



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

#### Thirty-eighth session

Geneva, 10–14 December 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m.  
on Monday, 10 December 2018\*

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its thirty-seventh session.
3. Report on credentials.
4. Status of ratification of the Convention and its protocols.
5. Review of implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan:
  - (a) Science;
  - (b) Policy;

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\* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates attending the meeting are therefore requested to register online by 19 November 2018 using the link available on the meeting webpage: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45532>. The registration code for the meeting is 55536. This will be a paperless meeting. All documentation for the session and related information will be posted on the meeting web page. Delegates should bring copies of any documentation they will require. 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, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website (<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat at +41 22 917 3570.

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- (c) Compliance;
  - (d) Capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
  - (e) Communication and outreach.
6. Revised long-term strategy for the Convention.
  7. Revised mandates of task forces and centres under the Convention.
  8. Information-sharing on activities relevant to the Convention.
    - (a) Activities of international organizations relevant to the Convention;
    - (b) Event on clean air globally.
  9. Financial requirements for implementation of the Convention.
  10. Election of officers.
  11. Other business.
  12. Adoption of decisions taken at the thirty-eighth session.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon*

The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution is invited to adopt the agenda for its thirty-eighth session as set out in the present document.

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session (ECE/EB.AIR/141)

### **2. Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its thirty-seventh session**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon*

The Executive Body is invited to adopt the report on its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 11–14 December 2017).

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Executive Body on its thirty-seventh session (ECE/EB.AIR/140)

### **3. Report on credentials**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon*

Delegations will be invited to submit their credentials to the secretariat during the session. The officers of the session will examine the credentials and report on them to the Executive Body. The Executive Body is invited to take note of the report on credentials.

#### 4. Status of ratification of the Convention and its protocols

*Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon*

At its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016 and 11–14 December 2017, respectively), the Executive Body considered the status of ratification, acceptance and approval of or accession to the three latest Protocols to the Convention – the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants – as amended, including short informal reports submitted by Parties on their progress towards the ratification of these Protocols. Parties are invited to send the secretariat their updated progress reports prior to the thirty-eighth session.

In accordance with article 3, paragraph 11, of the Gothenburg Protocol and article 3, paragraphs 11 and 11 bis, of the amended text thereof (2012, not yet in force except for Annex I), Canada submitted commitments for automatic incorporation into annex II to the original and amended texts of the Protocol and relevant limit values for automatic incorporation into annexes IV, V, VI, VIII, X and XI to the amended text. The proposal had been circulated to Parties to the Protocol at least 90 days in advance of the session in accordance with article 13, paragraph 2, thereof.

The Executive Body is invited to take note of the submission and request the secretariat to incorporate the information submitted into the text of the Protocol.

##### **Documentation**

Note verbale from the Government of Canada with enclosed list of emission limit control measures for inclusion in the Gothenburg Protocol (informal document No. 1)

Overview of the ratification status (informal document No. 5)

#### 5. Review of implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan

*Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon and Tuesday, 11 December, morning*

The Executive Body will be invited to review implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1).

##### **(a) Science**

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) and the Chair of the Working Group on Effects will report on the implementation of workplan item 1 (science) and present a summary of the main issues discussed at, and the outcomes of, the fourth joint session of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 10–14 September 2018), together with conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Executive Body. The Executive Body will be invited to consider and adopt the updated methods and procedures for the technical reviews of air pollutant emission inventories reported under the Convention as recommended by the Steering Body at the fourth joint session. It will also be invited to consider ways to improve the treatment of condensable components of particulate matter and volatile organic compounds in emission reporting and in atmospheric modelling (informal document No. 6). At the fourth joint session, the EMEP Steering Body approved short-term actions (2018–2020) to be taken with a view to such improvement.

