

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

#### **Thirty-seventh session**

Geneva, 11–14 December 2017

Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda

#### **Review of implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan: communication and outreach**

### **Progress report on outreach activities**

#### **Submitted by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

This document was prepared by the secretariat to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in accordance with the 2016–2017 workplan for the implementation of the Convention and its component on communication and outreach (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1, item 5.3.5). It contains a progress report on outreach activities. It is an update to the report on outreach activities (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/2), which the Executive Body to the Convention considered at its thirty-fifth session.

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## **I. Introduction**

1. The present document was prepared by the secretariat to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) in accordance with the 2016–2017 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1) and its component on communication and outreach (item 5.3.5).

2. The report is an update to the secretariat's earlier report on outreach activities (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/2), presented at the thirty-fifth session of the Executive Body (Geneva, 2–4 May 2016), which reviewed existing cooperation and highlighted possible additional opportunities for cooperation. Taking note of that report, the Executive Body encouraged the secretariat and relevant subsidiary bodies to further pursue cooperation with relevant international organizations. Parties agreed that cooperation should be sought in particular in areas where efficiency could be increased, costs cut and duplications (e.g., with the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention)) avoided. In addition, cooperation with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants (Climate and Clean Air Coalition) was supported. Parties agreed that the long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/18, annex) should provide guidance to decision-making on cooperation with other organizations (ECE/EB.AIR/135, paras. 30-33).

3. The Long-term Strategy for the Convention identifies the following organizations as potential partners in future activities: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the World Health Organization (WHO); and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (*ibid.*, paras. 14 (c) and 16 (j)).

4. Similarly, in addition to concrete items for cooperation, the 2016–2017 workplan generally confirms under item 5.3 that outreach to the organizations mentioned should continue. Many of the basic and multi-year activities in the 2016–2017 workplan also involve cooperation with other organizations. The following organizations and processes are mentioned in particular: the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET); the Arctic Council; the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration); the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention); and the World Climate Research Programme.

5. The secretariat has regularly shared information on ongoing efforts for cooperation with the organizations and networks outlined above at the sessions of the Executive Body (e.g. ECE/EB.AIR/133, paras. 20-21; ECE/EB.AIR/137, paras. 47-48). The present summarizes this information and provides an update to it.

## **II. Update on ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation**

### **A. Global organizations and agreements**

#### **1. The United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization**

6. Cooperation on the scientific and policy levels with WHO and UNEP is ongoing. The most prominent example of cooperation with WHO is the Joint Task Force on the Health

Aspects of Air Pollution, which was established in 1998. Regular information exchange with UNEP has been established at the sessions of the Executive Body over the last couple of years in discussions under a standing agenda item on “activities of bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and international organizations relevant to the Convention”.

7. In view of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality and World Health Assembly resolution 68/8 on “health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution”, cooperation between ECE, WHO and UNEP has been further strengthened.

8. Responding to the new global momentum on the topic of air pollution, and at the initiative of the Executive Secretary of ECE, WHO and UNEP were invited to explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation with ECE, in particular around joint efforts to mitigate the impacts of air pollution on health and the environment. The first such inter-agency meeting between the three organizations took place in Geneva in February 2015, and four follow-up meetings have been held since (October 2015, March 2016, October 2016 and March 2017), the last of which was hosted by UNEP.

9. In the follow-up to the inter-agency meetings, further bilateral exchanges have taken place between the three organizations. With WHO, ECE discussed plans for the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution 68/8. ECE also participated in the WHO-led second meeting on the Global Platform on Air Quality and Health in August 2015 and together with the Co-chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling in the third consultation in March 2017 to present the Air Convention. In addition, a representative from WHO gave a presentation at the first joint session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 14–18 September 2015), suggesting opportunities for cooperation in relation to the implementation of the World Health Assembly resolution, the Global Platform on Air Quality and the work on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Exchanges have taken place with UNEP regarding United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7, the sixth Global Environment Outlook, the sub-item of the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law on “Law to regulate air pollution and protect Earth’s atmosphere” and the preparations for the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3), which will address pollution as the main theme (including air pollution). In addition, ECE has joined efforts with UNEP and others in a multi-stakeholder project to improve nitrogen management at the global and regional levels and to contribute to the establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System. Cooperation between UNEP and ECE has also been formalized in a memorandum of understanding. Among many other topics, the memorandum mentions air quality as an area for cooperation.

