



Policy Review Group to the 2016 Scientific Assessment Report

*Report to the Executive Body on Highlights of Proposed
Updates to the Long-Term Strategy for the Convention*

13 December 2017





Background

- EB Decision 2016/1 established the Ad Hoc Policy Review Group to:
 - 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 (LTS)
 - Propose updates and revisions to the LTS 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 LTS.
- The Policy Review Group finalized its report in March 2017 (2017/3) and submitted it to the 55th session of the WGSR for discussion (WG.5/118)
- The EB at its 36th session invited the policy review group to highlight issues requiring further discussion with regard to the LTS, in advance of the 37th session of the EB.



Members

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



Policy Goal

- To improve air quality, including by reducing transboundary air pollution impacting the ECE region, and addressing, in an integrated manner, related environmental and health objectives and other policies that will continue long-term progress.



Overall Priorities

- Implementation of the Convention and all the current protocols
- Ratification-accession to the 3 latest protocols
- Increased cooperation with countries outside the ECE region
- Further review and possible revision and extension of protocols



Themes

PRG proposes to integrate the four themes from its final report:

- Enabling sound policy decisions
- Maximizing the impact of the Convention and its Protocols
- Improving the technical and scientific basis
- Improving communication, outreach and cooperation



Timeframe

- PRG proposes the time frame for the revised LTS be until 2030, so that it can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Goals for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda and SDGs).
- The revised LTS could also consider developments over a longer time frame up to 2050.



Structure of Revised LTS

The PRG proposes the following 5 chapters:

- Introduction
- Strengths and successes of the Convention
- Remaining challenges for human health and ecosystems
- Priorities for future action
- Conclusion



PRG recommendations taking the following into account:

1. PRG final report & long-term recommendations in particular sections A (Enabling sound policy decisions) and C (Improving the technical and scientific basis)
2. EB recommendations
3. Global context of international environmental action (e.g., UNEP, WHO, Batumi Action for Cleaner Air)
4. Implications for air pollution resulting from implementation of the Paris Agreement
5. Convention's ability to facilitate and promote the exchange of information and knowledge



Remaining Challenges

- As clearly stated in the 2016 scientific assessment:
 - Further reductions in particulate matter, ozone, POPs, heavy metals and nitrogen compounds are needed.
 - Assessment of health and ecosystems impacts and of local and urban air quality measures taken at the regional scale; and
 - Assessment of the impacts of emissions at the hemispheric scale on regional and local air quality.
 - Importance of science related to the impacts on air quality of air pollutants, such as black carbon and methane, and synergies between air pollution and changes in climate and biodiversity.



Priorities for future action

- Increase ratification and implementation
- Improve and update our tools
- Take an integrated approach for environmental policy
 - Ozone-nitrogen-climate-biodiversity interactions
 - Nitrogen management
 - Air pollution and climate policies and measures for energy, transport and agriculture sectors
- Improve the technical and scientific basis & better assess progress in improving air quality, human health and ecosystem effects



Priorities for future action

- Review and update the Gothenburg Protocol following entry into force considering additional commitments for
 - Particulate matter, including black carbon; ammonia; and ozone precursors, including methane
- Further align monitoring and modeling activities for air quality with those for assessing impacts on health and ecosystems
- Make monitoring networks serve multiple clients (national and international) and other problems (e.g. climate change and land-use and biodiversity management)
- Improve hemispheric and transcontinental cooperation
- Highlight opportunities for cooperation and improved communication with other regions and organizations

WGSR recommendations

WGSR agreed broadly on recommendations in a number of areas in the PRG's final report (2017/3) and recommended that the EB:

- Further develop the multi-effect, multi-pollutant approach; consider interactions between ecosystems and the environmental effects on them, and also nitrogen management and climate co-benefits
- Emphasize future work on specific pollutants, in particular ozone, black carbon and particulate matter precursor emissions, including ammonia and methane
- Focus on a priority on the ratification and implementation of the 3 latest, amended Protocols, in particular in EECCA, keeping in mind the expiration of flexibility provisions in 2019, including updating guidance documents and capacity-building



WGSR recommendations

WGSR agreed broadly on recommendations in a number of areas in the PRG's final report (2017/3) and recommended that the EB:

- Begin the policy discussion on the update of the 3 latest, amended Protocols after the amendments have entered into force, while the relevant scientific work should be pursued in 2018-2019 (for any future review of the effectiveness and completeness of the 3 latest protocols)
- Expand scientific work on the interlinkages between air pollution, climate and biodiversity
- Continue scientific work on black carbon, with the Arctic Council, CCAC and IMO
- Pursue the PRG communication and outreach recommendations



WGSR Recommendations

WGSR agreed broadly on recommendations in a number of areas in the PRG's final report (2017/3) and recommended that the EB:

