

**Economic and Social Council**

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Economic Commission for Europe

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

Working Group on Strategies and Review**Fifty-fifth session**

Geneva, 31 May-2 June 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session**

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Wednesday, 31 May 2017***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-fourth session of the Working Group.
3. Progress in the implementation of the 2016-2017 workplan.
4. Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention.
5. Draft 2018-2019 workplan.
6. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention:

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates attending the meeting are therefore requested to register online by 12 May 2017 through the following link which is available on the meeting web page:
[http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43511#/. The registration code for the meeting is 49634.](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43511#/)
This will be a paperless meeting. All the documentation for the session and related information will be posted on the meeting web page listed above. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their own copies of any documentation they will require. A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website:
(https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/practical_information/Palais_des_Nations_map-English.pdf).



- (a) Template for the submission of examples of and good practices with regard to strategies, policies and measures;
 - (b) Special session on agriculture and air pollution;
 - (c) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures.
- 7. Other business.
 - 8. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 31 May, morning

- 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

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/117)

2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-fourth session of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 31 May, morning

- 2. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 13–14 December 2016).

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/116)

3. Progress in the implementation of the 2016-2017 workplan

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 31 May, morning

- 3. The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues will present their progress in implementing the workplan for 2016-2017 (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1) and their proposals for activities under the future 2018-2019 workplan. The Working Group may wish to take note of the reports.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/1)

¹ All documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review can be found on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43511#/.](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43511#/)

Report of Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/2)

4. Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 31 May, morning and afternoon

4. The Chair of the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention,² established by the Executive Body for the Convention at its thirty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/135, para. 14 and annex II), will report on the group's findings, conclusions and recommendations. The Working Group is expected to discuss the report and agree on the recommendations to be forwarded to the Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 11–14 December 2017).

Documentation

Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3)

5. Draft 2018-2019 workplan

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 31 May, afternoon

5. At its thirty-sixth session, the Executive Body requested the Bureau, in collaboration with the subsidiary bodies and supported by the secretariat, to elaborate a draft 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, for the consideration and adoption by the Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session.

6. On the basis of a presentation of its Chair, the Working Group will be invited to discuss elements of its draft workplan for the period 2018–2019. It will be invited to take into account the proposed plans for future activities presented by the Co-Chairs of the Task Forces on Reactive Nitrogen and Techno-economic Issues (item 3), the Working Group's deliberations on the policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention, and relevant decisions by the Executive Body, including with regard to information sharing on policies, strategies and measures (decisions 2013/2 and 2016/3).

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

7. In the framework of the Convention, regular exchange of information is stipulated under article 8. At its thirty-second session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2013), the Executive Body decided that the Working Group on Strategies and Review would continue to devote time each year for policy discussions related to the design and implementation of different regulatory, voluntary, economic or other measures relating to air pollution (see ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1, decision 2013/2). At its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016), the Executive Body adopted decision 2016/3 on improving the effectiveness of reporting on strategies, policies and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols (see ECE/EB.AIR/137).

² See Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds., *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (Oslo, 2016) and United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 — North America* (2016, online report).

(a) **Template for the submission of examples of and good practices with regard to strategies, policies and measures**

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 31 May, afternoon

8. Based on the request by the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session, the Working Group will review the structure and usefulness of the template³ used for the submission of examples of and good practices with regard to strategies, policies and measures and take decisions on its revision, as appropriate.

(b) **Special session on agriculture and air pollution**

Tentative timing: Thursday, 1 June, morning and afternoon

9. As decided at its fifty-fourth session and encouraged by the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session (decision 2016/3, para. 3), the Working Group will hold a dedicated thematic session focused on the current policy issue “agriculture and air pollution”, to be organized in cooperation with the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops. Members of the Task Force will participate in the special session, which will be organized back to back with its meeting, to be held exceptionally in Geneva on 2 June 2017.