**Documentation**

Report of the fourth joint session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2018/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2018/2, forthcoming)

Updated methods and procedures for the technical reviews of air pollutant emission inventories reported under the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/8)

Improving emissions of condensable particulate matter in the context of the Convention (Informal document No. 6)

**(b) Policy**

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will report on the implementation of workplan item 2 (policy) and on the outcomes of the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group (Geneva, 22–25 May 2018). In particular, she will highlight the conclusions drawn by the Working Group from the thematic session on residential wood combustion and air pollution, organized pursuant to decision 2016/3 of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/137), and convey the Working Group's recommendations to the Executive Body. The Chair of the Working Group will inform the Parties about, among other things, the discussion of the update to the long-term strategy for the Convention and the outputs of the Saltsjöbaden VI workshop (Gothenburg, Sweden, 19–21 March 2018), including the recommendations of the workshop. The Chair will also provide an update on preparations for the fifty-seventh session of the Working Group. The Executive Body is invited to consider the Working Group's recommendations and any proposals concerning its fifty-seventh session.

The Chair will provide an update on the submission of new commitments and implementation of existing ones under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative as presented by delegations at the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group. Parties will be invited to provide further information on their actions under the initiative.

**Documentation**

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-sixth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/120, forthcoming)

**(c) Compliance**

The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on the implementation of workplan item 3 (compliance). He will present the twenty-first report on the Committee's work, prepared based on the outcomes of the fortieth and forty-first sessions of the Committee (Madrid, 16–18 May 2018 and Geneva, 11–14 September 2018, respectively). The Executive Body will be invited to consider the Committee's report and recommendations.

At its thirty-fifth session (Geneva, 2–4 May 2016), the Executive Body elected five and re-elected two members of the Implementation Committee. It also elected a Chair of the Committee from among its members. At its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016), the Executive Body elected one member and re-elected another member of the Implementation Committee. The Executive Body is therefore invited to elect nine members of the Implementation Committee.

**Documentation**

Twenty-first report of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/3)

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/4)

Compliance with reporting obligations (informal document No. 2)

**(d) Capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**

The Chair of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, together with members of other bodies under the Convention and the secretariat, will report on the implementation of workplan item 4 (capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia). They will provide an overview of the actions taken in order to promote ratification and implementation of the Convention and its protocols, increase cooperation and exchange of information between countries of the subregion and support their participation in work under the Convention. Delegations will be invited to provide information on their efforts to implement and ratify the most recent protocols under the Convention and on any capacity-building and assistance needs. The Executive Body is invited to take note of this information.

**(e) Communication and outreach**

The secretariat will report on the implementation of workplan item 5 (communication and outreach). The Executive Body will be invited to take note of the information provided and to discuss and decide on the format of the fortieth anniversary celebration of the Convention, to be commemorated in 2019. The secretariat will present a proposal on the establishment of a system of national focal points with a view to facilitating official communication between the Parties and the secretariat. The Executive Body is invited to consider the proposal and decide whether to introduce the proposed system of national focal points.

**Documentation**

Proposals for celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention in 2019 (informal document No. 7)

## **6. Revised long-term strategy for the Convention**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 11 December, afternoon*

At its thirty-fifth session (Geneva, 2–4 May 2016), by decision 2016/1 (ECE/EB.AIR/135), the Executive Body established the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention<sup>1</sup> (policy review group) to make proposals for a policy response to that assessment and recommendations as to whether and how action should be taken under the Convention in the short and long term based on the group's findings. At its thirty-sixth session, the Executive Body also instructed the group to review the priorities for work and action under the long-term strategy for the Convention

<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), available at [www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrapwelcome/publications/others/2016/towards-cleaner-air-scientific-assessment-report-2016-north-america.html](http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrapwelcome/publications/others/2016/towards-cleaner-air-scientific-assessment-report-2016-north-america.html).

(ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1) and highlight issues requiring further discussion. Pursuant to decision 2016/1, the policy review group presented its conclusions and recommendations to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3) and the highlights of the proposed updates to the long-term strategy to the Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4). The Working Group discussed the report of the policy review group, focusing on the shorter-term recommendations, gave general direction for the longer term and forwarded its recommendations to the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/118).

