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Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention

Report of the ad hoc group of experts on the action plan for the implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention

Note by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts*

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* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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I. Introduction

1. The Executive Body adopted decision 2011/14, Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy (LTS) for the Convention, and included the action plan in an annex to its report of the twenty-ninth session (ECE/EB.AIR/109/Add.1). In decision 2011/14, the Executive Body created an Ad-hoc Group of Experts to undertake several tasks in the action plan and finalize and submit a report to the Executive Body in December 2012. The Executive Body assigned items 1(b), 4(a), 4(c), 12(a), 12(b) and 14 of the Action Plan to the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts.

2. This report includes the main conclusions and recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Group. There will be informal documents available in advance of the Executive Body's thirty-first session that expands on the conclusions and recommendations included in this report. The full text of item 1(b), Needs Assessment of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States that have not yet ratified the Convention or its Protocols, is included in Annex II to this report.

II. Review of the Convention organization and operational structure

A. Background

3. The action plan for item 4(a) requests the Ad-Hoc Group of Experts to conduct an evaluation of the Convention subsidiary bodies, task forces and other groups to review their mandates and activities, streamline and rationalize operations, increase transparency, reduce the length and number of official documents, and critically assess the number and frequency of meetings.

B. Main conclusions and recommendations

4. *The Executive Body* must "meet at least annually" (article 10 to the Convention). It has adjusted the length and timing of its meetings to match the annual demands of business. To plan sessions more effectively, and to explore possibilities for streamlining, the Executive Body should develop a rolling plan for its meetings and the duration of the meetings. The plan should be based on a well-defined policy cycle where assessment and review, based on the latest scientific knowledge, has a central role. The plan should cover four or five years ensuring that LTS priorities are covered in sufficient depth at appropriate intervals.

5. Following negotiations of amendments to protocols, *the Executive Body's* short-term work priorities should give special attention to:

(a) Focussing cooperation efforts, especially with countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe, to enable the political commitment for ratifying and implementing protocols;

(b) Implementation of the LTS in general and its action plan;

(c) Reports and work plans of the main subsidiary bodies; ensure reports are focused and work plans are targeted to the Convention's priorities;

(d) Outreach, to continue collaboration with other regional networks and agreements on air pollution;

(e) Scientific and technical cooperation with international bodies and processes on climate change (e.g. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)) and biodiversity; subjects on which this cooperation could take place might include on short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) and reactive nitrogen.

6. *The Executive Body* might decide that some issues be dealt with by one or more of its subsidiary bodies, but should recognize that high-level cooperation and decision making for the Convention is the remit of the Executive Body.

7. *The Executive Body and its Bureau* should give more attention to developing and scrutinizing work plans to provide better focus for targeting the Convention's priorities and ensuring appropriate outputs. It should also recommend that the Executive Body encourage the subsidiary bodies to, where appropriate, shorten their documents.

8. *The Implementation Committee* should be encouraged by the Executive Body to continue updating its current mandate and method of working. It is also recommended that the secretariat continues to make providing support to the Implementation Committee a high priority so that the Committee can maintain its high standards and output.

9. *The Working Group on Strategies and Review* has an important role in negotiating and reviewing protocols, and in developing air pollution abatement strategies. With completion of current protocol negotiations, the Working Group should focus on review and strategy development issues that may have been neglected. The Executive Body should review the Working Group's work plan to ensure it includes new priorities, especially with respect to updating technical annexes of the Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (in particular Annex IX and X) and implementing the LTS with a strong focus on improved implementation of current protocols.

10. *The Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues* should place emphasis on advice and guidance to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe, perhaps through seminars and workshops that have proved popular in the past. The work should be linked strongly to that of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling. In view of the longer term work required by the Convention, it is recommended that the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues continues, with an updated mandate, as a Task Force (a longer standing body under the Convention) to address pollutants covered by the Protocols under the Convention and emission abatement techniques for stationary and mobile sources.

11. *The Network of Experts on the Benefits of Economic Instruments* has worked in an ad hoc fashion. In view of the few meetings held in recent years, it is recommended that the Network be discontinued. Work on economic instruments should continue, if the Executive Body wished, through existing bodies, e.g. Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, or targeted workshops.

12. *The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen's* strategically important work should continue. It is appropriate that the Task Force reports to the Working Group on Strategies and Review; however, the Executive Body should ensure that its scientific work is linked appropriately to other scientific work under the Convention to ensure best use of competence and data, and to avoid overlap and duplication of effort.

13. *The Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants* should be discontinued. *The Task Force on Heavy Metals* should be discontinued after finalization of amendments to the Protocol on Heavy Metals. Any further work should be organized under ad hoc groups when needs arise. The Working Group on Strategies and Review should keep a dialogue with the Convention's scientific bodies regarding new scientific findings and setting priorities. Emission abatement measures are best dealt with by the proposed new Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (see para. 10). Any need to add new substances to

protocols, e.g. if proposals for addition to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants failed, should to be taken up by the Working Group.

14. The "needs" of the Convention can be summarized as covering three broad areas - science, policy and compliance (see figure 1 in informal document 6 to the thirty-first session of the Executive Body on Subsidiary Body Review). The group agreed that current scientific work was important and should be continued to meet the requirements of the long-term strategy. However, in considering possibilities for future streamlining, the Executive Body is invited to decide on whether the *main scientific subsidiary bodies* (Working Group on Effects and Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)) should be merged into one unified science body (option 1) or remain two separate bodies (option 2). The group has identified a number of advantages both for merging and for keeping the present structure which are listed in a Table in Annex I. The Parties, especially lead countries, may have additional views.

