



Update from the Policy Review Group to the 2016 Scientific Assessment Report

Progress & Preliminary Findings
Report to the WGSR
13 December 2016



Overview

- EB Decision 2016/1 established the Ad Hoc Policy Review Group of Experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention.
- The Ad Hoc Group will:
 - Make proposals for a policy response to the 2016 Assessment Report as to whether and how the convention should take action in the short and long term based on the findings in the report.
 - Review the priorities for work and action in the long-term strategy in the light of the 2016 Assessment Report.
 - Propose updates and revisions to the long-term strategy for the Convention based on findings in the 2016 Assessment Report, the policy recommendations developed and taking into account the report of the ad hoc group of experts on the action plan for the implementation of the long-term strategy.



Members

- Kimber Scavo, Chair
- Richard Ballaman
- Jennifer Kerr
- Michele Loutsch
- Alexander Romanov
- Till Spranger
- Supported by Secretariat (Franziska Ilg & Carolin Sanz Noriega)

Priorities

- Implementation of the Convention and all the current Protocols
- Ratification-accession to the 3 latest amended Protocols
- Gain interest and increase cooperation with countries outside UNECE
- Further review and possible revision and extension of Protocols

Themes

- Theme 1: Addressing science and monitoring gaps
- Theme 2: Addressing policy gaps
- Theme 3: Maximizing the impact of the Protocols
- Theme 4: Improving cooperation and outreach

The Ad Hoc Group is addressing questions under each Theme

Progress & Preliminary Findings

- Theme 1: Addressing Science and Monitoring Gaps

Emissions and dispersion

- Regionally varying gaps and priorities for inventories and projections.
 - Lack of completeness and accuracy especially in EECCA and SEE countries
 - Inventories need verification via emission measurements
 - In order to meet requirements of the Gothenburg Protocol, countries need inventories and projections to ratify
 - Need improvements for HM and POPs emission and dispersion, which is also linked to increasing understanding in other science and policy fields
- The emissions inventory review process could be improved.
- Non-UNECE inventories and projections are also important (HTAP).

Effects

- Need to further review and harmonize methods for health impacts assessment.
- Interactions between ozone, nitrogen compounds, climate and biodiversity are important science-policy items for this Convention and its outreach efforts.

Progress & Preliminary Findings

- Theme 1: Addressing Science and Monitoring Gaps

Monitoring

- ...is essential to verify understanding, detect recovery and new impacts, and assess efficiency and sufficiency of abatement measures.
- ...networks show major gaps; Parties are strongly encouraged to keep up and extend activities.
- Reviewing recommendations of existing 2013 ICP review
- Aim: linked, multi-purpose CLRTAP monitoring.

Hemispheric transport

- The current knowledge on the hemispheric transport of ozone and PM is sufficient to begin policy conversations within the Convention.

Progress & Preliminary Findings

- Theme 2: Addressing Policy Gaps
 - Improve the communication and use of the available information on cost-effective control measures for policy makers.
 - Continue to make improvements to the current methodologies and available information
 - Consider the feasibility of integrating combustion-related POPs (UPOPs) into the Gothenburg Protocol.
 - The multi-effect/multi-pollutant framework seems relevant to address air quality and climate change in an integrated approach.
 - Agriculture, wood burning and small combustion installations are also key sectors to address.
 - Ammonia, PM/BC and ozone (precursors, including methane) are key pollutants.

Progress & Preliminary Findings

- Theme 3: Maximizing the Impact of the Protocols
 - Long-Term Strategy led to improvements in addressing Parties' non-compliance in the Implementation Committee.
 - Current procedures for notifying Parties of potential non-compliance and subsequent steps are effective.
 - Funding at the national level and support from the Convention to ensure Parties have the capacity to improve and report emissions data should be a high priority.
 - Parties should implement technical measures to meet obligations and not solely focus on emission reporting obligations.

Progress & Preliminary Findings

- Theme 3: Maximizing the Impact of the Protocols
 - Ratification and implementation of existing protocols are a high priority.
 - Pursue projects to advance technology, including supporting the implementation of BAT in the EECCA (and SEE?) region.
 - Updating Gothenburg 2012, as amended, could spur enhanced action, but may not be the only option. Need to consider timing and content (CH₄, BC, NH₃).
 - Planned timeline under 2012 GP amendments on PM, BC and NH₃
 - May be no compelling reason to focus on adding new substances to the POPs and Heavy Metals protocols. Should continue to move forward as per Decision 2013/22 and continue scientific and technical work.

