

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General  
4 October 2019

Original: English

**Economic Commission for Europe**Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range  
Transboundary Air Pollution**Working Group on Strategies and Review**

Fifty-seventh session

Geneva, 21–24 May 2019

**Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review  
on its fifty-seventh session**

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction .....	3
A. Attendance .....	3
B. Organizational matters .....	3
II. Adoption of the report of the fifty-sixth session .....	3
III. Progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan .....	3
IV. Policy discussions to inform any future review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone .....	4
V. Draft 2020–2021 workplan .....	5
VI. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention .....	6
A. Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures .....	6
B. Implementation of commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative .....	6
VII. Workshop on air pollution abatement, including to reduce air pollutants that are also short-lived climate pollutants .....	7
VIII. Proposal for the forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution .....	7
IX. Preparation for the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention .....	8
X. Other business .....	8
XI. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group .....	8
Annexes	
I. List of potential elements that could inform the scope and content of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone .....	9
II. Policy-related aspects and elements of the draft 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention .....	11

III.	Chair’s summary of the workshop on air pollution abatement, including to reduce air pollutants that are also short-lived climate pollutants .....	14
IV.	Text of the draft Ministerial declaration on Clean Air for 2020–2030 and beyond .....	17

## **I. Introduction**

1. The fifty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was held in Geneva from 21 to 24 May 2019.

### **A. Attendance**

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. Delegates from Morocco, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan also attended the meeting as observers.

3. Representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development participated in the session.

4. Also present at the meeting were representatives from non-governmental organizations, academia, scientific institutions, international programmes and public-private partnerships, including: the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme; the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants; Colorado State University; the European Environmental Bureau; the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations; the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane of the Arctic Council; the Finnish Environment Institute; the Global Methane Initiative; the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies; the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative; the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis; University College London; and the World Resources Institute (Mexico).

### **B. Organizational matters**

5. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Jennifer Kerr (Canada).

6. The Working Group adopted the agenda for its fifty-seventh session, as set out in document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/121.<sup>1</sup>

## **II. Adoption of the report of the fifty-sixth session**

7. The Working Group adopted the report on its fifty-sixth session, as set out in document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/120.

## **III. Progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan**

8. The Working Group took note of the report of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2019/1) on the progress made in carrying out the activities in the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1) and planned activities and expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Task Force. The Working Group noted that additional funds would be needed for the implementation of workplan items 2.3.9 and 2.3.10 in cooperation with the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and encouraged Parties to make their in-kind or in-cash contributions.

---

<sup>1</sup> All documentation for the meeting is available on the web page for the session: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50342>.

9. A representative of Germany informed the Working Group of the outcomes of the Workshop to promote the ratification of the Protocols to the Convention with a focus on countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Berlin, 14–16 May 2019), organized by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues and hosted by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Among other issues, the workshop participants discussed progress in the implementation of best available techniques, as well as obstacles to ratification of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) and possible ways to overcome them. The Working Group took note of that information.

10. The Working Group also discussed the Code of good practice for solid fuel burning and small combustion installations (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2019/4) – prepared by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues – and clarified that the focus of the document was on wood. The Working Group agreed to forward the document with the changes introduced during the session to the Executive Body for consideration and adoption at its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019).

11. The Working Group took note of the report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2019/2) on the progress made in carrying out the activities in the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention and expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Task Force. A representative of the European Union suggested prioritizing the implementation of workplan item 2.4.4 on the development of a guidance document that described an integrated approach about nitrogen management in agriculture. He considered it important for it to be linked to the update of the Guidance document on preventing and abating ammonia emissions from agricultural sources (ECE/EB.AIR/120) and suggested that progress made in the update be displayed on the Task Force’s website. A representative of Canada informed participants that a workshop on ammonia in the North American context had been organized back-to-back with the annual meeting of the Task Force (Ottawa, 10 October and 11–12 October 2018, respectively) and that a document with the key messages from the workshop would be available in the near future.

12. The Working Group took note of the presentation by the Co-Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling on current progress in carrying out the activities in the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention and planned activities of the Task Force.