15. Whichever option is chosen, the Executive Body should decide on measures to focus meetings and reporting and to ensure effective communications to Parties (and to the Executive Body), between the Convention's scientific bodies, to national focal centres, and to the public at large. The Executive Body should consider, inter alia, the following:

(a) Developing a list of regularly required reports, as needed by protocols or for other Convention purposes, and decide upon measures that might simplify, or change the need for, such regular reporting;

(b) Requesting the scientific bodies to produce joint documents on scientific activities that provide the Executive Body with scientific information relevant to the needs and strategic goals of the Convention and which provide better insight into the work of the scientific bodies. Common reporting standards will facilitate synthesising the data¹. The Executive Body should take more time to consider such reports and provide feedback to the scientific bodies;

(c) Encouraging the scientific bodies to generate documentation material that is understandable by non-experts and which encompasses broader areas of the scientific work under the Convention (joint reports for the public);

(d) Linked to the development of publicly accessible material, the Executive Body, supported by the secretariat, should consider developing a readily accessible "interface" which enables easily understandable information on the technical work of the Convention to be found;

(e) Initiating the first joint assessment report for the atmospheric and effects science that includes reports from national focal centres.

16. At a broader level, several of the scientific bodies have found value in their longer term mandates that provide additional guidance and direction for the development of annual work plans. It is therefore recommended the Executive Body decides on new or revised mandates for the scientific bodies that provide better scope for addressing the needs of the LTS. Possible elements for such mandates are in annex IV in informal document 6 to the thirty-first session of the Executive Body.

17. *The Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections in Austria* play an important role in implementing

¹ An example is Decision 2008/1: Reporting of the monitoring and modelling of air pollution effects under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols.

protocols under the Convention and support the work of the Implementation Committee. In addition, they provide essential input to integrated assessment modelling. It is recommended that the Task Force and Centre continue their current roles.

18. *The Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling at the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA).* Since the modelling is for policy purposes, there is a good argument to place the Task Force under the Working Group on Strategies and Review, as it was previously. However, there are also advantages in keeping it under EMEP where it currently functions effectively and has close contacts with the supporting scientific bodies within EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. It is recommended that the Task Force and Centre continue their work as at present, including the regular reporting to the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

19. *The Task Force on Measurement and Modelling supported by Meteorological Synthesizing Centre (MSC)-West, MSC-East and Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC).* The Task Force has been very successful in this and it is recommended that its work continues.

20. *The Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, similarly supported by MSC-West, MSC-East and CCC.* It is recommended that the Task Force continues its present scientific work as decided by the Executive Body in 2010. However, this work may have policy implications in the longer term, so the Task Force should communicate with the Working Group on Strategies and Review appropriately.

21. *The three EMEP Centres identified in the EMEP Protocol.* It is recommended the Executive Body considers readjusting Centres' and Parties' workloads following decisions on, for example, decreased work on heavy metals and POPs, increased support for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, or new tasks such as inventory/ceilings adjustment procedures.

22. *The Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution (led by World Health Organization (WHO))* is a joint body of the Executive Body and WHO. It is recommended that the fruitful collaboration with WHO continues as present through this body.

23. Additional bodies and centres under the Working Group on Effects (*International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs) on Forests, Integrated Monitoring, Materials, Vegetation, Waters, and Modelling and Mapping*) play an essential role in identifying air pollution problems and developing the effects-based approach to emissions controls. Besides developing United Nations Economic Commission for Europe-wide methodological standards, they provide monitoring networks and data as well as models to support development of effects science. Despite past efforts in streamlining, the range of issues being studied remains large and further possibilities for simplification and streamlining, consistent with the LTS, should be considered. However, the scientific and policy merits of organizational change cannot be quickly and easily evaluated through this report. Furthermore, most areas of the effects-related work are identified as priorities in the LTS, as already in the long-term strategy for the effects-oriented activities adopted by the Executive Body in 2009. It is therefore recommended that the Executive Body initiates a review of the ICPs that takes into account the needs as defined in the LTS and the strategy adopted in 2009, the overall needs of the Convention as defined in this document (including issues such as outreach), the needs of the Parties (in particular those in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as Southeast Europe), the scientific relevance and the possibilities for achieving what is needed from the current ICPs. The review should be objective but take account of work being done under the other main subsidiary bodies to provide a forward looking plan for the effects-related work.

24. *The frequency of meetings of the main scientific bodies* could be seen as more flexible than those of the Executive Body. However, less frequent meetings would need to

address some practical issues, e.g. budgets and workplans would need to be for two years (with provisional budgets/plans for an even longer timeframe). Although such changes would have efficiency savings, there are concerns about:

- (a) The possible loss of momentum to the scientific work;
- (b) The lack of accountability of lead countries should annual scientific outputs not be met;
- (c) The lack of transparency of the scientific work to the Executive Body if annual reports are not available; and,
- (d) The need for annual reporting by centres as part of the trust fund payment mechanism operated by the secretariat.

It is recommended that, in the short term, to address the immediate needs for planning and implementing the LTS, the main subsidiary bodies meet annually, although these meetings need not all be formal. Furthermore, the Executive Body is invited to explore, through its Bureau, options for scheduling meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the Executive Body to avoid the time pressures that currently occur between September and December.

25. *The Parties' national efforts* will be increasingly important to ensure shared responsibility for the Convention's future success. It is important to recognize and further develop Parties' efforts, including: national scientific reports that EMEP and some ICPs have produced in recent years; annual submissions of monitoring and emission data; responses to calls for data according to the Protocols' reporting requirements. It is recommended the Executive Body considers further development of national reports which could involve inviting the scientific bodies to plan future collations of national assessment reports in parallel with the bodies' own assessment reporting.

