

## **Revised mandate for the Task Force and the Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems**

1. The current terms of reference (mandates) for International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs) and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution had been specified in document *Future Development of Effects-Oriented Activities* (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, Annexes II-VIII) approved by the Working Group on Effects (WGE) and the Executive Body in 2000. The mandates need to be revised and updated to make them consistent with the current provisions and priorities of the Convention and of WGE set in the following documents:

- (a) Long-term Strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1);
- (b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;<sup>1</sup>
- (c) Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3/Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4 forthcoming);
- (d) Guidelines for reporting on the monitoring and modelling of air pollution effects (ECE/EB.AIR/2008/11, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2008/16/Rev.); and
- (e) Draft 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/1, forthcoming).

The revised mandates will include key objectives and functions of the task forces and centres. The mandates are expected to be in force for the next 5 to 10 years. Specific activities and related deliverables on a shorter timeframe will be included in the bi-annual workplans for the implementation of the Convention.

2. Highlights of achievements of the Task Force and the Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems are:

*(to be completed)*

### **Annex**

#### **Revised mandate for the Programme Centre of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (ICP Integrated Monitoring).**

1. The Task Force of ICP Integrated Monitoring (led by Sweden) is responsible for planning, coordinating and evaluating the Programme, while the Programme Centre is hosted by the Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki).
2. ICP Integrated Monitoring will provide WGE and the Executive Bod with information on the state of ecosystems and their long-term changes, with respect to the regional variation and impact of selected air pollutants, and including effects on biota. To this end, in particular,

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

ICP Integrated Monitoring will:

- (a) Monitor the state of natural/semi-natural ecosystems and provide explanations for changes, in terms of causative environmental factors;
  - (b) Develop and validate models for the simulation of ecosystem effects and use these to estimate responses to actual or predicted changes in pollution stress;
  - (c) Carry out biomonitoring for detecting changes and develop biota indicators identifying future alterations; and
  - (d) Develop further tools to guide users in the interpretation of the available data and their use in (effects) models.
3. The Programme Centre will be entrusted with
- (a) Collecting, processing and storing data from participating countries;
  - (b) Managing the database and ensuring its accessibility to other users; and
  - (c) Assessing and interpreting data (also in cooperation with other institutes), giving particular attention to the assessment and modelling of complex interactions in natural and semi-natural ecosystems.
4. The Centre will report on its activities and deliverables to WGE and to other bodies of the Convention as needed.
5. Specific scientific and technical activities developed by the Centre should be discussed and approved by WGE and included in the biannual workplan.
6. The functions of the Centre will be to:
- (a) Prioritise and rationalise the Programme's network, monitoring activities, and data reporting;
  - (b) Monitor and assess long-term trends, stores and fluxes of elements and compounds of priority interest to the Convention (e.g. nitrogen and heavy metals), as well as other elements and parameters important for the evaluation of environmental effects (such as base cations, carbon and phosphorous,) and for meeting relevant international data requirements;
  - (c) Develop dynamic models of biogeochemical effects and recovery, risk assessment, and interactions with climate change with emphasis on timescales of ecosystem effects;
  - (d) Develop biomonitoring and assessment of biological data particularly on vegetation;
  - (e) Report on progress according to the Programme aims and short-term obligations as defined in the workplan;
  - (f) Collaborate with ... (within the Convention – to be completed)
  - (g) Collaborate with external partners ... (outside the Convention - to be completed)
  - (h) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by WGE and the Executive Body.
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