Policy Proposal

Global Event on Clean Air
December 12, 2018
Geneva, Switzerland
Air Convention has been discussing broader cooperation for some time

• Most recently:
  • Scientific Assessment Report for the Convention (2016) pointed to transboundary pollution influences, including from outside ECE region continuing to be a problem
    • Need for cooperation beyond ECE region to address air quality issues within ECE
  • Policy Review Group struck to develop a policy response (2016-2018) - did a report, developed the revised Long-Term Strategy being discussed here
    • PRG considered several options; LTS clearly recognizes need for broader geographic cooperation as a priority
  • UNEA resolution 1/7 (2014) and then 3/8 (2017)
    • Called for a shared response to addressing air pollution and establishment of platform for information-sharing and policy cooperation
    • Enhancing regional cooperation
  • Saltsjobaden VI workshop Clean Air Globally Session (March 2018)
    • Initiate an overarching coalition, dialogue or mechanism to spur regional action and cooperation worldwide, work through existing regional agreements if available, or facilitate the establishment of such regional coordination mechanism, and raise awareness through proactive communication
    • Creation of a task force to consider next steps on broader cooperation on air pollution abatement and on design of platform for info-sharing and policy cooperation
There is a clear need

- Air pollution widely considered single greatest threat to human health
- Message re importance of impact of hemispheric transport of air pollution in particular ozone and PM (since mercury and POPs have global agreements)
- Need for shared response or broader/global cooperation resonating more and more including at political level
- Increasing methane emissions likely to offset our efforts on ozone in near future
- A global mitigation strategy most effective in realizing substantial health benefits within and outside individual regions
- We know there is need for broader cooperation, even global but don’t know what that looks like
  - LRTAP model – binding regional treaty
  - Numerous regional agreements and voluntary initiatives
    - APCAP, NEASCAP, Latin American Regional Action Plan, CCAC, GMI
- Platform to weave together otherwise independent regional agreements?
  - After UNEA resolution, LRTAP discussed how to cooperate, including on development of platform under resolution 3/8 for info-sharing and policy cooperation
- WGSR recommended consideration of task force to discuss how to take cooperation forward
Proposal for cooperation

• EB Bureau decided to have this informal session – asked its members to elaborate scientific/technical and policy proposals

• Proposal: create a forum for collaboration on air pollution
  • Less formal than task force
  • Countries, sub-national governments, organizations invited to participate
  • Initiated and led by the Air Convention
    • Could link to UNEP’s Global Air Quality Program that will establish the platform under resolution 3/8
  • Begin with information-sharing
  • Could include both scientific/technical and policy activities
Possible activities of the forum

- Homepage house possibly UNECE
  - electronic newsletter
  - information about relevant meetings and events – members send info to share
- Air Ambassadors who participate in events – share perspectives
- Establish contacts for science cooperation – lessons learned, handbooks, methodologies
- Match funding opportunities with country efforts (e.g. WB)
- Promote data-driven approach – e.g., tools used by US EPA in their bilateral air quality management programs
- Up to date info on international policy initiatives
- Scan of state of international law on air pollution
- Track and follow-up on BACA commitments, including outside ECE
- Face-to-face meetings and conference calls
- Suggestions re further collaborative efforts if and when appropriate