By decision 2017/4 (ECE/EB.AIR/140), the Executive Body instructed the policy review group to elaborate a draft revised long-term strategy, in consultation with the Bureau of the Executive Body, using as guidance the elements agreed by the Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session (ECE/EB.AIR/140, annex III). It requested the policy review group to submit the draft revised long-term strategy for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-sixth session and to report thereon to the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth session. The Working Group discussed the proposed strategy and recommended that the policy review group prepare a revised draft, taking into account the comments and suggestions made during the session, consultations with the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects and further consultations with the Bureau, and submit it for consideration by the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth session. The Working Group also recommended that the Executive Body consider the draft revised long-term strategy with a view to adopting it at its thirty-eighth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/120, forthcoming). The Executive Body will be invited to consider and adopt the draft revised long-term strategy.

#### **Documentation**

Draft revised long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/1)

Proposals for further action in response to the draft revised long-term strategy and the Saltsjöbaden VI recommendations (informal document No. 4)

## **7. Revised mandates of task forces and centres under the Convention**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 12 December, morning*

At its thirty-seventh session, the Executive Body took note of the draft revised mandates for the task forces and centres under the Steering Body for EMEP and the Working Group on Effects and requested that the final revised version be submitted for its consideration at the thirty-eighth session. The Working Group on Strategies and Review discussed the draft revised mandates of its task forces at its fifty-sixth session and agreed to submit a version revised reflecting the discussions and the comments received to the Executive Body for consideration at its thirty-eighth session. The mandates are proposed for revision with a view to continued alignment with the work of the task forces and centres under the Convention and its strategic priorities, taking into consideration the policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention. The Executive Body will be invited to consider and adopt the draft revised mandates.

#### **Documentation**

Revised mandates for the task forces under the Working Group on Strategies and Review and under the Steering Body to EMEP (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/5)

Revised mandates for the centres under the Steering Body to EMEP (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/6)

Revised mandates for the task forces and centres under the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/7)

## **8. Information-sharing on activities relevant to the Convention**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 12 December, morning and afternoon, and Thursday, 13 December, morning*

### **(a) Activities of international organizations relevant to the Convention**

Representatives of international organizations (e.g., the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization) will be invited to provide information on their activities of particular relevance to the Convention. The Executive Body is invited to take note of this information and consider it during the discussions under item 8 (b) below.

### **(b) Event on clean air globally**

This informal segment of the session is organized in order to discuss cooperation on clean air (see separate agenda). Representatives of countries, organizations and networks in various regions will share their experience in reducing air pollution with a focus on technological and policy measures and best practices and will discuss possible options for further enhancing broader geographic (interregional) cooperation and building on existing national and regional activities.

## **9. Financial requirements for implementation of the Convention**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 13 December, afternoon*

The secretariat will inform the Executive Body about the status of Parties' contributions to the trust funds for financing implementation of the Convention in 2017–2018 and the expenditures in 2017.

On the recommendation of the Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, the Executive Body is invited, among other things, to approve: (a) the detailed use of resources for EMEP in 2019; and (b) the essential international coordination costs for financing the core activities of the Convention and its protocols, other than those covered by the EMEP Protocol.

### **Documentation**

Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/2)

In-depth review of the EMEP budget, covered by the mandatory contributions and annotated EMEP budget proposal for 2019 (informal document No. 3)

## **10. Election of officers**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 14 December, morning*

At its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016), in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/9), the Executive Body elected one of its Vice-Chairs and re-elected its Chair and two Vice-Chairs. In accordance with rule 21, it also elected a Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

In accordance with rules 17 and 21, the Executive Body is invited to elect a Chair and three Vice-Chairs of the Executive Body and a Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its thirty-seventh session. Officers are eligible for re-election but may not serve more than two consecutive terms unless the Executive Body decides otherwise.

## **11. Other business**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 14 December, morning*

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no issues to raise under this agenda item. Parties wishing to propose any other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

## **12. Adoption of decisions taken at the thirty-eighth session**

*Tentative timing: Friday, 14 December, afternoon*

The Executive Body is invited to adopt the decisions taken during the session. The draft report on the session, reflecting the decisions adopted, will be finalized by the secretariat following the session. The report will be presented for adoption at the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body.

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