26. *Availability of interpretation at main scientific subsidiary body meetings and translation of official documents* has ensured effective participation of Parties from across the region. The LTS, in paragraph 14(h), indicates that "scientific activities will need to involve the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia more strongly than hitherto", and the action plan suggests that more, rather than less, documentation in Russian is needed. It is therefore recommended that, to encourage participation, both at policy and scientific levels, interpretation at sessions of the main subsidiary bodies continues. Further, in view of proposals to develop more concise, understandable and needs-focused documentation, it is recommended that the new, streamlined "official" Convention documents are translated to ensure they are read by a wide audience of Parties. It is also recommended that Russian speaking countries be invited to give their views on this approach.

III. Further work on heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants

A. Background

27. The action plan for item 4(c) requests the Ad-Hoc Group to review the need for possible further revisions, amendment or updates of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Protocol on Heavy Metals in light of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and the pending agreement on a legally binding global instrument on mercury negotiated in the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

28. The POPs and Heavy Metals Protocols have both built on the strengths of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to promote action on the regional

scale and address adverse impacts on human health and the environment. The Protocol on POPs stimulated quick action on POPs in the mid-to-late 1990s and acted as a springboard for global action on POPs through the Stockholm Convention, which entered into force in 2004. The Protocol on Heavy Metals has also provided a starting point and solid scientific/technical foundation for the many issues being addressed in the ongoing negotiations of a global instrument on mercury. Moving forward, the need for future amendments to either of these protocols should be assessed in relation to any additional benefits that could be achieved beyond the impact of the existing and upcoming global instruments.

B. Main conclusions and recommendations

1. Protocol on POPs

29. In alignment with the LTS, a principled approach for considering the addition of substances to the Protocol on POPs could be as follows (notwithstanding the nomination process that is currently in place, as described in Article 14 of the Protocol):

(a) Before proposing a new substance for listing under the Protocol on POPs, a Party could first nominate that substance under the Stockholm Convention;

(b) Parties could consider additional action under the Protocol on POPs only if:

(i) The substance is listed under the Stockholm Convention but stricter measures in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe are warranted; or

(ii) The substance is not listed under the Stockholm Convention, e.g. because no agreement could be reached on listing or because negotiations under the Stockholm Convention have become protracted.

30. Parties to the Protocol on POPs could consider relevant factors such as the status of international efforts and work on chemicals (including unintentionally produced POPs), and the added value to the protection of the environment and human health.

31. In addition, both the Protocol on POPs and the Stockholm Convention on POPs include Best Available Techniques (BAT) for controlling sources of unintentionally produced POPs. Parties should decide if there is need for further developing and updating two sets of BAT procedures that may differ in content or scope. Added benefit may continue to be provided by the unintentionally produced POPs BAT guidance under the Protocol if:

(a) A greater number of unintentionally produced POPs is addressed than in the Stockholm Convention; and

(b) The level of BAT is more ambitious than what can be agreed to under the Stockholm Convention.

2. Protocol on Heavy Metals

32. The Protocol on Heavy Metals is expected to continue providing value currently through control measures for lead, cadmium, mercury, and possibly other heavy metals, and through linkages with scientific activities being conducted under the Convention. Therefore, it is considered necessary that effects-related work under the Convention is maintained at a sufficient level, and that the evolution of the Protocol is used to influence meaningful projects.

33. At the present time, a legally-binding global instrument on mercury is being negotiated under UNEP, and is scheduled to be completed in January 2013. This instrument is expected to cover a broader scope for mercury control measures than the Protocol. Consequently, prior to undertaking future mercury-related amendments to the Protocol:

(a) Parties should specifically consider whether these will deliver increased health and environmental protection beyond the impacts of the global treaty;

(b) If sufficient additional benefits could be obtained, Parties should then identify, as a minimum:

(i) If more stringent requirements are needed in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region; and

(ii) If earlier regional action is required compared to timelines for global measures where such measures exist.

34. In the current timeframe, Parties should focus on the full implementation of Protocol measures, including their obligations towards emission inventories and monitoring.

35. In the longer term, Parties should decide if and when amendments to the Protocol are needed by taking into account the latest scientific knowledge on the effects of heavy metals on human health and ecosystems, and the benefits and successes of the new UNEP global instrument on mercury.

IV. Regional and global agreements and networks

A. Background

36. The action plan for item 12(a) requests the Ad-Hoc Group to explore ways to further foster cooperation between regional agreements and networks around the world, including on SLCFs, and to link regional and global action at scientific as well as strategic/policy levels.

37. Cooperation can be enhanced if CLRTAP bodies engaged more systematically with others, shared experiences and information related to air pollution management and agreed on joint objectives and plans. Such cooperation should also include wider policy objectives, in particular sustainable development and links to climate change policy, like short-lived climate pollutants. The Convention does engage with outside groups and experts outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region. One primary example is the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP). In addition, EMEP centres and the secretariat have had a role in cooperative efforts with other networks. Other networks are already using CLRTAP's information on modeling, monitoring, emissions inventories, science assessments, etc. to advance their goals (e.g., Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission or HELCOM)/Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (Paris Convention or PARCOM), Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), UNEP mercury assessment and UNEP Stockholm Convention on POPs, World Meteorological Organization, Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (ASEAN) agreement, Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia and Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia)).

