



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Portugal 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 Portugal 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 Portugal had been submitted by the following delegations: Brazil, China, Japan and Thailand. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Portugal, as well as the broadcast of the session, can be found on the IAR web page for Portugal.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. Portugal was represented by Mr. Eduardo Santos, Portuguese Environmental Agency.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/10102.php>.

4. Mr. Santos made an opening presentation, summarizing Portugal's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. As a European Union (EU) member State, Portugal 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. Portugal's target for sectors covered by the EU effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)) is to limit its emission growth to 1 per cent above the 2005 level by 2020.

5. Portugal's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry increased by 15.6 per cent between 1990 and 2015. There are two notably different phases in the GHG emission trend: the increasing trend (around 3 per cent per year) in 1990–2005 and the decreasing trend in 2006–2015. The first phase reflects the evolution of the Portuguese economy, characterized by strong growth in energy demand and mobility in the 1990s. In contrast, the second phase shows a decrease in GHG emissions, with a sharp decline in carbon dioxide emissions from energy industries following the economic slowdown in the second half of the 2000s.

6. Portugal's key policies and measures to achieve its target include: the improvement of energy efficiency in commercial and residential buildings and in the public administration sector, aiming to reach the national target of a 25 per cent reduction in energy consumption against the projected level for 2020, thus going beyond the 20 per cent target in the context of the EU 2020 climate and energy package; and the Renewable Energy Action Plan, aiming to reach the national target of a 31 per cent share of renewable energy sources in final energy consumption by 2020.

7. Given that its emissions from sectors covered by the EU ETS are subject to an EU-wide cap, Portugal presented the projected level of emissions by 2020 from sectors not covered by the EU ETS under a 'with measures' scenario. The projected emission level is 20.9 per cent below the annual emission allocation for 2020. Portugal expects to meet its target under the 'with measures' scenario.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, India and New Zealand. The interventions were related to the impact of the financial crisis and the effect of the EU ETS on GHG emission reduction in Portugal and to the progress made towards meeting the target of 40 per cent renewable energy sources in final energy consumption by 2030.

9. In response, Portugal explained that the financial crisis of 2007–2008 contributed to the decreasing trend in GHG emissions. However, a decrease in emissions has been observed since 2005, which shows the effect of mitigation actions. The projected WEM scenario shows a continuation of the decreasing emission trend, owing mainly to the implementation of policies and measures. With regard to the EU ETS, Portugal noted that installations under the EU ETS take into consideration the impact of the EU ETS in their decision-making process, which makes the EU ETS a key success. Finally, Portugal explained that it has successfully introduced wind power generation and that it is considering plans for solar power generation under its strategy aiming to meet the target for renewable energy sources.
