

Draft guidelines for reporting on the monitoring and modelling of air pollution effects

*Introduction to the document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2008/16,
which is available at the web site for the twenty-seventh session of the Working Group on Effects
(<http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/WorkingGroups/wge/27meeting.htm>)*

Information note prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on Effects in collaboration with the secretariat

The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution has from the beginning emphasized the importance of monitoring and evaluation of air pollution effects to its policymaking. The work is implemented by the International Cooperative Programmes (ICP) and the joint Task Force on Health under its Working Group on Effects. The effects-oriented activities under the Convention provide monitoring and modelling data and indicators on the status and development of effects. The Convention relies on critical loads (a risk indicator for detrimental impacts) to develop emission reduction strategies and used monitoring and modelling data to assess policy success and further emission control needs.

Specific requirements for national reporting in the text of the Convention and its protocols mainly address the emissions, for which guidelines and guidebooks have been prepared. The evaluation of effects, together with emissions and atmospheric transport, contribute to the assessment of the effectiveness of control measures. However, effects studies are the only means to address the sufficiency of emission abatement.

The Executive Body of the Convention, at its meeting on 10–13 December 2007 (ECE/EB.AIR/91):

- (a) Took note of the benefits of sharing the existing effects monitoring and modelling infrastructure with other policy processes;
- (b) Recommended keeping effects assessment and work on indicators firmly linked together;
- (c) Invited the Working Group on Effects to consider further quantification of policy-relevant effects indicators such as biodiversity change, and to link them to the integrated modelling work.

The Extended Bureau of Working Group on Effects, at its meeting on 5–6 February 2008, agreed to prepare voluntary guidelines for reporting on the monitoring of effects (“*Guidelines for Reporting on Effects*”), with the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE) leading this preparatory work. The document would prescribe what countries need to report – while the “how” is already described in the technical manuals of ICPs – and enhance and harmonize efforts across ICPs for an improved response to the needs of the Convention.

The “*Guidelines for Reporting on Effects*” were prepared for discussion at the twenty-seventh session of the Working Group on Effects on 24–26 September 2008. The Working Group on Strategies and Review would be informed on the progress. A revised document would be presented to the Executive Body in December 2008. In the long term, the status of the requirements on the effects activities could be considered in the texts of the protocols.