



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 September 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fifty-fourth session

Geneva, 13 and 14 December 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 13 December 2016*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-third session of the Working Group.
3. Progress in the implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan.
4. Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment.
5. 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) Air pollution abatement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

* 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/index.php?id=40017#/>), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (air_meetings@unece.org). 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 (www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please telephone the secretariat at 41 22 917 2596.



6. Other business.
7. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 13 December, 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-fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/115)

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

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 13 December, morning

2. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fifty-third session (Geneva, 15–17 December 2015).

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-third session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/114)

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

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 13 December, morning

3. The Working Group may wish to take note of the reports from the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues on their progress in implementing the workplan for 2016–2017 (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1). It will also be invited to take note of the report on the workshop to promote the understanding and implementation of best available techniques with a focus on countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, organized under the aegis of the Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues (Berlin, 20–22 April 2016).

4. The co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues will present for adoption a draft guidance document on methodologies for the calculation and measurement of emissions of volatile organic compounds, updated by the drafting group established in accordance with the request of the Working Group at its fifty-third session. A final draft, incorporating any comments made by the Working Group at its present session, will then be submitted to the Executive Body for the Convention for adoption at its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016).

¹ All documentation for the fifty-fourth 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 www.unece.org/index.php?id=40017#/.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2016/1)

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2016/2)

Report of the workshop to promote the understanding and implementation of best available techniques with a focus on countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2016/3)

Draft guidance document on methodologies for the calculation and measurement of emissions of volatile organic compounds (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2016/4)

4. Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 13 December, afternoon

5. The Chair of the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention² (2016 Assessment Report), established by the Executive Body at its thirty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/135, para. 14 and annex II), will report on the Group's progress and preliminary findings. The Working Group is expected to provide feedback to the Group with regard to its draft recommendations, which are to be presented to the Working Group at its fifty-fifth session (Geneva, 31 May–2 June 2017).

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

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 December, morning

6. 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). On the basis of the discussions under this agenda item, the Working Group will be invited to reflect upon recommendations for further enhancing the ratification and implementation of the Convention's protocols and amendments to them.

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

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 December, morning

7. 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.

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).

8. In accordance with Executive Body decision 2013/2, the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review are to be considered 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, article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs) and article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (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.

9. The Parties to the Convention and other States will also be invited to share information on their national action plans, programmes, regulations, standards, or other instruments adopted to implement certain provisions of the three most recently amended Protocols to the Convention (i.e., the Gothenburg Protocol, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on POPs) and to prepare for possible accession to them.

10. Representatives of the Parties to the Convention and/or its Protocols that submitted reports prior to the fifty-third session of the Working Group in 2015, in accordance with the templates provided, will be invited to present their experiences. Representatives from Parties and other States, in particular those not having previously presented, are invited to submit their completed reporting templates³ in advance at the session, and 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. 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.

11. At its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016), the Executive Body will evaluate the effectiveness of decision 2013/2, taking into account the sessions on exchanging experiences organized in the framework of the meetings of the Working Group on Strategies and Review during the period 2013–2016.

Documentation

Overview of the status of reporting on strategies, policies and measures to implement the Convention and its Protocols in line with Executive Body decision 2013/2 (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/8)

(b) Air pollution abatement and the Sustainable Development Goals

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 December, afternoon

12. Parties to the Convention and other States will be invited to share information and experiences regarding how national and regional air pollution abatement policies and measures support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see General Assembly resolution 70/1). On

³ Templates for the submission of examples or good practices in air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures are available from the meeting website (see “informal documents” tab).

that basis, the Working Group will be invited to discuss how the Sustainable Development Goals impact national policies, initiatives and programmes related to air quality control and what opportunities may be presented by the sustainable development agenda to raise awareness of the need to further invest in abatement measures.

6. Other business

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 December, afternoon

13. 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.

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

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 December, afternoon

14. 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.