11. Further cooperation between all three organizations has taken place in the preparation of the thematic background paper on air quality and a dedicated side-event for the Eighth Environment for Europe Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016). In addition, ECE, together with UNEP and WHO, also participates in a number of other processes on environment and health that include the topic of air pollution. Inputs and information exchange on air pollution topics are provided through the ECE secretariat. For example, all three organizations participate in the European Environment and Health Process. On the occasion of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Ostrava, Czechia (13-15 June 2017), UNEP, WHO and ECE co-organized a side-event on air quality and health.

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12. Also, a number of side events on health, climate change and air pollution were organized for the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (Paris, 30 November–12 December 2015 and Marrakech, Morocco, 7-18 November 2016).

13. In addition to the 2016–2017 workplan activities to be carried out by the Joint Task Force on Health, other areas for cooperation with WHO are listed in the workplan, which the relevant bodies have reported on. For example, item 2.3.10 calls for the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen to provide technical information on the effects of human diets on nitrogen use and emissions and the associated synergies between environment, agriculture, health and diet. In its last report, the Task Force reported that the Expert Panel on Nitrogen and Food is developing a document for submission to Convention Parties identifying technical and other options for reducing emissions from the agro-food chain in the implementation of their obligations under the Gothenburg Protocol, while relating those to the wider co-benefits for society, including the broader issues of public health (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/1, paras 26-27).

14. Cooperation with UNEP on the scientific level is provided for under item 1.3.2 of the 2016–2017 workplan, which calls for support for the Stockholm Convention in relation to atmospheric observations and data management within the ECE region, as well as the provision of input to the Stockholm Convention data warehouse. On the policy level, cooperation with UNEP is described under item 2.3.7, which covers work on the international framework for nitrogen management, linking Convention activities with other conventions at the global scale, including understanding of linkages of air, water, climate and biodiversity targets, in liaison with the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management. The Task Force reported that a proposal for an international framework for nitrogen management made to the Global Environment Facility in partnership with UNEP and the International Nitrogen Initiative has now been endorsed (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/1, para 28).

## **2. Climate and Clean Air Coalition**

15. Cooperation with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, hosted by UNEP, has been considered at several Executive Body Bureau meetings. Subsequent to a Bureau meeting in March 2015, at which the benefits of ECE participation in the Coalition for the Air Convention was discussed, ECE joined the Coalition as a non-State partner.

16. As a partner, ECE can contribute to a number of Climate and Clean Air Coalition initiatives for the exchange of information and sharing of best practices. For bodies under the Convention, initiatives of interest might be: regional assessments of SLCPs; urban health; SLCPs from agriculture; and initiatives dealing with black carbon, such as the initiatives dealing with brick production, heavy-duty vehicles and engines, and oil and gas production.

17. ECE participated in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition working group meeting in September 2015, where the organization was officially welcomed as a partner. In December 2015, on the margins of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, ECE also participated in the working group meeting, the ensuing seventh High-Level Assembly and in the SLCP Focus Day organized by the Coalition, to present the Air Convention. In addition to these meetings, ECE is also already engaged in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition's communications task force. In September 2016, ECE together with the Chair of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), participated in the Coalition working group meeting to discuss the possibility of developing a regional assessment on SLCPs with a focus on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, to which the Convention could contribute the already available data. At the fifty-fifth session of the Working Group on

Strategies and Review, during the special session on agriculture and air pollution, a representative from the CCAC secretariat presented on the agriculture initiative under the Coalition. The ECE secretariat participated in the Coalition working group session in September 2017.

### **3. Chemicals conventions under the United Nations Environment Programme**

18. The Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, both under UNEP, provide ample opportunities for cooperation with regard to the abatement of persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals. Having global coverage, the Conventions can build on the success of the Air Convention's 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (as amended in 2009) and the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals (as amended in 2012), which have contributed considerably to the abatement of those harmful pollutants in the ECE region.

19. At its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 9–11 September 2013), the EMEP Steering Body welcomed the proposal to enhance long-term cooperation between subsidiary bodies under the Air Convention and the Stockholm Convention, and recognized the importance for both ECE and UNEP to sign a memorandum of understanding to provide for closer cooperation, as well as to enhance the transfer of scientific knowledge and for capacity strengthening on a global level (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2013/2, para. 52 (b)).

20. A memorandum of understanding between ECE and UNEP was signed in 2015 to strengthen cooperation and to bring together common areas of work. With regard to cooperation in the area of the environment, air quality is mentioned as one of the themes. The memorandum of understanding is expected to further facilitate efforts to strengthen the cooperation between bodies under the Air Convention and Conventions under UNEP.

