



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Hungary at the forty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth session, 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 decided to establish the international assessment and review (IAR) process under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), which aims to promote comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties.¹ According to the modalities and procedures for IAR,² 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 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. The third round of the MA of Hungary took place on 7 December 2018 at a working group session during SBI 49. 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 Hungary had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session at SBI 49 by the delegation of China. Brazil submitted written question one day after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Hungary as well as the webcast of the session can be found on the IAR web page for Hungary.³ The Party can submit any other observations on its MA process within two months of the working group session.

II. Proceedings

3. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Vice-Chair, Mr. Naser Moghaddasi. Hungary was represented by Mr. Tibor Schaffhauser (Deputy Head of the Climate Policy Department of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary).

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 40 and 44.

² Decision 2/CP.17, annex II.

³ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/national-communications-and-biennial-reports-annex-i-parties/multilateral-assessment/multilateral-assessment-of-third-biennial-reports/third-multilateral-6>

4. Mr. Schaffhauser made an opening presentation, summarizing Hungary's progress in implementation towards achieving emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As an European Union (EU) member State, Hungary is 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. Hungary's emission reduction target for sectors covered by the EU effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)) is to limit its emission growth to 10 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020.

5. Hungary's total GHG emissions excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) decreased by 34.9 per cent between 1990 and 2015, owing mainly to the economic downturn due to the transition to a more energy-efficient market economy and Hungary's implementation of climate-related policies and measures (PaMs).

6. Mr. Schaffhauser presented key PaMs implemented by the Party to achieve its target, including the EU ETS; the fuel switch to renewable energies and natural gas mainly for buildings, heating and transport; the warmth of home programme which aims at reducing household energy expenses by replacing outdated household machines, boilers, doors and windows; and the economy-wide decarbonization road map which also includes research, development and innovation.

7. On the use of units from LULUCF activities, since Hungary is an EU member State, the LULUCF sector is not covered by its target and thus does not contribute to the achievement of the target. Hungary does not intend to use units from market-based mechanisms.

8. Given that emissions from the EU ETS sectors of the Party are subject to an EU-wide cap, Hungary explained that emissions by 2020 from non-EU ETS sectors under the 'with measures' (WEM) and 'with additional measures' (WAM) scenarios are projected to be, below the Party's annual emission allocations for 2020 by 25.9 and 26.1 per cent, respectively. Hungary expects to achieve its target under the WEM and WAM scenarios.

9. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United States of America. The questions related to the new EU Modernisation Fund and Hungary's emission trends for fluorinated gases and the waste sector. In response, Hungary provided further explanations. In particular, Hungary explained that with regard to fluorinated gases emissions and the waste sector, new PaMs are planned or have already been implemented.