#### **IV. Policy discussions to inform any future review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone**

13. The Chair of the Working Group informed participants about the status of acceptance of amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol by its Parties, noting that one more acceptance was needed for the Protocol as amended to enter into force. A representative of Switzerland informed the Working Group that Switzerland intended to submit its acceptance letter in mid-July 2019. The Working Group took note of that information, pointing out the timeliness of the preparatory discussions for the future review of the Protocol.

14. The Working Group discussed possible elements for the next review of the Gothenburg Protocol in the light of the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention,<sup>2</sup> the report of the ad-hoc policy review group of experts (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3/Corr.1) and the long-term strategy for 2020–2030 and beyond (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2). Representatives of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, the European Union, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United States of America, as well as the Chair of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe, shared their views on that matter. The Working Group welcomed the views submitted in

---

<sup>2</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).

advance of, and expressed during, the session by Parties, subsidiary bodies and other organizations (informal document No. 1). It agreed that the increased ratification of the three most recent Protocols to the Convention should continue to be the highest priority.

15. The Working Group agreed to forward the initial non-exhaustive list of potential elements that could inform the scope and content of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (annex I to the present report) to 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 for consideration at their fifth joint session (Geneva, 9–13 September 2019) and to the Executive Body for consideration at its thirty-ninth session. The list included potential elements for consideration submitted by Parties, subsidiary bodies and others for discussion at the current session. The Working Group also agreed that the elements in the above-mentioned list might need to be prioritized in the future and that the inclusion of a given element did not prejudice its inclusion in the review, nor did it assume its eventual inclusion in any potential future update of the Gothenburg Protocol. The elements had been divided into proposed categories that included: those legally required to be considered; other existing elements; elements related to gaps in the efforts to address transboundary air pollution; and scientific and technical inputs to the review.

16. The Working Group recommended that the Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session:

(a) Initiate the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012, with an initial focus including, but not limited to, the requirements pursuant to article 10 (3) and (4) of the Protocol, having due consideration of the list as contained in annex I to the present report, and provided that the Gothenburg Protocol as amended had entered into force prior to that session;

(b) Request that the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-eighth session (Geneva, 26–29 May 2020):

(i) Continue to elaborate proposed elements for, and inputs to, the review, with a view to defining its scope, content and procedure;

(ii) Produce a detailed work schedule for the review, including a timeline for the report thereon to the Executive Body;

(iii) Forward the documents referred to in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) above to the Executive Body for consideration at its fortieth session (Geneva, 14–18 December 2020).

17. The Working Group recommended that subsidiary bodies include in the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention items intended to produce scientific and technical inputs to inform the review, with initial priority being given to work required pursuant to article 10 (3) and (4).

18. The Working Group invited Parties and subsidiary bodies to submit further views, for example, on scientific and technical inputs for consideration in the context of the review, prior to the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body.

19. The Working Group noted the discussions about the flexibilities provided in the Protocols and the interest from Parties in addressing the issue of the 2019 deadline contained in annex VII to the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in accordance with the applicable procedures under article 13 bis of the Protocol. Once the amended Gothenburg Protocol had entered into force, a request to that end could be submitted by any contracting Party.

## **V. Draft 2020–2021 workplan**

20. The Working Group agreed on the policy-related aspects and elements of the draft 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (annex II to the present report) and forwarded them to the Executive Body for consideration at its thirty-ninth session, with the understanding that further additions might be proposed by Parties or task forces.

21. The Working Group noted that the workplan priorities might need to be adjusted depending on the work required to support the upcoming review of the amended Gothenburg Protocol.

## **VI. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention**

### **A. Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures**

22. The Working Group took note of the information shared by representatives of Czechia, Germany, Romania, Spain and Uzbekistan on their experiences, good practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.<sup>3</sup>

23. The Working Group recalled that, in accordance with Executive Body decision 2016/3, the period for reporting the information referred to in article 5 (1) (a) of the Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, article 7 (1) (a) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9 (1) (a) of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7 (1) (a) of the Gothenburg Protocol was at least once every four years, and invited those Parties that had not yet reported to do so at the next session of the Working Group.