B. Main conclusions and recommendations

38. A wider cooperation will benefit both the CLRTAP region and other networks or organizations through improving the quality of air pollution management and, in the long term, contribute to the environmental objectives of the Convention. To this end, the tasks and outreach activities of subsidiary bodies should, in general, be laid out in the workplan. Including specific items for outreach and information sharing will ensure that cooperation with other agreements and networks will continue and expand.

39. The Executive Body should, as a matter of priority, take stock of existing outreach activities and formal links (memoranda of understanding, agreements through exchanges of letters), identify additional opportunities that could be pursued and decide how to proceed taking into account the level of autonomy appropriate for subsidiary bodies. This includes a task to collate and assess the existing scientific and technical links between the Convention and other regional networks and agreements. The Executive Body should review possibilities for promoting new links with other regional networks and agreements to further its LTS goals globally:²

(a) The Executive Body could consider CLRTAP entering into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with non-United Nations Economic Commission for Europe countries (or other regional or global agreements/networks) that have significant sources of regional and global air pollution. Two important examples are black carbon emissions transported to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and key sensitive regions, such as the Arctic and high mountain areas and transcontinental tropospheric ozone (and its precursors). Such a MOU could then focus on a formal exchange of information and capacity development on black carbon monitoring, reporting and facilitating the transfer of technology on mutually agreeable terms such as with those in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution and the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia. The MOU could also focus on sources identified as a priority for black carbon reduction in the amended Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol);

(b) Alternatively, the Executive Body could institute an exchange of information without the structure of a MOU. Recognizing that each of the global and regional organizations that CLRTAP could cooperate with has a different structure, the Executive Body (and subsidiary bodies with approval by the Executive Body) could pursue relationships at different levels. In some cases it may be the Executive Body, in others, the secretariat, a technical body, or a lead country.

40. The Executive Body could consider contacting other regional networks and agreements to determine if and to what extent other networks are interested in collaborating with the Convention on common goals. Such an information gathering exercise would lay out our near-term objectives and ask the organizations how we have contributed to date and identify opportunities for complementary work/activities to achieve shared goals and identify which areas, if any, where they would like collaboration. The Executive Body could focus on our current air pollution goals and on the goal of linking the benefits to wider policies and processes that address air pollution, health and environmental improvements, sustainable development, biodiversity, food security and climate action. In addition, the Executive Body could seek input on joint activities that could be used as

² The Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum (GAPF) document presented to the twenty-ninth session of the Executive Body could be used as a starting point as well as information provided by its subsidiary bodies.

effective ways to build awareness and capacity and promote the implementation of national air pollution control measures, and to link the benefits of air pollution control to the wider policy objectives. The Executive Body would need to determine the best means for making the contacts and what necessary resources could be applied.

41. The Executive Body should invite the secretariat to continue with its role in forging links with organizations such as EANET, the Malé Declaration, International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environment Protection Associations (IUAPPA), UNEP, etc. as far as it is able, since the secretariat is in a unique position to communicate with other bodies and organizations in a formal but non-political manner;

42. The Convention should promote its involvement with the Global Air Pollution Forum (GAPF) further as this is a well-established global body that has brought the Convention closer to other regional air pollution agreements;

43. The Convention should increase information sharing with other regional or global organizations to bring an understanding of air pollution and the multiple benefits of air pollution control to technical and policy communities working on broader issues of development, transportation, energy and agriculture. The Convention could also encourage conferences with groups working in these broader communities, and could raise awareness and highlight the expertise that the Convention has to offer.

44. The Executive Body should identify opportunities to continue CLRTAP's role in policy conversations with UNFCCC, UNEP, the Arctic Council, and others global organizations (e.g. WMO, WHO, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO)). The Executive Body could also explore, as appropriate, ideas for potential collaboration with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). Before reaching out to the CCAC to determine if such collaboration could take place, the Executive Body should consider what types of activities would be useful and what would be involved for LRTAP to carry out such activities.

45. The Executive Body could invite volunteers to be "informal Convention ambassadors" that have access to the necessary resources for travel to meet with potential groups with which the Convention wants to strengthen cooperation. This may be difficult from the financing perspective and would require financial support by Parties.

46. EMEP and the Working Group on Effects should work with existing global organizations and initiatives to establish common standards or practices to help facilitate the sharing of information: monitoring, emissions, modelling, control technologies, effects and air quality impacts. Using these standards, and after a quality assurance process, the Convention could make data from CLRTAP countries available as an example of a regional information node. We could encourage other regions and organizations to create similar information nodes.

47. The Convention should continue scientific collaborations under the centres and task forces (in particular Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP) and Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN)) with other regional and global organizations. Such an effort could focus on both regional (e.g. excess nutrient balances, acidification and regional ozone episodes) as well as hemispheric air pollution issues (e.g. particulate matter and tropospheric background ozone and its precursors, including methane, and other short-lived climate pollutants). CLRTAP scientists should continue and, if requested, increase contributions to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports on SLCPs.

48. In the longer term, the Convention should serve as a clearinghouse of control technology information for ozone and particulate matter (PM) precursors, including SLCFs, heavy metals and POPs and provide this information to other regional and global networks. Additional resources will be needed for this effort. In addition, the key emission sources

and control technologies in the LRTAP region may not be the same as the key sources and technologies in other regions.

