



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 February 2013

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range
Transboundary Air Pollution

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fifty-first session

Geneva, 30 April–3 May 2013

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-first session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 30 April 2013*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fiftieth session of the Working Group.
3. Proposals by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention and by the ad hoc group of experts to review the International Cooperative Programmes:
 - (a) Update on the review of the International Cooperative Programmes;
 - (b) Structural issues: Working Group on Effects and Cooperative Programme on the Monitoring and Evaluation of Air Pollutants in Europe;
 - (c) Further work on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals;

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the Convention website (<http://www.unece.org/env/registration/lrtap.htm>), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit at the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section at the Pregny gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website (http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf).

- (d) Regional and global agreements and networks;
 - (e) Communication strategy;
 - (f) Preparations for the 2014–2015 workplan.
4. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures;
 - (b) Challenges faced by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with regard to accession and implementation;
 - (c) Imminent and emerging policy issues and scientific findings.
 5. Exchange of information and technology
 6. Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone and guidance document on health and environmental improvements.
 7. Protocol on Heavy Metals.
 8. Activities of bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and international organizations relevant to the Convention.
 9. Progress in the implementation of the 2012–2013 workplan.
 10. Other business.
 11. Adoption of the decisions of the Working Group.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 30 April, morning

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/109)¹

1. The Working Group on Strategies and Review under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution will be invited to adopt its agenda, as contained in the present document.

¹ All documentation for the fifty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, including a list of participants, can be found on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=31868>.

2. Adoption of the report of the fiftieth session of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 30 April, morning

Documentation: Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fiftieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/108)

2. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fiftieth session.

3. Proposals by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention and by the ad hoc group of experts to review the International Cooperative Programmes

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 30 April, morning and afternoon

Documentation: Report of the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15); report of the ad hoc group of experts on the implementation of the Long-term Strategy of the Convention: Review of the Convention's organization and operational structure — subsidiary bodies, task forces and other groups (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2013/1); report of the ad hoc group of experts on the implementation of the Long-term Strategy of the Convention: Communication strategy and Protocols on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2013/2); outline for a draft 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (informal document No. 1); overview of meetings and reports by all subsidiary bodies to the Convention (informal document No. 2); template for workplans and reporting for the subsidiary bodies (informal document No. 3); review of the International Cooperative Programmes (informal document No. 4)

3. At its thirty-first session, the Executive Body decided to defer the item “Proposals by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention” for in-depth discussion to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-first session, proposing that the session be devoted in part to considering the proposals by the ad hoc group of experts and a draft 2014–2015 workplan to be prepared by the Bureau of the Executive Body with the secretariat. In addition, the Executive Body requested its Bureau to appoint a time-limited ad hoc expert group to exclusively review the International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs) (ECE/EB.AIR/113).

(a) Update on the review of the International Cooperative Programmes

4. The Working Group will be updated on the evaluation of individual bodies and groups, including ICPs. The Executive Body Bureau, as requested, appointed a time-limited ad hoc expert group to exclusively review the ICPs with a view to making recommendations as outlined in the report of the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15). According to paragraph 23 of this report, a review of the ICPs should take into account the needs as defined in the Long-term Strategy and the strategy adopted in 2009, the overall needs of the Convention (including issues such as outreach), the needs of the Parties (in particular those in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as South-Eastern Europe), the scientific relevance and the possibilities for achieving what is needed from the current ICPs. The review should be objective, and take account of the work being done under the

other main subsidiary bodies, so as to provide a forward-looking plan for the effects-related work.

(b) Structural issues: Working Group on Effects and Cooperative Programme on the Monitoring and Evaluation of Air Pollutants in Europe

5. The Working Group will be invited to consider structural issues related to the Working Group on Effects and the Cooperative Programme on the Monitoring and Evaluation of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), taking account of the report of the ad hoc group of experts on the implementation of the Long-term Strategy of the Convention: Review of the Convention's organization and operational structure — subsidiary bodies, task forces and other groups (section VIII and annex III), which outlines strategic issues related to the merging or the retaining of some separation between the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects.

(c) Further work on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals

6. The Working Group will also be invited to consider further work on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals, taking into account the review, findings and recommendations by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention, as outlined in documents ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2013/2 and ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15, section III.

(d) Regional and global agreements and networks

7. The Working Group will further be invited to consider ways to further foster cooperation between regional agreements and networks around the world, including on short-lived climate forcers, and to link regional and global action at the scientific as well as strategic/policy levels, on the basis of the background information, main conclusions and recommendations by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15, section IV.

(e) Communication strategy

8. The Working Group will be invited to consider the communication strategy for the Convention, on the basis of the main conclusions and recommendations by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention, as contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15, section V, and the review of the 2003 communication strategy presented in document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2013/2. The ad hoc group of experts was invited 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 South-Eastern Europe.

