmental justice.

108. This was followed by interventions and questions from Australia, Canada, Czechia, the EU, Germany, India, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom:

(a) Questions on GHG emissions and removals related to challenges in reducing emissions of hydrofluorocarbons, and whether the updated 'with measures' projections reflect any developments other than the enactment of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act;

(b) Questions were also asked about the plans for meeting the 2030 target, the key challenges in meeting the 2020 target and lessons learned for the attainment of the 2030 NDC, long-term institutional arrangements in place for meeting the 2030 and 2050 targets, and challenges anticipated in meeting the targets of 100 per cent clean electricity by 2035 and sales of zero-emission vehicles representing 50 per cent of annual vehicle sales by 2030;

(c) Questions on PaMs related to cooperation on climate-related technology development and partner countries, measures under the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, addressing GHG emissions from enteric fermentation, co-benefits of the United States fuel efficiency standard for light-duty vehicles, addressing renewable energy on the United States power grid, engaging civil society and the private sector in meeting emission targets, the PaMs that are projected to deliver the highest CH₄ emission reductions, and the linkages between the cap and trade systems of California and Quebec and how this is accounted for at the federal level.

109. The United States provided responses to all the questions.⁴⁴

⁴³ Data sourced from the Party's 2023 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/627772>. The submitted fifth biennial report was based on the Party's 2022 GHG inventory submission, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/461947>.

⁴⁴ A recording of the questions asked and the answers provided during the MA working group session for the United States is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/first-multilateral-assessment-ma-working-group-session-of-the-fifth-cycle-of-the-international-1> (00:43:41–01:23:35).