49. The Executive Body should use existing Convention mechanisms and bilateral cooperation between CLRTAP Parties to better use and increase outreach activities (e.g. capacity building and cooperation on monitoring, developing emission inventories, and mitigation measures) to non-ECE countries. Specific efforts should be made to improve the understanding of the multiple benefits of air pollution control for human health, ecosystem protection, food security, near-term climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. The Executive Body could take stock of bilateral initiatives between Parties that are serving as supporting partners to countries in other regions. Bilateral initiatives could also be promoted within the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

50. Subsidiary bodies should expand efforts to make relevant information easier to access to inform technical and policy efforts within and outside of the Convention. EMEP and the Working Group on Effects are already working to review how they make information available on the web and in reports to better inform policy makers within CLRTAP. This effort could be expanded with external audiences in mind.

51. The Executive Body should provide a general mandate to all CLRTAP bodies for the exchange of information to assist in this regular review.

52. The Executive Body, the Working Group on Strategies and Review and perhaps other subsidiary bodies should invite one outside network to participate in each session.

53. The Executive Body should develop actions for inclusion in the Convention's workplan, identify those bodies to charge with action, and specify requirements for reports on progress. The Ad-hoc Group recommends that the Executive Body considers structuring the workplan with headings for the objectives of the LTS within the work plan.

54. The Executive Body should direct each subsidiary body to include tasks in the work plan with the goal that they conduct at least one "outreach activity" each year (e.g., joint meeting with counterparts, joint report, and shared database). Party representatives of each body should take a special responsibility to engage in outreach activities. This approach would be a broad sharing of CLRTAP expertise where the groups report back to the Executive Body annually.

55. The Executive Body should, when approving the workplans and budgets for the subsidiary groups, ensure that those documents reflect the priorities of the LTS and the action plan.

V. Communication strategy

A. Background

56. The action plan for item 12(b) requests the Ad Hoc Group to revise and update the 2003 communications strategy to help increase the visibility of the Convention, in particular to raise political awareness of air pollution issues in the regions of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe. The 2003 communications strategy is reviewed in detail in the informal document to thirty-first session of the Executive Body.

B. Main conclusions and recommendations

57. The Convention needs an effective communications strategy and should implement the actions included here, either charging an existing Convention body, or charging a new, small ad hoc body or individual with implementing the strategy over the next twelve months. Progress in the development and implementation of the strategy should be followed through the reports of the subsidiary bodies where the Convention could highlight some of these accomplishments each year to demonstrate its efforts. The internet has become increasingly important and is an integral part of everyday work. However, the internet needs to be used in a more effective and strategic way to accomplish the communication goals in the framework of the Convention.

58. Effective internal communication is crucial to ensure the efficient operation of the Convention. The Ad Hoc Group recommends the following actions for communications between Convention bodies, between Parties and with non-Parties in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region:

(a) Assess the needs from the Convention website and decide on what documents and information should be held on the site. Encourage continued development of the Russian part of the website;

(b) Review current practices for high-level official communications (communications from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to Parties or between Parties/non-Parties) to ensure they are still effective and appropriate;

(c) Review agendas for Convention meetings so that the purpose of the meeting is clear and understandable;

(d) Evaluate the needs for formal documentation, especially that which is translated into French and Russian. Develop, as noted in the revised action plan for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EB.AIR/WG.5/80, Annex), a plan to translate promotional and guidance documents into Russian for the sub-region;

(e) Encourage plans for workshops in the regions of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe to promote regional communication and participation in the work of the Convention;

(f) Encourage the work of the Coordinating group for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia especially with regard to improving communications within the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and between countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and the Convention;

(g) Consider the role that the Executive Body bureaux should play in implementation; for example, each subsidiary body of the Convention should report on at least one communications issue each year. Direct subsidiary bodies to focus on specific issues each year;

(h) Encourage the secretariat to continue pursuing and advocating communications within the Convention, as well as performing specific roles such as formal communications with Parties;

(i) Improve communication between integrated assessment work and the national experts on certain sectors (e.g., energy, transportation, agriculture). Increase information sharing of the Convention's scientific and technical work;

(j) Communicate compliance information more effectively.

59. While websites and documentation have improved, outside awareness and understanding of the Convention's work is lacking. Therefore, the Ad Hoc Group recommends the following actions for communications with the public:

- (a) Initiate a review of the Convention's website and consider what changes are needed to make it more attractive and informative for the public;
- (b) Target action to communicate with the public through annual workplans with reports from subsidiary bodies and the secretariat providing information on achievements;
- (c) Encourage Parties to take initiatives individually to promote the Convention. Decide on priority issues that might be used to raise the visibility of the Convention. Provide an easily accessible logo for all Parties to use in promoting the Convention's work;
- (d) Increase efforts to make relevant information from subsidiary bodies easier to access in order to inform the public and technical experts outside the Convention;
- (e) Consult with Parties over the use of air quality indices and maps to promote the visibility of the Convention as well as raise awareness to the link between health and air pollution;
- (f) Explore the feasibility and benefits of implementing one or more social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter);
- (g) Review all current reports and brochures and make recommendations for additional ones, focusing on the priority work of the Convention;
- (h) Review past press releases and explore future possibilities for promoting work. National efforts to issue press releases should be well coordinated through the secretariat;
- (i) Encourage subsidiary bodies and Parties to promote the Convention when taking part in such meetings;
- (j) Encourage all Parties to promote the Convention's work through their national activities whenever a suitable opportunity occurs;
- (k) Communicate information on health and environmental effects (e.g., biodiversity loss) to the public and engage in marketing activities to raise awareness of air pollution.