#### **(a) Stockholm Convention**

21. All the Parties to the Air Convention's 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants are also Parties to the Stockholm Convention. The Long-term Strategy for the Air Convention (in para.16 (f)) recognizes the need to change the balance of work on persistent organic pollutants under the Convention and to explore options to better complement measures and actions taken at the global level to secure the added value of the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The need to strengthen the links with the Stockholm Convention is also expressed (in para. 16 (f) and (j)).

22. Cooperation between the various subsidiary bodies and experts under the Air and Stockholm Conventions already has a long tradition. Different task forces and centres under EMEP have provided scientific inputs to the work of the Stockholm Convention. EMEP, along with WHO, is also a key partner in the Global Monitoring Programme, which provides an organizational framework for the collection of comparable monitoring data. On several occasions, experts involved in the work of both Conventions have called for closer cooperation on the compilation of emission data and the respective assessment of pollution levels.

23. At the thirty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body in 2013, a representative of the Stockholm Convention secretariat highlighted several concrete areas for possible future cooperation, such as: compilation, storage and analysis of monitoring data on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in air; POPs emission inventories; effects of POPs in core media other than air; and modelling work under the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution. The Steering Body welcomed the proposal to enhance long-term cooperation between subsidiary bodies under the Air and Stockholm Conventions (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2013/2, paras. 49 and 52).

24. The most recent exchange between the ECE secretariat and the Stockholm Convention secretariat was at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention,

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which took place in Geneva (24 April-5 May 2017). At the meeting, the ECE secretariat gave a presentation of the activities under the Air Convention.

25. At the first and second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, in September 2015 and 2016, a representative from the Stockholm Convention secretariat gave a presentation and discussed further cooperation on the technical level. At its second joint session, the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group again recognized the need to enhance long-term cooperation with the Stockholm Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2016/2 ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2016/2, para 34 (c)).

26. In the 2016–2017 workplan, item 1.3.2 calls for “Support UNEP Stockholm Convention in relation to atmospheric observations and data management within the ECE region; Provide input to the Stockholm Convention data warehouse and secure visibility of EMEP capacities and data”.

**(b) Minamata Convention**

27. On a scientific level, the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East, jointly with the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and other bodies under the Air Convention, provides inputs to global studies on mercury, including the Global Mercury Assessment to support the Minamata Convention.

28. In 2014, the Executive Body underlined that, in relation to the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals, priority should be given to the ratification and implementation of the amendments to the Protocol adopted in 2012, noting the importance of maintaining scientific work under the Air Convention related to heavy metals. It further decided to discontinue the Task Force on Heavy Metals and invited the experts previously active in it to contribute to the activities of the newly established Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/127, para. 67 (c)).

29. At the first and second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, a representative from the Minamata Convention secretariat gave a presentation suggesting cooperation to develop reporting guidelines for the Minamata Convention, thereby harmonizing them with the existing reporting guidelines under the Air Convention.

30. Following the Executive Body Bureau’s request, the ECE secretariat contacted the Minamata Convention, making reference to the scientific work and expertise on heavy metals undertaken under the Air Convention. Moreover, the secretariat expressed the willingness of bodies under the Air Convention to share their experiences in developing reporting guidelines with the aim of harmonizing reporting guidelines under the Minamata Convention with those under the Air Convention.

31. In the framework of the first Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, (Geneva, 24-29 September 2017), a representative from the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre East gave a presentation at the thematic session on air (26 September 2017).

**4. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

32. The Long-term Strategy (para. 16 (i)) specifically refers to the strengthening of links between bodies under the Air Convention and UNFCCC, which would be undertaken by the secretariats of both Conventions, in order to establish longer-term cooperation on a more strategic level.

33. At the thirty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body in September 2013, a representative of the UNFCCC secretariat outlined three areas in which the UNFCCC secretariat could cooperate with EMEP: emission reporting by Parties; capacity-building; and outreach and communication (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2013/2, para. 51).

34. Previously, the ECE secretariat had presented information about activities under the Convention at the thirty-fifth session of IPCC in Geneva in June 2012. It had also attended expert meetings (Learning Lessons from Other International Agreements and Processes, April 2013) under UNFCCC to present the results of the revision of the Convention's protocols.

35. In 2015 and 2016, ECE organized a side event at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change to promote the Air Convention.

36. The most recent contact with the UNFCCC secretariat was established by the Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues to discuss possibilities for cooperation on Best Available Techniques (BATs).

## **5. Convention on Biological Diversity**

37. A reference to "clean air" can be found in the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 8 refers to the reduction of pollution, including from excess nutrients. Building on the Global Environment Facility project "Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System", which is coordinated and led by the co-Chair of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and supported by ECE, the issue of nitrogen use, ammonia emissions and the related impact on biodiversity could be one of the central themes for the establishment of a stronger link between bodies under the Air Convention and CBD, and possibly also with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The work of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ICP Vegetation) on ozone damage to vegetation could be another theme for cooperation.