10. The special session will, in a first part, specifically address the requirement for Parties to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) to reduce ammonia emissions and to establish, publish and disseminate national advisory codes of good agricultural practice to control ammonia emissions, in accordance with annex IX to the Protocol.¹ The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen will present updated information on the national implementation of this requirement, collected in accordance with the request of the Working Group at its fifty-fourth session. The session will address the different elements of the national advisory codes: nitrogen management; livestock feeding strategies; low-emission manure spreading techniques, storage systems and animal housing systems and the use of mineral fertilizers. Parties will be invited to present related experiences and good practices.

11. A second part of the special session will be devoted to the wider challenges related to air pollution abatement from agricultural activities. As such, in addition to ammonia, issues related to other nitrogen compounds, methane (as an ozone precursor) and particulate matter will be examined. Participants will consider the linkages between various agricultural emission sources and impacts, such as the contribution of ammonia to particulate matter formation and the extent to which ammonia-related components can be linked to health and climate impacts. Participants will also consider the effects of air pollution on agriculture, notably crops which are strongly impacted, in particular by ozone.

12. Parties to the Convention and the Gothenburg Protocol and other States will be invited to engage in interactive discussions and share their related experiences, lessons learned and good practices in accordance with decisions 2013/2 and 2016/3. They will be specifically invited to consider the challenges and the opportunities related to addressing ammonia emissions from agriculture.

13. Participants will also be informed by stakeholders, representatives of academia and international organizations of relevant issues and activities. The United Nations

³ The template for the submission of examples of or good practices with regard to air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures is available in English and Russian from the meeting website (see “informal documents” tab).

Environment Programme will present its Global Programme of Action on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based activities. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen will present progress in establishing the Global Environment Facility project “Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System”. Parties and other States will be invited to consider opportunities to raise awareness and synergies with the work under the Convention at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, 4-6 December 2017), addressing pollution as a main theme.

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

Tentative timing: Friday, 2 June, morning and afternoon

14. The Working Group will be invited to exchange information on national, subregional and regional policies and strategies for the control of major air pollutants, in accordance with article 8 of the Convention, including exchanging experiences and best practices on policies, strategies and measures to implement the Convention’s protocols and their amendments.

15. In accordance with Executive Body decision 2013/2, the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review are the format for reporting on strategies, policies, and measures referenced in article 5, paragraph 1, of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (1994 Sulphur Protocol), article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7, paragraph 2, of the Gothenburg Protocol. Moreover, Parties to the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on NO_x) and the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on VOCs) may utilize the time set aside during the annual session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to report on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies and measures to implement their respective obligations under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Protocol on NO_x and article 8, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on VOCs.

16. At its thirty-sixth session, the Executive Body reviewed the effectiveness of decision 2013/2 and decided that the period for reporting the information referred to in article 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol, article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Gothenburg Protocol was at least once every four years (see ECE/EB.AIR/137, decision 2016/3). It furthermore invited other States and organizations referred to in article 14, paragraph 1, of the Convention not Parties to those four Protocols to provide information on strategies, policies and measures to abate air pollution at the sessions of the Working Group.

17. Representatives of the Parties to the Convention or its Protocols that submitted reports prior to the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Working Group in 2015 and 2016, in accordance with the templates provided, will be invited to present their experiences, if they have not already done so. Representatives from Parties and other States, in particular those not having previously presented, are invited to submit their completed reporting templates in advance of the session, and will be invited to present their experiences and best practices on policies, strategies and specific measures to implement their obligations under any of the Protocols to the Convention at the session. Representatives from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia are specifically invited to share their lessons learned and best practices related to the introduction of abatement measures. An updated overview of reporting by countries of

experiences and challenges related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review has been made available on the Convention website, in response to the request of the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session.⁴

7. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 2 June, afternoon

18. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this agenda item. Parties wishing to propose any other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

8. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Friday, 2 June, afternoon

19. The Working Group is expected to adopt its conclusions and recommendations agreed during the session. On that basis, it will then be invited to entrust the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair, with the finalization of the report.

⁴ Available from: <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrapwelcome/convention-bodies/working-group-on-strategies-and-review/strategies-and-policies-for-the-abatement-of-air-pollution.html>.