VI. Secretariat

60. The 30-year success of the Convention is in part due to the support of the secretariat. Any multilateral environmental agreement will benefit from a secretariat with subject-matter knowledge, technical expertise, and administrative competence. The Ad-hoc Group of Experts is pleased to see the secretariat resources return to prior levels. The group is also sympathetic to difficulties faced by the secretariat due to limited resources and changes in workload and personnel over the last years. However, the ad hoc group of experts is concerned about the level of support received by the Convention during that period. The two key priorities over the last years have been to negotiate amendments to current Protocols and determine compliance with existing Protocols. However, the parties have had to rely on themselves during negotiations to produce certain key decision and amendment documents. Similarly, the Implementation Committee has recently had a drop in support. The secretariat servicing of Task Forces and Expert Groups as provided up to a few years ago, but now diminished, had been very instrumental for coordination and coherence of Convention activities. The ad hoc group of experts hopes to avoid such situations in the future.

61. The Ad-hoc Group is recommending an increased focus in the future by the Executive Body on the subsidiary body workplans. Similarly, the Ad-hoc Group recommends the Executive Body clearly communicate to the secretariat its priorities, as reflected in the Convention's long-term strategy, and expected outputs from the secretariat, guided by the rules of procedure. For example, an increased focus on developing and maintaining the Convention's website may be an appropriate area of for increased attention by the secretariat. The Ad-hoc Group also recommends that the Executive Body request the secretariat to report their significant activities on an annual basis. Finally, the Ad-hoc Group recommends that the Executive Body be mindful of the secretariat's limited resources and to consider ways to reduce the workload for the secretariat, for example by encouraging subsidiary bodies and the Executive Body itself to reduce the length and number of official documents, assessing the number and frequency of meetings, and other measures.

Annexes

Annex I

Strategic issues related to the merging or the retaining of some separation between the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

Advantages of merging

1. Simplifications in the leadership (chairs/bureaux) of the science-based work under the Convention. Workplans would be developed and followed up by a single body and the need for coordination between groups would probably lessen.

2. Parties and other subsidiary bodies have a more holistic overview of the scientific work; this may increase understanding and active participation in the work, and in turn lead to an increasing interest in participation from the policy side.

3. Reduced workload on the secretariat and on Parties due to fewer meetings (though this might depend upon changes in the underlying structure and needs of the Convention). (Increased burden on one Chair and more complex combined meetings are disadvantages.). Fewer meetings would encourage participation by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as Southeast Europe.

4. Increase the visibility and strength of the Convention's "scientific body", and give the scientific parts of the Convention possibilities to speak with one voice.

5. Delivery of assessment reports could be coordinated more effectively under a single body.

Advantages of retaining separation

1. Specialist leadership and more focused meetings can deal with complex scientific topics more effectively and efficiently. Back-to-back and over-lapping meetings would provide the necessary coordination between all groups and their workplans.

2. Two bodies could build an effective holistic view through continued improvements in communication, joint meetings, etc., whilst retaining the integrity and visibility of all aspects of the science needs of the Convention.

3. More focused meetings would simplify agendas and reports and enable shorter meetings whilst retaining visibility of all necessary aspects of the Convention's needs. There would be fewer burdens on two separate Chairs and Bureaux, who would have clearer visions of priorities of the more focused groups.

4. Retain individual strengths without weakening the visibility of some at the expense of others (probably effects at the expense of EMEP).

5. Assessment reports will be built up from the work of specialist groups that coordinate with one another when necessary. The reports would be planned and collated collectively.

Annex II

Needs assessment of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States that have not ratified the Convention

I. Introduction

1. The action plan for item 1(b) asks the Ad-Hoc Group to review and update the 2004 needs assessment of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe member States that have not ratified the Convention and its Protocols to evaluate further actions required to increase ratifications.
2. The LTS for the Convention states that increased ratification of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Protocol on POPs and the Gothenburg Protocol is a high priority. Increased ratification and related implementation is particularly important for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe, and this priority will be emphasized in the revision of, or amendments to, these three Protocols and taken into account in the annual work programmes of subsidiary bodies.
3. In 2003, at the twenty-first session, the Executive Body requested the secretariat to circulate a questionnaire, drafted by the Russian Federation, collate the answers and circulate a note to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at their thirty-sixth session. This note is also referred to as the 2004 needs assessment (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/6) and is titled, "Implementation of Protocols in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia." The needs assessment focused on Protocol on POPs, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Gothenburg Protocol. Responses were received from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.³

II. Summary of needs from 2004 needs assessment

4. In general, economic reasons are the main source of difficulty in ratifying the three protocols. In addition, countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia reported needing better emissions inventories and emissions reporting systems, problems with application of emission limit values (ELVs) and BAT on certain source categories, resource issues for keeping a heavy metals register, and technical difficulties such as appropriate modern equipment, including lack of automated monitoring systems. In addition, some countries reported having difficulty with documentation and explanatory work for ratification and others expressed a need for strategic national development plans. Most countries would find regional workshops useful.
5. The 2004 needs assessment provides more detail and specifies on which articles of each protocol were most difficult to implement.
6. The respondents also listed priorities for technical assistance: training for decision-makers and staff on a number of issues (para 21 of EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/6); establishment and application of ELVs; capacity building for research and monitoring; assessment of critical loads and levels; identification and dissemination of BAT; assistance for public

³ The questionnaire was also circulated to Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

awareness; identification, inventory, control and monitoring of POPs; development and application of clean processes for control and prevention of pollution; assessment of the impact of heavy metals on health and the environment; development of national action plans/programmes; economic instruments; improvement of the monitoring system; methods for evaluation of synergies and combined impact of acidification, eutrophication and photochemical pollution; preparation of implementation guidelines; explanation of emission inventory documents; and the need for computers and software.