38. A formal basis for increasing the cooperation with CBD on the effects of air pollution on biodiversity exists through the memorandum of understanding between ECE and the CBD secretariat, signed in October 2010. The Executive Body was informed about it at its twenty-eighth session in December 2010 (ECE/EB.AIR/106, para. 13). The memorandum was valid for a period of five years from the date of signature. The renewal of this agreement is still under discussion.

39. In the 2016–2017 workplan, cooperation with CBD is mentioned under item 2.3.8: "Develop and apply indicators of biodiversity targets in cooperation with CBD and the International Nitrogen Initiative". The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen reported that the activities will be implemented at a later stage within the framework of the Towards an International Nitrogen Management System project (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/1, para 32).

## **6. World Meteorological Organization**

40. There is already ongoing cooperation on the scientific level between bodies under the Air Convention and WMO. Both the Revised Strategy for EMEP 2010–2019 (ECE/EB.AIR/2009/16/Rev.1)<sup>1</sup> and the EMEP Monitoring Strategy (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2009/15) refer to the importance of cooperation with the WMO Global Atmospheric Watch Programme, especially in relation to regional collaboration on the operation of sites and the collaboration with WMO through the operation of joint EMEP-Global Atmospheric Watch supersites. WMO also co-chairs the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling.

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<sup>1</sup> Available as informal document No. 20 on the web page for the thirty-first session of the Executive Body (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28315#/>).



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41. At the second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group of Effects, a representative of WMO highlighted a number of activities and meetings of relevance for the Convention, and also those currently undertaken in cooperation with EMEP in areas of common interest, like the measurements of air pollutants and modelling activities. In particular, she noted that the next Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) symposium, which was held every four years, would be held in Geneva from 10 to 13 April 2017. That might be another area for cooperation, a topic that remained to be discussed (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2016/2 ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2016/2, para 80).

## **7. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

42. There is ongoing cooperation between the Working Group on Effects International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments (ICP Materials) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the corrosion and soiling of historical monuments.

43. In the 2016–2017 workplan, cooperation with UNESCO is mentioned under item 1.1.1.5: “Quantify multi-pollutant effects on corrosion and soiling of selected materials under different environmental conditions; Invite Parties to participate in studies evaluating material deterioration due to air pollution at UNESCO cultural heritage sites”. In its report to the second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, ICP Materials reported on progress in this regard (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2016/13–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2016/6, paras 11-17).

## **8. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development**

44. There has been ad hoc cooperation between bodies under the Air Convention and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the past. The OECD Environment Policy Committee implements the OECD Environment Programme. The Committee holds meetings at the ministerial level approximately every four years. The last meeting, in which ECE participated, was held in 2016.

45. Exchanges between the co-Chair of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and The Environment Policy Committee on nitrogen balance and indicators in relation to the work of the Task Force have taken place. Similarly, the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues has an interest in cooperating with OECD on the cost of air pollution abatement technologies and the clearing house that is currently being developed under the Task Force.

46. The secretariat’s most recent exchange with OECD has been in relation to OECD’s GREEN Action Programme, which includes workplan items on cooperation with the Air Convention. The possibility of cooperation in relation to BATs has been discussed.

### **B. Regional organizations and agreements**

#### **1. Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia**

47. Exchange of information and experience has already been in place between EANET and different bodies under the Air Convention, such as the Chemical Coordinating Centre, and the ECE secretariat. Possible future cooperation activities could possibly result from the outputs of the Model Inter-comparison Study in Asia (MICS-Asia) which aims at devising long-term strategies for air pollution control at the local, national and regional levels in East Asia (see ECE/EB.AIR/2014/7, section II.A). The future establishment of Network centres with a focus on clean technologies is being considered. Informal enquiries in this regard have been made with the ECE secretariat, specifically in relation to the functioning of the scientific centres under the Air Convention (e.g., terms of reference, work plans, staff composition, logistics and funding).

48. The ECE secretariat gave presentations that focussed on relevant activities and developments under the Convention at the seventeenth and at the eighteenth session of the intergovernmental meeting of EANET.

49. Subsequently, the secretariat contacted the Network, offering to continue the existing cooperation between the bodies under the Air Convention and the ECE secretariat and to explore further opportunities for cooperation with the modelling centres under the Air Convention (based on input and interest from the centres).

50. In its reply, the Network welcomed the Air Convention secretariat's offer to further strengthen collaboration, particularly with regard to the establishment of a new EANET network centre, for which provision was made in the Medium Term Plan for EANET (2016–2020) approved at the seventeenth session of the intergovernmental meeting. In this regard, the secretariat recently gave a remote presentation to the First Meeting of the Advisory Group for the Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a New Network Center for EANET in July 2017.

