

What is the Multilateral Assessment?

The Multilateral Assessment is a process whereby each developed country Party is assessed by other Parties on progress in meeting its 2020 economy-wide emissions reduction target.

It is part of the wider international assessment and review process, involving a technical review of the national reports of each developed country, in particular, biennial reports. The equivalent process for developing countries is called the 'facilitative sharing of views'.

What does the Multilateral Assessment entail?

The Multilateral Assessment entails:

- written questions and answers before the UNFCCC session starts; and
- an in-session oral presentation and questions and answers in a plenary setting.

Why is the Multilateral Assessment important?

The Multilateral Assessment, as well as the 'facilitative sharing of views', are important in holding all parties to account – to ensure they are taking the climate change action they say they are taking.

The transparency framework under the Paris Agreement has a similar process for all parties.

Has New Zealand been multilaterally assessed before?

Yes, twice before: in Lima at COP20 in 2014 and in Marrakech at COP22 in 2016.

What's happening at COP25?

New Zealand will be multilaterally assessed at COP25. We will give a short (10 minutes) presentation, then answer oral questions from other parties (20 minutes).

Prior to COP25, New Zealand received and answered 26 written questions from other parties. Many of these questions related to New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme and agricultural emissions, including the measures we are implementing to reduce these emissions.

Who else is being multilaterally assessed at COP25?

Nine other developed countries will be multilaterally assessed at COP25: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Portugal, and Switzerland.

New Zealand's objectives

New Zealand aims to:

- update the international community on New Zealand's climate change actions;
- demonstrate the value of a Multilateral Assessment process for the future transparency framework under the Paris Agreement; and
- show our expertise can assist other countries in assessing their greenhouse gas emissions and climate change policies.

Why this is important to New Zealand

The Multilateral Assessment allows New Zealand to test its evidence base internationally, including how we track progress towards our targets. This evidence informs the climate change policies we develop domestically, and is used for other environmental reports.