III. Follow-up action of the 2004 needs assessment

7. The Convention responded to the needs identified in the 2004 assessment through action in a number of ways. The Convention adopted an Action Plan for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe at the thirty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (EB.AIR/WG.5/80, Annex). In 2007, the Executive Body adopted a revised Action Plan in line with the recommendations of the "Saltsjobaden III" workshop in Gothenburg, Sweden, in March 2007 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17). The Executive Body requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review to implement it and to develop, if necessary, a specific Action Plan to involve countries of Southeast Europe in the work of the Convention as part of the 2008, 2009 and 2010 workplans for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/9, item 1.1 (f) and (g) and item 1.7 (a) and (b); ECE/EB.AIR/2008/9, item 1.1 (e) and (f) and item 1.7 (a) and (b); and ECE/EB.AIR/2009/8, item 1.1 (e) and (f) and item 1.7 (a) and (b)). In 2008 and 2009, the secretariat prepared notes describing progress in the implementation of the Action Plan for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (see ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/11 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2009/13).

8. The Action Plan added elements into the CLRTAP work programme and included increased cooperation, in particular, for capacity building and exchange of experience between Parties, the secretariat, subsidiary bodies such as EMEP centres, Working Group on Effects ICPS, the Task Forces on Heavy Metals, Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and Emission Inventories and Projections, and the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues (EGTEI). This cooperation, in particular, has resulted in increased technical and scientific capacity of the countries in the regions of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe. The awareness of transboundary air pollution has also been raised at the political level in these countries because of these CLRTAP activities. Currently, the activities that are in line with the Action Plan are implemented under the workplans of the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia Coordinating Group.⁴

9. Promoting the Convention and facilitating implementation and ratification in the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe is now a widely discussed topic in the Convention. In particular, there have been several workshops of note since the 2004 Needs Assessment in addition to other activities and discussions within subsidiary bodies and the Executive Body itself. The Task Force on Heavy Metals organized a Workshop to Promote the Ratification of the Protocol on Heavy Metals across the entire United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region in May 2008 in Yerevan, Armenia. The Annex to the Task Force's report to the forty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/9) included many

⁴ The Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia Coordinating Group uses Russian as the primary working language. Countries from Southeast Europe are not in the scope of the Coordinating Group's activities.

conclusions and recommendations from this workshop and should continue to be referenced⁵.

10. The Task Force on Heavy Metals and EGTEI organized a workshop, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, in October 2009, with the objectives to promote the ratification of the three most recent protocols to the Convention; to raise awareness and interest in Convention activities in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe; and to provide information on the protocols, as well as on the possibilities for donor countries and organizations to support those countries in ratifying those instruments. The aim of the workshop was to stimulate interest within the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe, by sharing experiences with existing member countries, which are already signatories to CLRTAP Protocols, and to encourage their member countries formally to join the Protocols⁶.

11. In cooperation with the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, a workshop on “Abating ammonia emissions in the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Central Asia and other countries of the ECE in the context of the nitrogen cycle,” was held in February 2012 in St. Petersburg. A workshop resolution was presented and agreed by the TFRN. The resolution included an agreement of the Task Force to establish an Expert Panel on Nitrogen in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The agreed resolution is included in the Task Force’s report (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2012/3). The purpose of the proposed new panel would be to: a) recognize the unique systems of nitrogen management in these countries, and b) to promote cooperation among countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and across the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.

12. The Task Force on Heavy Metals held a “Workshop to promote the ratification of the Protocol on Heavy Metals and discussion of the future guidance document,” in April 2012 in Berlin, Germany, with several objectives noted in the Task Force’s report (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2012/2). This workshop was seen as a continuation of the workshops in Yerevan and St. Petersburg, noted above⁷.

13. In addition, some Parties initiated additional bilateral and multilateral assistance projects aiming at implementation of the Convention and its protocols. These projects range from training courses and workshops to the financing of monitoring equipment and gap analysis for the ratification of instruments. One specific example of this cooperation includes the ongoing Air Quality Governance Project between the European Union and seven countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Republic of Moldova).

VI. Flexibilities in the 2012 Gothenburg Protocol amendments

14. Also following the aim to increase ratifications and responding to the needs of countries in the regions of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe, the revised 2012 Gothenburg Protocol includes specific provisions on flexibilities to implement emission standards. There are several key concepts incorporated into the

⁵ Presentation materials can be found at: <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/taskforce/tfhm/workshop14-16may2008.html>.

⁶ Presentation materials can be found at: <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/taskforce/tfhm/workshop26-28october2009.html>.

⁷ The presentations are available on the Convention’s website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28923>.

2012 Gothenburg amendments and in the 2010 amended Protocol on POPs that may be useful for inclusion in the Protocol on Heavy Metals.

15. The 2012 Gothenburg Protocol amendments incorporated flexibilities into a number of Articles. Article 1, paragraph 16 includes an amended definition of “new stationary source”. In Article 3bis, Parties may apply flexible transitional arrangements for implementing emission limit values, indicating in its instrument of ratification which provisions Parties elect to apply an implementation plan with a timetable. Article 7 includes new paragraph 6 which allows Parties to request the Executive Body for permission to report a limited inventory or a particular pollutant or pollutants under certain circumstances. Annex VII under Article 3 provides additional assistance to new Parties to the Protocol. A new Party may declare upon ratification of the amended Protocol that it will extend any or all of the specified timescales for application of the emission limit values. Depending on the emission source or pollutant, this grace period may be extended up to five to fifteen years after the date of entry into force of the Protocol.