## **2. The Malé Declaration**

51. Cooperation at the technical level with the Malé Declaration process, in particular with ICP Vegetation regarding the impacts of ozone on crops, has already taken place (see ECE/EBAIR/2014/7). Under the Malé Declaration, future activities on SLCPs might present further opportunities for increased collaboration.

52. At the fifty-fifth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, during the special session on agriculture and air pollution, a representative from the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) presented on activities under the Malé Declaration process.

## **3. North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation**

53. The subregional office for East and North-East Asia of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the NEASPEC secretariat. The recent NEASPEC projects related to air pollution take inspiration from the institutional and technical frameworks of the Air Convention, and aim at establishing similar comprehensive umbrella mechanisms in North-East Asia, building on existing structures like EANET and the Joint Research Project on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants in North-East Asia. Consequently, ECE had previously been invited by ESCAP to provide technical and policy advice. This cooperation has proven to be successful and was acknowledged by the NEASPEC member States.

## **4. The Arctic Council**

54. There are six working groups under the Arctic Council. Two of them, namely, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and the Arctic Contaminants Action Program, are of particular interest to the work under several bodies of the Air Convention.

55. Cooperation with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme has already been established: EMEP has worked closely with it and also several International Cooperative Programmes under the Working Group on Effects have provided inputs to its work.

56. Arctic Council countries are also Parties to the Air Convention and have legally binding obligations to submit national black carbon emission inventories. In amending the Gothenburg Protocol, Parties to the Convention have prioritized black carbon as a component of particulate matter. Twenty-eight Parties to the Convention, six of them Arctic Council member States, submitted their first black carbon emission inventories to the Air Convention in 2015 in line with the recommendations that were endorsed by Arctic Environment

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Ministers at their meeting in Kiruna, Sweden, in 2013.<sup>2</sup> In 2016, 35 Parties and in 2017, 37 Parties submitted black carbon emission inventories.

57. ECE participated as an observer in the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in 2015. At the meeting, the importance of reducing black carbon was emphasized. ECE invited the Arctic Council to explore opportunities for closer cooperation with the work under the Air Convention in order to reduce black carbon emissions. At the meeting, the Arctic Council adopted the Arctic Council Framework for Action on Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions Reductions.<sup>3</sup>

58. At an informal meeting in June 2015 with the participation of the Chairs of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the Arctic Contaminants Action Program and the Chair of the Executive Body of the Air Convention, the interest in establishing closer cooperation between several bodies under the Air Convention and the two Arctic Council programmes was confirmed. The 2016–2017 workplan for the Air Convention provides for this activity under item 1.3.1: “Explore possible use of EMEP/Working Group on Effects tools, data and infrastructure to support the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme activities”. Further follow-up teleconferences and bilateral meetings have taken place.

59. At the second joint session of EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, a co-Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution reported on the outcomes of the February 2016 Task Force meeting organized jointly with AMAP. Potential for cooperation with AMAP included joint activities and assessments on mercury, POPs, black carbon, health and ecosystem impacts, emission scenarios and mitigation strategies (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2016/2 ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2016/2, para 72).

## **5. The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission and the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic**

60. There is ongoing cooperation between subsidiary bodies under the Air Convention and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission, HELCOM), the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area. Cooperation with the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPARCOM) was mentioned in the 2014–2015 workplan (item 1.3.10).

61. EMEP has acted as a data consultant for the Helsinki Commission concerning atmospheric pollution inputs to the Baltic Sea since 1998. The EMEP Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West and Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East model the deposition of nitrogen, cadmium, lead, mercury and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans to the Baltic Sea based on emission data reported by the Contracting Parties within the framework of the Air Convention. Every year, EMEP produces an annual report for the Helsinki Commission on emissions of these substances from different sources and the modelled depositions to the Baltic Sea.

62. As mentioned in the 2016–2017 workplan (item 1.3.3), the relevant bodies under the Convention should: “Continue collaboration with OSPARCOM and HELCOM related to atmospheric monitoring and modelling and data management”. At the second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, a representative of OSPARCOM reported on the use of EMEP products by Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2016/2 ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2016/2, para 76).

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<sup>2</sup> See Kiruna Declaration, p. 3, available from <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/93>.

<sup>3</sup> *Senior Arctic Officials' Report to Ministers, Iqaluit, Canada, 24 April 2015* (Tromsø, Norway, Arctic Council, 2015), annex, p. 118, available from <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/494>.

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