24. The Working Group took note of the information presented by the representative of the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations on integrating action on ultrafine particles for cleaner air and climate protection.

### **B. Implementation of commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative**

25. The Chair invited participants to report on the implementation of commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative and the submission of new ones. A representative of Azerbaijan shared information on the implementation of its commitment to improve air quality monitoring and management in the country and the outputs of the project “Upgrading the National Environmental Monitoring System of Azerbaijan on the base of European Union best practices”. A representative of Canada informed participants about progress in implementing 3 out of its 17 commitments: the update of Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone; the introduction of a new regulation to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds in the downstream oil and gas sector; and proposed regulations for stationary and mobile compression-ignition engines. A representative of Sweden informed the Working Group about progress in implementing its commitment on bilateral cooperation and in particular about a three-year project launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project took the form of a partnership with a number of national institutions and was aimed at building their capacity in managing air quality data and in developing programmes to improve air quality.

26. The Working Group took note of the information provided and encouraged countries to report on new commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative and on progress in implementing existing commitments at its future sessions.

---

<sup>3</sup> The presentations delivered at this and previous thematic sessions and templates submitted to the secretariat are available at <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrtapwelcome/convention-bodies/working-group-on-strategies-and-review/strategies-and-policies-for-the-abatement-of-air-pollution.html>.

## **VII. Workshop on air pollution abatement, including to reduce air pollutants that are also short-lived climate pollutants**

27. At the workshop, organized as an informal part of the session, representatives of countries, organizations and partnerships from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and other regions discussed national, regional and international approaches to abating air pollutants, including those that were also short-lived climate pollutants, and furthering collaboration on addressing air pollution. The Working Group on Strategies and Review requested its Chair to prepare a summary of the workshop, for inclusion in the report of the Working Group on its fifty-seventh session (see annex III to the present report).

28. The Working Group expressed satisfaction with the information presented at the workshop and discussions between workshop participants, noting in particular that:

(a) Transboundary air pollution remained a problem both within and outside the ECE region;

(b) The economic costs of air pollution and climate change combined were significant;

(c) Addressing air pollution at the local, regional and global levels was crucial.

29. The Working Group further noted that there was a need for:

(a) Increased cooperation between countries within and outside the ECE region, as well as between international organizations at the practical, technical and policy levels;

(b) A common language and messaging between countries and organizations working on air pollution and climate change issues and an integrated approach to addressing linked environmental issues, including air pollution, biodiversity and climate change, for multiple benefits, while working towards air pollution abatement;

(c) Awareness-raising at the policymaker and political levels, including of the importance of an integrated approach to air and climate policy development, while working towards air pollution abatement.

30. The Working Group also noted several ideas for collaboration between organizations, such as co-locating meetings, co-branding and coordinated work planning, where appropriate.

31. The Working Group also noted support for the forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution, including as an information-sharing mechanism, a repository of technical information and a convener of countries and organizations toward increased cooperation on air pollution abatement at the policy level.

## **VIII. Proposal for the forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution**

32. The Working Group supported the proposal of the Executive Body Bureau as contained in informal document No. 4 and agreed that a revised draft should be prepared in advance of the fifth 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 based on the feedback provided during the session and the workshop.

33. The Working Group invited delegations to continue to send comments on the above-mentioned proposal and answers to the list of questions included in informal document No. 4 to the secretariat by 1 July 2019.

## **IX. Preparation for the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention**

34. The Working Group supported the proposal for the celebration as contained in informal document No. 5 and encouraged its implementation. It expressed appreciation to Parties for providing support for the organization of events and the development of promotion materials.

35. The Working Group provisionally agreed on the text of the draft Ministerial declaration on clean air for 2020–2030 and beyond (annex IV to the present report) while noting that opportunities would remain for further inputs by Parties by 31 August 2019.

## **X. Other business**

36. A representative of the secretariat provided an update on financing core activities under the Convention, pointing to the possibility of signing annual appendices to the memorandums of understanding with the centres under the Convention on the condition that the full amounts of funding were available in respective trust funds. For that reason, it was seen as crucial that the Parties made their contributions earlier in the year to facilitate financing the centres. The Working Group took note of that information.

