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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

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 21 May 2019**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group.
3. Progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan.
4. Policy discussions to inform any future review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication, and Ground-level Ozone.
5. Draft 2020–2021 workplan.
6. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention:

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

** 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 3 May 2019 through the following link which is available on the meeting web page: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50342>. The registration code for the meeting is 67860. This will be a paperless meeting. All the 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. 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.



- (a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures;
 - (b) Implementation of commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative.
7. Workshop on air pollution abatement, including to reduce air pollutants that are also short-lived climate pollutants.
 8. Proposal for the forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution.
 9. Preparations for the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention.
 10. Other business.
 11. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 21 May, morning

1. The Working Group on Strategies and Review under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution will be invited to adopt its agenda, as contained in the present document.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/121)

2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 21 May, morning

2. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fifty-sixth session (Geneva, 22–25 May 2018).

Documentation

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

3. Progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 21 May, morning

3. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling will present progress in implementing the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

¹ All documentation for the fifty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review can be found on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50342>.

(ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1 as amended). The Working Group may wish to take note of the reports.

4. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues will present the draft code of good practice for solid fuel burning and small combustion installations (item 2.3.8 of the workplan). A final draft, incorporating any comments of the Working Group at its present session will be submitted to the Executive Body for adoption at its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019).

Documentation

Report of Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2019/1)

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2019/2)

Code of good practice for solid fuel burning and small combustion installations (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2019/4)

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

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 21 May, morning and afternoon

5. Pursuant to item 2.1.3 of the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, the Working Group will have a policy discussion on the basis of scientific and technical work under the Convention, to inform any future review of the effectiveness and completeness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) in accordance with its article 10, and begin related preparatory work. At its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 10–14 December 2018), the Executive Body invited Parties to the Convention and subsidiary bodies to submit views on issues that should be discussed by the Working Group at its fifty-seventh session taking into account relevant recommendations from the Saltsjöbaden VI workshop (Gothenburg, Sweden, 19–21 March 2018), the long-term strategy for 2020–2030 and beyond (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2, forthcoming), the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention² and the report of the ad-hoc group policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment (policy review group) (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3/Corr.1). In particular, 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 were invited to submit any additional scientific and technical information that they consider should inform the policy discussions. The Executive Body requested the secretariat to compile the submissions referred to above, and to make them available on the website at least six weeks in advance of the fifty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The Executive Body also requested the Working Group to include in its discussions the issue on flexibilities contained in the Gothenburg Protocol as amended, and barriers to ratification (ECE/EB.AIR/142).

² 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.

Documentation

Compilation of submissions on scientific and technical work to inform any future review of the Gothenburg Protocol and views on elements of the review (informal document no.1)

5. Draft 2020–2021 workplan

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 21 May, afternoon and Wednesday, 22 May, morning

6. The Working Group will be invited to discuss elements of its draft workplan for the period 2020–2021. It will be invited to take into account the proposed plans for future activities presented by the Co-Chairs of the Task Forces on Reactive Nitrogen and Techno-economic Issues (item 3), the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond, the recommendations of the Saltsjöbaden VI workshop, the long-term recommendations as contained in the report of the policy review group and relevant decisions by the Executive Body, including with regard to information sharing on policies, strategies and measures (decisions 2013/2 and 2016/3).

Documentation

Draft 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention: policy related aspects and elements (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2019/3)

Proposals for further action in response to the draft long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond and the Saltsjöbaden VI recommendations – considerations of the policy review group as presented at the thirty-eighth session of the Executive Body (informal document no.2)

6. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

7. In the framework of the Convention, regular exchange of information is stipulated under article 8. At its thirty-second session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2013), the Executive Body decided that the Working Group on Strategies and Review would continue to devote time each year to policy discussions related to the design and implementation of different regulatory, voluntary, economic or other measures relating to air pollution (see ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1, decision 2013/2). At its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016), the Executive Body adopted a further decision on improving the effectiveness of reporting on strategies, policies and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols (see ECE/EB.AIR/137, decision 2016/3).

(a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 22 May, morning

8. The Working Group will be invited to 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, including exchanging experiences and best practices on policies, strategies and measures to implement the Convention's protocols and their amendments.

