

**Draft Co-Chair's summary**

**Session 4 b**

**Annex to WGSR-51 report**

**Advance, unedited version**

1. During session 4b participants discussed that in EECCA and SEE countries, there are important challenges in the implementation of air pollution related commitments which can be obstacles to the countries' accession to the amended Protocols of the Convention. Challenges include, among others:
  - a. Data deficiencies/low reliability of data which hinders adequate monitoring and modeling of emissions, as well as limited number of methods and equipment to estimate emissions;
  - b. Gaps in national legislation and lack of incentives to introduce BATs and improve environmental management;
  - c. High investments that are necessary in order to implement BATs;
  - d. Lack of institutional capacities and lack of resources (financial and human);
  - e. Low priority and funding given by governments to the implementation of environmental projects;
  - f. Insufficient scientific know-how and low awareness on clean technologies.
  
2. Participants suggested that the following steps forward need to be taken in order to advance the implementation and ratification of the protocols to the Convention :
  - a. Development of state and sector programmes and appropriate regulatory basis;
  - b. Introduction of economic incentives for pollution abatement, cost and benefits analysis;
  - c. Improve the access to information on BAT;
  - d. Development and improvement of emission inventories and projections;
  - e. Monitoring of emission from stationary sources and within the EMEP framework;
  - f. Reporting of emissions in accordance with the EMEP requirements;
  - g. Control of compliance with emission standards and the requirements under the protocols;
  - h. Scientific research related to emissions.
  
3. In this regard following needs for expert and financial or in-kind support have been expressed:
  - Development of sector strategies and action plans for emission reduction, in particular for POPs and HMs;
  - Analysis of emission sources and plant-by-plant analysis;
  - Support in development of emission inventories, or improving existing inventories;
  - Supply of equipment for emissions monitoring at stationary sources;
  - Modernization of equipment at monitoring stations according to the EMEP requirements;
  - support in development of national ELVs and BATs;

- support in identification of emission reduction targets and ceilings, as well as the base year;
  - conduction of cost and benefits analysis;
  - advice on data collection, processing and reporting, as well as making recalculations and projections.
4. Training opportunities have been identified as being potentially helpful especially within the same region where several countries face the same problems. Support by UNECE and other Parties would be welcome regarding the organization of such regional trainings of experts.
  5. Apart from these challenges we have also seen that considerable progress is being made in these countries. In order to further build on existing progress, the exchange of knowledge between countries on the design of successful policies, strategies and measures to abate air pollution as practiced today can be very useful.
  6. The WGSR and the Coordinating Group for EECCA countries can continue to provide a platform for the information exchange on addressing the challenges faced by EECCA countries, as the future focus of the work in the framework of the Convention will be on promoting their accession to the recently amended Protocols.
  7. The Coordinating Group for EECCA will discuss in detail further actions to address the needs listed in paragraph 3. In the margins of the session, the EECCA countries discussed the proposal by Belarus to organize technical assistance for EECCA countries on methodological and practical issues in preparing emission inventories of POPs, heavy metals and PM in accordance with the requirements in the framework of the Convention. It is assumed that this work will be carried out by Belorussian experts directly with countries that are involved in the Coordinating Group for EECCA countries, subject to sufficient financial support being available to carry out this work.
  8. The Coordinating Group for EECCA suggested that Belarus prepare a proposal on providing technical assistance to EECCA countries on methodological and practical issues in preparing emission inventories of POPs, heavy metals and particulate matter and to present it to the secretariat for the possible consideration by the Executive Body at its 32<sup>nd</sup> session.
  9. Providing assistance to countries on other pollutants covered by the Convention's Protocols (including NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, VOCs, ammonia) is part of the overall workplan and efforts by the Coordinating Group for EECCA countries.