## **XI. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group**

37. On 24 May 2019, the Working Group on Strategies and Review adopted the conclusions and recommendations agreed at its fifty-seventh session.

## Annex I

### List of potential elements that could inform the scope and content of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

#### A. Legally required elements

Article 10, including:

- (a) Obligations in relation to calculated and internationally optimized allocations of emission reductions;
- (b) The adequacy of the obligations and the progress made towards achievement of the objective of the present Protocol;
- (c) Evaluation of the mitigation measures for black carbon emissions;
- (d) Evaluation of ammonia control measures and consideration of the need to revise annex IX to the Protocol.

#### B. Elements in the existing Protocol

- (a) Sufficiency and effectiveness of obligations with respect to acidification, eutrophication and ozone precursors, including further emission requirements to meet the objectives of the Protocol;
- (b) Current flexibilities, including deadlines and timescales;
- (c) Black carbon reporting;
- (d) Sufficiency and effectiveness of obligations with respect to particulate matter, including further emission requirements to meet the objectives of the Protocol and strengthened measures, in particular for residential solid fuel combustion.

#### C. Elements meant to address gaps

- (a) Appropriate steps towards reducing emissions of black carbon, ozone precursors not yet addressed, such as methane, and emissions from shipping (with due consideration for International Maritime Organization policies and measures);
- (b) Further flexibilities [, for example, revised deadlines,] and new approaches [, for example, possibly considering step-wise ratification,] in order to [overcome barriers and] facilitate ratification and implementation by [Parties that have not yet ratified the Protocol, including] countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (c) An integrated approach to addressing air pollution through a multi-pollutant, multi-effect approach, which includes potential interaction with climate change, the nitrogen cycle and biodiversity and can achieve multiple goals and benefits and avoid potential unintended consequences of proposed actions for other environmental problems.

#### D. Scientific and technical inputs

- (a) Quality and consistency of inventories, and in particular black carbon emissions inventories, and condensables in particulate matter, including emissions factors;
- (b) Definition of black carbon;
- (c) Additional types of non-forested terrestrial ecosystems for monitoring and modelling the effects of air pollution;

- (d) Update of critical loads for the analysis of the effectiveness of policies;
- (e) Effects of air pollution on biodiversity as a basis for critical levels/loads calculations;
- (f) Metrics for assessing ozone damages to crops and ecosystems and interactions with other pollutants and climate change;
- (g) Accounting for linkages with climate change and land use in effects indicators;
- (h) Analysis of costs and benefits, including costs of inaction;
- (i) Further input from the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution on ozone and ozone precursors and particulate matter, including in response to questions proposed by the Working Group on Strategies and Review and recommended control strategies for further modelling by the Task Force;
- (j) Definition of human health impact metrics;
- (k) Trend analysis in emissions/concentrations/depositions/impacts at the multi-scale dimension, and consideration of impact of international policies on trends;
- (l) Ways to address barriers to implementation, including for existing sources.

## Annex II

### **Policy-related aspects and elements of the draft 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention**

1. In line with the priorities set out in the long-term strategy for the Convention, the policy-related work in the period 2020–2021 will, among other things, aim to support increased ratification and implementation of the three most recent Protocols as amended (i.e. the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants) throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, with a particular emphasis on the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. It will also continue to focus on the pollutants best controlled at the regional level and consider the need for further action to address emerging issues, including: particulate matter and its precursors; black carbon as a component of particulate matter; tropospheric ozone and its precursors; eutrophying pollution, with a focus on ammonia; and, where still needed, acidifying pollution. An integrated approach to environmental policymaking will be sought that includes: interaction between ground-level ozone, nitrogen, climate change and ecosystems; integrated nitrogen management; and co-benefits and interactions between air pollution and climate change policies.

2. Policy work will also support preparation for a review of the Gothenburg Protocol, and its potential update after the entry into force of the 2012 amendments. The Working Group on Strategies and Review is expected to start policy conversations on the hemispheric transport of ozone and particulate matter and their precursors, including a discussion of control strategies to recommend for use by the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution in future scenarios.