16. In addition, in December 2009, the Parties adopted amendments to the POPs Protocol that also introduced flexibility that should increase ratification and implementation. This includes revisions to the timescales for implementation of ELVs and BAT for existing sources and provides flexibility for establishing the reference year for emission reductions.

V. Current priorities and needs in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

17. Because there are so many other priorities and issues in the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the lack of political will for ratifying the Convention’s protocols is a real issue in the countries in that region. The work plan of the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia Coordinating Group (informal document 17 at twenty-ninth session of the Executive Body, December 2011) and “Proposals on activities aimed at implementation of the reviewed action plan for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the framework of the UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2012-2014” (informal document 14 at the twenty-ninth session of the Executive Body, December 2011) includes the most up-to-date list of current needs and priorities. Most importantly, there is a plan for a “high-level” conference on cooperation for long-range transboundary air pollution abatement in the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This conference would include the participation of national decision makers and focus their attention to the tasks that are needed to increase ratification and participation.

18. Translation into Russian of technical documents needs to occur in order to effectively assess and present the tasks to decision-makers.

VI. Other member States that have not ratified Protocols (South-East Europe and other countries)

19. Paragraph 16 (a) of the long-term strategy also mentions Southeast Europe, along with Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as an area where measures and action to facilitate wider ratification and implementation of Protocols will be pursued.

20. Several of the countries in the Southeast Europe region, often in cooperation with other Parties, undertake gap analyses on the action to take to implement CLRTAP

instruments. These analyses are often also made in relation to plans in these countries to apply for European Union membership, which requires conformity with CLRTAP instruments.

21. The secretariat implemented a project funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs for five countries in Southeast Europe. In the framework of this project, four Southeast Europe countries developed national action plans for the implementation and ratification of the Protocol on POPs and the Protocol on Heavy Metals. The project resulted in six recent ratifications of these Protocols by Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro so far.

VII. Additional capacity building efforts in the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

22. The secretariat obtained funding and implemented a number of projects to support countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in implementing and acceding to the Convention's Protocols. In particular, the secretariat obtained funding from the United Nations Development Account and implemented the Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia (CAPACT) project (2004-2007). Since 2010, it has applied for and obtained funds for the first and second phase of the joint project between Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Technical Cooperation Fund, as well as funds for high-level missions to Central Asia to raise the political profile of the Convention. It has also successfully implemented a project funded by the Czech Republic to assist Moldova to implement the Gothenburg Protocol. The project resulted in the Republic of Moldova collecting and providing emission data, as well as data for integrated assessment modeling to the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modeling (CIAM) and data to the Coordinating Centre for Effects (CCE). In addition, it developed a national action plan for implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol.

23. There is also the updated CollectERIII emission inventory software that is available along with a training manual. These are available on the Convention's website.

VIII. Economic and Financial Support

24. The 2004 Needs Assessment highlighted the role of financial means to implement the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe. This is not just limited to capacity building and political awareness but includes contributions to implement concrete action and measures of mitigation. CLRTAP does not include such a financial mechanism and presently has to rely on voluntary contributions of other Parties. Parties may need to consider how to best address these needs in the implementation of the CLRTAP, although in times of austerity it is difficult to promise additional financing.

25. The support from voluntary contributions from parties is mainly to fund the participation of representatives of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe in the plenary meetings under the Convention. The amount of this support from year to year depends on the number of meetings and participants, as well as the exchange rate of the United States Dollar (USD). In the past five years, the expenditures have been as follows:

Table
Expenditures in the past five years

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount, USD</i>
2006	74,354
2007	50,674
2008	67,356
2009	107,700
2010	70,039
2011	109,921

26. Since the adoption of the Action Plan on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the secretariat has made significant fundraising efforts to support the countries in of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe and Southeast Europe through the implementation of projects and consultancies. These were financed by various funding mechanisms, donor organizations/countries and were the subject of bilateral agreements or MOUs between the donor and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The aims of those projects and the use of resources were defined and governed by those bilateral agreements. In recent years, funding for projects has been obtained from the United Nations Development Account, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Czech Ministry of Environment and others.

27. Recently, three donors have provided financial resources to enable the secretariat to continue to work in this direction: Canada, Norway and the European Commission (pending).

IX. Main conclusions and recommendations

28. There are still a number of barriers hindering ratification for countries in the regions of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe. Economic and political reasons are the most frequently cited for hindering ratification. In addition, the capacity-building efforts between the subsidiary bodies, the secretariat and bilaterally should continue with an increased effort.

29. The action items listed in the of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia Coordinating Group's work plan and in "Proposals on activities aimed at implementation of the reviewed action plan for of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe countries in the framework of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution" cited above should be supported and made a high priority in the Convention's work.

30. In addition, the Ad-Hoc Group:

(a) Invites the Convention and parties to support a "high-level" conference on cooperation for long-range transboundary air pollution abatement in the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia region to raise political awareness;⁸

(b) Recommends that all necessary documents are translated into Russian;

(c) Requests the Executive Body to consider developing a roadmap for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe, including a

⁸ Such a conference is still in the planning stage and is dependent on sufficient funding.

legislative gap analysis, for preparing to accession to aid countries in pursuing ratification. This could start with a roadmap for the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012;

(d) Invites the Executive Body to consider requesting the subsidiary bodies to reference in their work plans how they are taking steps to help facilitate participation of experts from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe as well as meeting their identified needs;

(e) Requests the Executive Body to invite countries to provide national experts and/or expertise in key technical areas (e.g., modelling) to support countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe.