- Call on Parties to stimulate the participation of local and/or regional experts in scientific and technical activities of the Convention with a view to integrating local-scale experiences into existing abatement strategies and monitoring networks
- Update the LTS while:
 - Considering that the revision should reflect a balance between the needs for entry into force, including any future revision of Protocols;
 - Prioritizing future activities based on their impact on and benefit for air quality in the ECE region and their cost-effectiveness, including the availability of resources



Long-term Recommendations

- Update the Gothenburg Protocol with strengthened ammonia measures (A.12)
- Use and further develop the multi-effects, multi-pollutant framework, including for the next revision of the Gothenburg Protocol (A.13)
- Design policies that aim for synergies between climate and air pollution policies, and specifically, include enhanced actions to reduce methane (as an ozone precursor), possibly including emission reduction commitments, in the update of the Gothenburg Protocol (A.14)
- Implement/establish emission standards based on BAT and energy-efficiency requirements for new domestic stoves and installations for solid-fuel burning in any future revision of the Gothenburg Protocol (A.19)
- Capacity-building activities to enhance skills of national experts to develop emissions inventory and projections and apply BAT (B.29)
- Utilize an approach that would achieve the maximum possible emissions reductions of pollutants of interest in key sources, sector or regions (B.39)
- Consider an integrated approach (i.e., multi-pollutant, multi-effect, for example combined air pollution and climate change goals and improving nitrogen management) (B.40)
- Consider potential unintended consequences (key interactions of pollutants or environmental effects, such as trade-offs between air quality and climate change) (B.41)



Long-term Recommendations

- When reviewing the Gothenburg Protocol, the following be considered:
 - Emissions reductions commitments for black carbon;
 - Strengthened ammonia abatement measures, in line with TFRN and the Guidance on Ammonia Abatement
 - Methane as a priority substance, including specific reduction measures
 - Further emissions requirements for ozone precursors covered by the Protocol;
 - Further emissions requirements for PM_{2.5};
 - Further emissions requirements for acid rain precursor pollutants;
 - Requirements for further addressing hemispheric air pollution;
 - Shipping emissions;
 - Ways to address barriers to implementation, including existing sources (B.42)



Long-term Recommendations

- Focus the policy work on POPs on UPOPs where there is an added value to the activities under the Stockholm Convention (B.46)
- Further scientific and technical work should continue to determine whether additional UPOPs should be added to the POPs Protocol (B.47)
- TFTEI explore to what extent the POPs Protocol could be further developed with respect to UPOPs, especially on PAHs, and explore whether and which stricter measures could be recommended for the UNECE region (B.48)
- Possible additional measures to reduce POPs:
 - Strengthened BAT on new stationary sources and measures on domestic combustion plants ;
 - More specific measures on PAHs such as a target value or a reduction objective;
 - Additional measures to help EECCA countries to increase their reduction of PAHs and PCDD/Fs, especially for new installations (B.49)



Long-term Recommendations

- WGSR consider having a policy conversation on the hemispheric transport of POPs and heavy metals (C.69)
- Existing communication products and information on ongoing activities be further disseminated and that communication activities be maintained and increased in order to further raise awareness of the Convention's work and its contribution to improving air quality in the region, including at national and local levels (D.95)
- Awareness could be raised through dedicated ministerial or high-level meetings, segments of UNECE intergovernmental meetings or events organized by partner organizations, and high-level contacts through missions (D.106) see also (B.28)
- Strengthen cooperation with UNEP, WHO, WMO, CCAC and other global organizations and networks, as encouraged by UNEA resolution 1/7 (D.115) see also (A.18)
- Invite organizations and interested countries outside the UNECE region to exchange experiences at WGSR, WGE/EMEP and Task Force meetings and workshops; (D.123) see also (D.113)
- Renew the memorandum of understanding with the Convention on Biological Diversity (D.128)



Long-term recommendations for EMEP/WGE

- Airborne effects of HMs and POPs, taking into account work under related global conventions (A.4)
- Empirical ecosystem research on dose-response functions for ozone and nitrogen (A.6)
- Which links between climate change, carbon and nitrogen biogeochemistry and POP/HM biogeochemistry are most policy relevant (A.7)
- Implementation of strategies for cooperation on modelling and mapping between MSC-E and –W with ICPs (C.70)
- Modeling results more clearly indicate continental, regional or local applicability (C.71)
- For UPOPs, improve analysis of long-term trends in secondary emissions and improve capacity for quantifying intercontinental transport (72)
- Keep up or extend monitoring activities (C.73)
- Develop high resolution modelling (C.76)
- Report on hemispheric air pollution (C.85-94)
- Cooperation with priority regions & working with international bodies (D.119-127, 129, 131-138)



Next Steps

- PRG is ready to accept any additional tasks by the EB to continue work
- 15 December Meeting
 - Continue working on updating the LTS taking into account any new potential mandate from the EB