<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Exchange of information and review/development of strategies and policies</b>			
2.1.1	Exchange information on national, subregional and regional policies and strategies for the control of major air pollutants, in accordance with article 8 of the Convention and the Protocols to the Convention. Provide a platform for sharing information on progress and challenges faced by countries in acceding to and implementing the Convention's three most recent Protocols. Share information about the progress in the implementation of Parties' voluntary commitments under the BACA initiative	(a) Information on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement throughout the ECE region, including information on measures shared at the sessions of the Working Group, following Executive Body decision 2016/3  (b) Recommendations to the Executive Body on strengthening the ratification of the Protocols	Secretariat  WGSR	–
2.1.2	Define the scope and content of the future review of the sufficiency and effectiveness of the Gothenburg Protocol assuming it enters into force in 2019	Recommendations to the Executive Body on work to support the preparatory phase of the next review of the Gothenburg Protocol  Policy discussions in the framework of the WGSR; recommendations on control strategies	WGSR	
2.1.3	Discuss control strategies to recommend for use by the TFHTAP in future scenarios	Development of policy questions; recommendations on priority sectors for analysis	WGSR, TFIAM, TFHTAP	
2.1.4	Discuss hemispheric transport to further inform the review of the Gothenburg Protocol	Policy discussions in the framework of the WGSR; related recommendations made to the Executive Body	WGSR	
2.1.5	Discuss next steps on broader geographic cooperation on air pollution, including the roles of the Convention and the proposed forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution	Recommendations made to the Executive Body	WGSR	
2.1.6	Undertake a review of the control costs currently used with a view to improving, on an ongoing basis, the cost-effectiveness analyses produced by the GAINS model, including a comparison of cost estimates from different models and the improvement of the cost estimates of the impacts of air pollution on health and ecosystems	Review of control costs currently used and update	TFTEI TFIAM Funding needed	
2.1.7	Produce a report for policymakers that clearly sets out the costs of controls versus the costs of inaction	Report for policymakers	TFTEI TFIAM Funding needed	

<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
	to encourage ratification and implementation of the Protocols			
2.1.8	Carry out other tasks specified in mandates		TFTEI, TFRN	
2.1.9	Carry out tasks to support the review of the Gothenburg Protocol with an initial focus on, but not limited to, article 10 (3) and (4)	Input provided to support the review of the Gothenburg Protocol	TFTEI, TFRN	
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Development and promotion of guidance documents</b>			
2.2.1	Development of guidance in relation to prioritizing reductions of particulate matter that are also significant sources of black carbon	Draft guidance document submitted for adoption by the Executive Body	TFTEI, TFIAM	
2.2.2	Development of guidance on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning	Draft guidance document submitted for adoption by the Executive Body	TFRN, TFTEI	
2.2.3	Finalization and promotion of the guidance document on integrated sustainable nitrogen management	Draft guidance document submitted for adoption by the Executive Body	TFRN, Funding needed	
2.2.4	Produce a report for policymakers that clearly sets out the costs of controls versus the costs of inaction to encourage ratification and implementation of the Protocols	Report for policymakers	TFTEI, TFIAM, Funding needed	

*Abbreviations:* BACA, Batumi Action for Cleaner Air; ECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; GAINS, Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies; TFHTAP, Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution; TFIAM, Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling; TFRN, Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen; TFTEI, Task Force on Techno-economic Issues; WGSR, Working Group on Strategies and Review.

## Annex III

### **Chair's summary of the workshop on air pollution abatement, including to reduce air pollutants that are also short-lived climate pollutants**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. At its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 10–14 December 2018), the Executive Body agreed that the workshops under items 2.2 and 5.3.5 of the 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention should be combined and held as part of the fifty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (ECE/EB.AIR/142, para. 26). The workshop was organized by the Chair of the Working Group in cooperation with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants and the secretariat of the Convention and facilitated by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group.
2. The workshop participants shared information on local, regional and international initiatives and approaches to abating air pollutants, including short-lived climate pollutants, and discussed interaction between air quality and climate policies, existing needs and potential for additional international and regional cooperation in that regard.
3. The present summary was prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, with input from the secretariat.