9. In accordance with Executive Body decision 2013/2, the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review are the format for reporting on strategies, policies, and measures referenced in article 5, paragraph 1, of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (1994 Sulphur Protocol), article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Heavy

Metals, article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7, paragraph 2, of the Gothenburg Protocol. Moreover, Parties to the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on NO_x) and the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on VOCs) may utilize the time set aside during the annual session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to report on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies and measures to implement their respective obligations under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Protocol on NO_x and article 8, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on VOCs.

10. At its thirty-sixth session, the Executive Body reviewed the effectiveness of decision 2013/2 and decided that the period for reporting the information referred to in article 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol, article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Gothenburg Protocol was at least once every four years (see ECE/EB.AIR/137, decision 2016/3). It furthermore invited other States and organizations referred to in article 14, paragraph 1, of the Convention that are not Parties to those four Protocols to provide information on strategies, policies and measures to abate air pollution at the sessions of the Working Group.

11. Representatives of Parties and other States, in particular those not having previously presented, are invited to submit their completed reporting templates in advance of the session and to present their experiences and best practices on policies, strategies and specific measures to implement their obligations under any of the Protocols to the Convention at the session. Representatives from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia are specifically invited to share their lessons learned and best practices related to the introduction of abatement measures. An overview of reporting by countries of experiences and challenges related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review is available on the Convention website.³

(b) Implementation of commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 22 May, morning

12. The Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative was endorsed at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016). The Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session encouraged Parties to report regularly on progress in implementing their voluntary commitments under this initiative within the sessions of the Working Group and provided for such reporting in the 2018–2019 workplan (item 2.1.1). Delegations will be invited to share information on the submission of new commitments and the implementation of existing ones.

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

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 22 May, afternoon and Thursday, 23 May, morning

13. At its fifty-sixth session, the Working Group agreed that holding a workshop under workplan item 2.2 as part of its fifty-seventh session in lieu of a thematic session would be a feasible way forward and that the option of combining it with the workshop under item 5.3.5

³ Available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrapwelcome/convention-bodies/working-group-on-strategies-and-review/strategies-and-policies-for-the-abatement-of-air-pollution.html>.

should be explored (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/120). The Executive Body at its thirty-eighth session agreed to that and requested the Chair of the Working Group and its Bureau to elaborate a proposal for the combined workshop in consultation with the Bureau of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/142).

14. The main theme of the workshop will be to bring together organizations and country partners beyond the ECE region with a goal of raising awareness of approaches to abate air pollutants, including those that are also short-lived climate pollutants, taking into consideration hemispheric transport of air pollution and increased collaboration on air pollution and short-lived climate pollutant abatement. Participants of the workshop will discuss air pollution abatement approaches, including interactions between air quality and climate policies and science- and policy-relevant issues related to hemispheric transport of air pollution. They will also share information on existing policy options to bring about the largest benefits and discuss ways to cooperate to achieve global reductions of air pollutants, including those that are also short-lived climate pollutants.

Documentation

The workshop programme (informal document no. 3)

8. Proposal for the forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution

Tentative timing: Thursday, 23 May, afternoon

15. At its thirty-eighth session, as a result of discussions during the event on clean air globally, the Executive Body decided to establish a forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution. Following the request of the Executive Body, the Working Group is expected to discuss the proposal elaborated by the Bureau of the Executive Body for such a forum with a view to making a recommendation for consideration of the Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session.

Documentation

Proposal for the forum for collaboration (informal document no. 4)

9. Preparation for the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention

Tentative timing: Thursday, 23 May, afternoon

16. Pursuant to workplan item 5.3.4 and the request of the Executive Body made at its thirty-eighth session, the Working Group is expected to discuss the proposal for the celebration of the Convention's fortieth anniversary in 2019 prepared by the Executive Body Bureau with external assistance and the secretariat.

Documentation

Proposal for the celebration of the Convention's fortieth anniversary (informal document no. 5)

10. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 24 May, morning

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

11. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Friday, 24 May, morning and afternoon

18. The Working Group is expected to adopt its conclusions and recommendations agreed during the session. The draft report of the session, reflecting these conclusions and recommendations, will be finalized by the secretariat following the session. The report will be presented for adoption at the Working Group's fifty-eighth session.