(f) Preparations for the 2014–2015 workplan

9. The Working Group will be invited to share its views with regard to the preparation of the 2014–2015 workplan, namely its layout, structure and content, taking into account the outcome of the discussions under sub-items (a) to (e), as well as an outline of a draft 2014–2015 workplan prepared by the Bureau of the Executive Body with the secretariat, as per the request of the Executive Body. In its discussion, the Working Group may also wish to take into account the overview of meetings and reports by all subsidiary bodies to the Convention and a template format for workplans and reporting for the subsidiary bodies, both prepared by the secretariat, as requested by the Executive Body at its thirty-first session.

4. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 1 May, morning

Documentation: Exchange of information and good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures in the region (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2013/4)

10. In the framework of the Convention, regular exchange of information is stipulated under article 8. The Working Group will be invited to exchange information regarding the implementation of the Convention by sharing good practices throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, considering challenges in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as discussing imminent and emerging policy issues and scientific findings that have an impact on air pollution-related policies, legislation, strategies and measures.

(a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures

11. The Working Group will be invited to share experiences and good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, legislation, strategies and measures throughout the ECE region. Document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2013/4 provides background information which the Working Group may wish to take into account in its discussion.

(b) Challenges faced by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with regard to accession and implementation

12. The Working Group will be invited to consider the challenges faced by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with regard to accession and implementation, and to discuss ways to improve participation from those countries in the more recent protocols to the Convention and their amendments.

(c) Imminent and emerging policy issues and scientific findings

13. Parties will be given the opportunity to share information on imminent and emerging policy issues, as well as recent scientific findings and their policy implications. Such issues can comprise current developments with regard to the meeting of the national emission ceilings and their revision and the World Health Organization (WHO) air quality standards, as well as the recent finding of the International Agency on Cancer Research with regard to the carcinogenic effect of diesel exhaust.

5. Exchange of information and technology

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 1 May, afternoon

Documentation: Executive Body decision 2012/12: guidance for adjustments under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them (ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1)

14. The Working Group will be invited to share information on the implementation of decisions taken at the thirty-first session of the Executive Body. In particular, delegates will be briefed on the procedures for applying the adjustments under the Protocol to Abate

Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them, in accordance with the adjustment procedure adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-first session.

6. Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone and guidance document on health and environmental improvements

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 1 May, afternoon

Documentation: Consolidated text of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (ECE/EB.AIR/114), Guidance document on health and environmental improvements (Informal document No. 5)

15. The secretariat will provide information on the availability of the consolidated text of the Gothenburg Protocol and its deposit with the United Nations Treaty Section. Delegates may wish to share information on their intention to ratify the amendments.

16. Furthermore, the Working Group will be invited to consider the revised draft of the guidance document on health and environmental improvements. At its fiftieth session, the Working Group on Strategies and Review had invited the Working Group on Effects, in cooperation with the EMEP Steering Body, to update the draft guidance document on health and environmental improvements to better reflect the commitments of the revised Gothenburg Protocol, namely, to include 2005 as the base year and 2020 emission reduction commitments.

7. Protocol on Heavy Metals

Tentative timing: Thursday, 2 May, morning

Documentation: Consolidated text of the Protocol on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/115)

17. Under this item, the secretariat will provide information on the availability of the consolidated text of the Protocol on Heavy Metals and its deposit with the United Nations Treaty Section. Delegates may wish to share information on their intention to ratify the amendments.

18. Furthermore, delegates will be invited to discuss the conclusions of the fifth session of the International Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury and the final text resulting from the negotiations, to be adopted at the Diplomatic Conference to be held from 9 to 11 October 2013 in Japan.

8. Activities of bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and international organizations relevant to the Convention

Tentative timing: Thursday, 2 May, morning

19. The secretariat will report on relevant activities of ECE bodies. Representatives of international organizations (e.g., the United Nations Environment Programme, WHO and the World Meteorological Organization) will be invited to provide information on their activities of particular relevance to the Convention. Representatives of organizations and networks from outside the region are invited to give information on existing and potential areas of collaboration with the Convention. The European Union will be invited to provide

additional relevant information, in particular on the review process of its air quality policy. The Working Group is expected to take note of this information.

9. Progress in the implementation of the 2012–2013 workplan

Tentative timing: Thursday, 2 May, afternoon

Documentation: Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2013/3)

20. The Working Group may wish to take note of the reports from the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, and the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues and their progress in implementing the workplan for 2012–2013 (ECE/EB.AIR/109/Add.2).

21. In addition to the tasks included in the workplan, the Working Group is expected to ensure that it undertakes any tasks identified for it in the period 2012–2013 in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/109/Add.1, decision 2011/4, annex, paras. 4 (b), 7 (a), (b) and (d) and 8). The Working Group may wish to consider its progress on these items.

22. The Working Group may also wish to discuss more generally its further collaboration with the Working Group on Effects and EMEP.

10. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 3 May, morning

23. The Working Group will be updated on progress in the preparations for the “Saltsjöbaden V” workshop to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, from 24 to 26 June 2013. Delegates will be invited to share other information of interest under this agenda item.

11. Adoption of the decisions of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Friday, 3 May, morning

24. The Working Group is expected to adopt its decisions taken during the session. The draft report of the session, reflecting the adopted decisions, will be finalized by the Chair in consultation with the secretariat following the session. It will then be posted on the Convention website. The report will be presented for adoption at the Working Group’s fifty-second session.