#### **B. Scientific and technical context**

4. The Co-Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution informed participants about the current emission trends in different regions and their shift since 1990. He noted different sensitivity of concentrations of ozone and fine particulate matter to changes in extraregional emissions and presented future scenarios in various regions. The speaker pointed to the importance of considering extraregional sources for determining future levels of ozone in Europe and North America, as well as to the influence of shipping emissions on levels of particulate matter, in particular in coastal regions. He also pointed out the benefits of global methane control.
5. The Programme Director of the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling under the Convention noted that reaching the World Health Organization guideline level for fine particulate matter would require the introduction of additional policies for sectors that currently received less attention, such as agriculture, residential combustion and waste management, as well as of structural measures related to energy efficiency, decarbonization and circular economy, important for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Implementation of those measures would also help to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants and carbon dioxide.
6. A representative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) presented information on the economic consequences of air pollution and climate change, including their market and non-market impacts, and economic analysis of their interactions.
7. The Co-Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling underscored the importance of cooperation across spacial (local, regional and global) scales in order to tackle air pollution. He noted that the linkages between air, climate and energy were receiving attention at all policy levels, and considered that energy efficiency, clean shipping and methane reduction should get priority treatment.
8. A representative of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants informed participants about the multiple-benefit pathway approach – a framework that supported integrated assessment of the climate and air pollution impacts and

benefits of policies that had an impact on emissions – and presented results of a related case study in Ghana.

9. A representative of the United Nations Environment Programme reported on the decision taken by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at its forty-ninth session (Kyoto, Japan, 8–12 May 2019) to develop global methodological guidance for emission inventories of short-lived climate forcers, including particulate matter, black carbon, ozone and precursors of secondary particulate matter.

### **C. Targeted information sharing on technical aspects and existing cooperative efforts**

10. The information-sharing session included panel discussions with representatives of countries and organizations who provided details on: activities and initiatives to address air pollution and climate change; existing needs in terms of air pollution abatement, including short-lived climate pollutants; experience with multilateral and bilateral arrangements; and activities related to scientific and policy cooperation with other organizations and partnerships.

11. Among the key sources of air pollution – including short-lived climate pollutants – the speakers listed transport, industry, energy production and agricultural burning. At the country level, various policies and measures were being applied or planned, including: restructuring industries; introduction of new technologies and control measures; transition to higher Euro standards and limiting of the import of obsolete vehicles; use of natural gas; energy efficiency; and promotion of green mobility. Some panellists shared examples of building synergies between air quality and climate policies and plans for carrying out integrated assessment of air pollution and climate change with the aim of accelerating reduction of pollutants for multiple benefits.

12. The speakers noted existing gaps to be closed at the national level that included: an outdated regulatory framework; fragmented monitoring networks; and a lack of data and emission inventories to be used for forecasts. They highlighted the need for an integrated approach to addressing air pollution and climate change, improved governance and better communication from the scientific community to policymakers. Speakers from countries outside the United Nations Economic Council for Europe (ECE) region stressed the importance of using the experience of the Convention and expressed their need for technical cooperation.

13. Representatives of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Arctic Council – involved in the implementation of the European Union Action on Black Carbon in the Arctic – and of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane of the Arctic Council, the Global Methane Initiative, OECD and the World Meteorological Organization shared information on their activities in addressing air pollution – including short-lived climate pollutants – and on collaboration with other organizations.

14. The speakers representing organizations stressed the need for: improved communication and coordination between entities at the national level and between organizations to leverage synergies and avoid overlaps; a common language and statements to policymakers; and mutual learning between countries and organizations. They shared ideas for increasing efficiency and enhancing impact, such as co-branding, co-locating meetings and coordinated work planning.

### **D. Key messages and opportunities for action**

15. The concluding session of the workshop included a panel discussion on how to advance collaboration between ECE member States and other countries, the Convention and organizations. It also included a discussion on the draft proposal for the forum for international cooperation on air pollution (informal document No. 4) prepared by the Bureau

of the Executive Body following the global event on clean air that had taken place as part of the thirty-eighth session of the Executive Body.

16. It was acknowledged that air pollution affected several aspects of society and remained a problem both within and outside the ECE region, and that addressing it resulted in multiple benefits to health, the economy, ecosystems and climate.