Progress & Preliminary Findings

- Theme 4: Improving Cooperation and Outreach
 - Communication to the public and raising awareness of policy makers on the consequences to human health and the environment for not taking action on air pollution
 - Specific projects and activities which could be proposed to other international bodies for a coordinated approach to addressing air pollution and health and ecosystems, as well as an integrated approach for air quality, climate and/or nitrogen
 - The best forum for promotion of specific methane emission reductions in its role as an ozone precursor
 - Broadening the CLRTAP beyond the UNECE region to address air pollution at an hemispheric level with several possible options
 - Follow up of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air

Progress & Preliminary Findings

- Theme 4: Improving Cooperation and Outreach
 - Priorities for the Next 5 Years (*aware of need for resources*)
 - Response to global policy processes
 - Continue dialogue with UNEP and WHO & support activities under CCAC
 - Maintain exchange of information & input to the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions
 - Renew the MoU with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Cooperation with priority regions
 - Coordinated approach with major emitters in Asia
 - Transport of black carbon to the Arctic
 - Maintain and enhance cooperation with the following (*not in priority order*): Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in Asia, Male Declaration, North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, Arctic Council, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission, HELCOM) and the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPARCOM)

Discussion

Key Questions to Inform Recommendations

Informal Session: The information shared will not be reflected in the WGSR meeting report, which will primarily reflect that a discussion on the matters raised has taken place. The information will be used as feedback and insight to inform the Policy Response Group's final report.

Science and Technical Gaps

1. What are the most important priorities in your country for work in the Convention to address the scientific and technical gaps discussed in the 2016 Scientific Assessment report?

Discussion

Gothenburg Protocol

2. The SAR indicates the need for taking an integrated approach for a) understanding the interplay between air pollution and climate change, and b) addressing air pollution and climate change in an integrated manner, such that mitigation policy co-benefits are maximized and dis-benefits minimized. An example would be in regards to the complex interactions between reactive nitrogen and ozone, and their effects on air pollution and climate (and other effects such as biodiversity). It is recognized that the complexity of these interlinkages poses challenges for designing, and communicating the usefulness of mitigation activities. The SAR also cites that action is needed on methane in order to effectively address rising background ozone levels.
 - Is the Gothenburg Protocol currently designed to adequately address air pollution and climate change in an integrated manner? (i.e., are changes required in the Protocol to more explicitly consider the effects of climate change on health, air pollution and ecosystems?)
 - Should the Gothenburg Protocol address methane emissions as a precursor to ozone?

Discussion

Gothenburg Protocol

3. As air pollution by NH_3 and NO_x and their reaction products (ozone and secondary particles) is of central importance to reactive nitrogen fluxes and effects, it is reasonable to deal with reactive nitrogen in an air pollution framework, i.e. within the Gothenburg Protocol's multi-effect, multi-pollutant approach
 - How can reactive nitrogen emissions (including NH_3 and NO_x , but also N_2O and other nitrogen compounds outside the air pollution framework) be addressed in a manner that achieves air pollution, climate change, and biodiversity objectives?
4. The Assessment Report clearly states that emission reductions from agriculture are a high priority. What is the best approach for facilitating/stimulating abatement measures in this sector?
5. Keeping in mind the review mechanism agreed in the amended Gothenburg Protocol (Art. 3(12) and 10(3) and (4)): should we focus only on issues/pollutants that are explicitly mentioned in the amended text (ammonia and black carbon), should we include more issues/pollutants not adequately addressed (e.g. methane as a precursor of ozone), or broaden the review to all of the commitments?

Discussion

Cost-Effective Measures

6. Do countries have enough information to determine the most cost-effective control measures to implement in order to meet emissions ceilings and other obligations under the Protocols? And how do we communicate the economic costs (e.g., lower productivity in the economy and lost wages due to increased health incidences from asthma and respiratory illnesses) for countries in the UNECE region if they do not reduce air pollution in line with the goals and obligations in the Conventions' Protocols?

Discussion

UPOPs

7. Unintentionally released POPs are mainly produced under the combustion process. In the future, should the WGSR consider them like other combustion-related pollutants to be addressed under a Gothenburg Protocol revision or should they continue to be considered under the POPs Protocol?

Discussion

Implementation & Ratification

8. What types of information would be helpful for countries (e.g., benefits of ratification, energy efficiency, technical data) to increase the implementation and ratifications of the POPs, Heavy Metals and the 1999 and/or the 2012 Gothenburg Protocol?

Discussion

Outreach and Geographical Scope

9. Which outreach activities should be prioritized for the coming 5 years?
10. What are the views on expanding the geographic scope of CLRTAP beyond the UNECE region to bring more countries to the table? Options include formally broadening the geographic region, inviting countries outside the UNECE region to specific meetings, and holding workshops.
 - What are experts' opinions on the value of hosting a policy-relevant workshop with official representatives from countries outside the UNECE region and regional organizations to discuss results from the Task Force on Hemispheric Air Pollution and next steps for cooperation on a broader scale?



Schedule

- 12 December: Meeting in Geneva
- 13 December: Progress report & preliminary findings to WGSR
- 15 December: Progress report to EB
- 15 February: Official document sent for Secretariat review
- 31 May-2 June: Final report to WGSR & Discussion