17. The speakers highlighted the significance of transboundary air pollution and agreed that further policy and science cooperation among ECE countries and between them and non-ECE countries, as well as between the Convention and international organizations, was required to reduce air pollution, including short-lived climate pollutants.

18. Participants also acknowledged that, as part of that broader collaboration, a common language and messaging between countries and organizations working on air pollution and short-lived climate pollutant issues would be highly beneficial, and that an integrated approach to addressing linked environmental issues had multiple benefits and should be used more broadly. As a part of that same effort, awareness raising, particularly at the political and policymaker level, would be critical in order to ensure political support for enhanced action on air pollution abatement.

19. Coordinated work planning, co-locating meetings and co-branding were seen as useful and important tools for inter-organizational cooperation.

20. The proposal for the forum for international cooperation on air pollution was welcomed by the participants and highlighted by many as a useful tool for enhancing cooperation.

21. Participants also suggested focusing on exchange of experiences between countries, inventory development and source-apportionment studies, as well as on pooling expert guidance through the forum to help overcome challenges at the national level.

22. It was also suggested that the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative should be used as a tool to share information and enhance cooperation; a template had been developed to allow non-ECE countries to submit commitments on air pollution.

## Annex IV

### **Text of the draft Ministerial declaration on Clean Air for 2020–2030 and beyond**

1. We, [the ministers and heads of delegation from xx countries in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region and the representative of the European Commission], recognize that air pollution is the single greatest environmental risk to human health and one of the main avoidable causes of death and disease globally, and that it also affects other aspects of society, such as the economy, ecosystems and climate.
2. We met in Geneva, in December 2019, in the framework of the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention), concerned that air pollution is a problem with far-reaching impacts owing to its transport over long distances.
3. We strongly appreciate the substantial contribution of the Air Convention to the development of international environmental law. Since its inception 40 years ago, the Air Convention has developed into a successful regional framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution. This has been demonstrated through: the decoupling of pollutant emissions and economic growth; the substantial reduction of emissions of certain air pollutants; and the reversal or deceleration of acidification in forest soils and lakes.
4. Yet we remain concerned that air pollution still causes significant environmental threats and health problems, and that new challenges continue to emerge. In this context, we reaffirm our commitment to improving air quality, for the purposes of fostering a better environment and reducing negative impacts on human health.
5. We therefore urge action to address the priorities for future work under the Air Convention, as identified in its long-term strategy for 2020–2030 and beyond, including:
  - (a) Maximizing the impact of the Air Convention, including by increasing ratification and implementation of its Protocols;
  - (b) Ensuring the provision of resources for the effective long-term operation of the Air Convention's monitoring, modelling and assessment capabilities;
  - (c) Continuing to focus on the pollutants best controlled at the regional level and considering the need for further action to address remaining and emerging issues;
  - (d) Supporting scientific activities that respond to policy needs and questions, influence priorities and guide decisions, both in terms of what the policy should address and how it should be developed;
  - (e) Improving cooperation between different levels of government, recognizing the increasing challenge of hemispheric influence on air quality in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region; recognizing also that local air pollution, including in cities, is heavily influenced by transboundary air pollution and vice versa;
  - (f) Promoting an integrated approach to environmental policymaking, recognizing that air pollution is the central link in the interaction between ground-level ozone, nitrogen, human health, climate change and ecosystems;
  - (g) Improving communication on work under the Air Convention, achievements and remaining challenges, in order to raise awareness among policymakers and the public, including through the promotion of tools that help raise awareness at the political level of the need to improve air quality, such as the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative;
  - (h) Sharing the Air Convention's 40 years of experience and scientific expertise, striving to play a key role in the development of further policy cooperation between regions and working towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. We welcome the establishment of a forum for international cooperation on reducing air pollution, as agreed by the Executive Body for the Air Convention, focusing on exchange with other regions and working closely with other relevant initiatives, in line with the objectives of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.

7. We recognize the important contributions made during the first forty years of the Air Convention's existence and we commit ourselves to continuing to use the best available science to advance efforts to address air pollution.

---