Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fifty-eighth session, 26-29 May 2020

Agenda item 8 “Broader geographic cooperation on air pollution”

Informal document no. 6

**Comments on the proposal regarding the forum for international cooperation on air pollution**

**Comments by Canada**

Canada supports the establishment of the Forum and is pleased to submit its views in the attached document. This e-mail along with the attached document combined, form the submission from Canada. We request that both the e-mail and the document be forwarded to the Executive Body Bureau for consideration.

Canada is keen to contribute to the elaboration of the proposal for the Forum.  Our expectation is that now that the Forum has been officially launched, the comments/questions/revisions that have been included in the attached document will be used by the Executive Body Bureau to support the development of the terms of reference.  Some comments in the document pertain to how the text in the proposal may be relevant to the terms of reference.    
  
We understand that the terms of reference developed by the Executive Body Bureau as well as the submissions by Parties, will be available for the WGSR meeting in May.

**Annex I**

##### Forum for international cooperation on air pollution: proposal

1. **Background** 
   1. The need for coordinated actions has been recognized in many different international forums (for example, through United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and World Health Assembly resolutions and the 2019 International Law Commission draft guidelines on protection of the atmosphere). The importance of cooperation beyond the ECE region has also been recognized in the updated long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2, decision 2018/5, annex, para. 76). Given its 40 years of experience in tackling transboundary air pollution on a regional basis, the Parties to the Convention are keen to cooperate with other regions to ascertain common challenges and to exchange experiences on air pollution policy.
   2. Following a special event on clean air globally, the Executive Body, at its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 10–14 December 2018), agreed to establish a forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution and requested the Bureau of the Executive Body to further elaborate the proposal (ECE/EB.AIR/142, para. 68 (b)). The proposal has been updated based on discussions during the event on clean air globally, at which it was recommended that the forum should be guided by the Air Convention in close cooperation with other key stakeholders and especially with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to link the initiative to the platform called for in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally. In these discussions, it was also recommended to reach out to countries and organizations not present at the session. The forum will promote integrated approaches to addressing air pollution aimed at achieving multiple benefits to human health, the economy, ecosystems and climate and efforts across sectors that improve air quality.
2. **Purpose** 
   1. The forum for international cooperation on air pollution is a forum for international exchange of information and mutual learning on both the scientific/technical and policy levels related to air pollution. It is intended to be a repository for technical information and a convenor of countries and organizations, with the goal of increasing international cooperation on addressing air pollution to improve air quality globally.
3. **Vision** 
   1. The forum’s vision is to promote international collaboration towards enhancing scientific knowledge and awareness related to air pollution and preventing and reducing air pollution, in particular transboundary transport, to improve air quality globally.
   2. The forum aims to fulfil its purpose, among other things, by:
      1. Acting as an international platform for information-sharing, mutual learning and collaboration on air pollution;
      2. Fostering emissions reductions of air pollutants through exchange of information on best practices, clean air technological solutions and policy approaches;
      3. Promoting integrated environmental policy in addressing international air pollution;
      4. Facilitating the sharing of information on funding opportunities to assist country efforts and needs;
      5. Promoting an evidence-based approach to air quality management;
      6. Acting as starting point for a various possible future cooperation arrangements;
      7. Working to raise public awareness of the health and environmental impacts of air pollution;
      8. Collaborating and communicating with partners and stakeholders;
      9. Being a starting point and flexible mechanism to facilitate possible future cooperation arrangements.
4. **Proposed structure and operation** 
   1. The forum is open to participation by ECE and non-ECE country representatives, as well as representatives of organizations and conventions with an interest in reducing air pollution.
   2. The aim is, that in the initial phase, the forum will be led by one or more countries, including at least one from the ECE region, which are to appoint a chair/chairs. Interested countries are invited to express their interest to the ECE secretariat.
   3. The forum’s operation and activities will be funded through voluntary financial and in-kind contributions.
   4. The forum will mainly be a web-based platform. Efforts should be made to make use of tools that enable virtual meetings. Periodic face-to-face meetings will be held as decided by the forum’s lead countries (chairs). Forum members could also attend existing relevant meetings to leverage resources and share information on similar efforts. Meetings or workshops may also be held to implement specific projects decided upon by the forum.
5. **Activities of the forum** 
   1. Activities of the forum could include:

Information-sharing on policy

1. Providing a platform to exchange information and views on addressing air pollution and raise awareness of its health and environmental impacts;
2. Providing an overview of international policy initiatives in the air pollution field and summarizing the state of international efforts to address air pollution;
3. Seeking connections with relevant organizations or bodies involved in

practical efforts to reduce air pollution;

1. Sharing experiences on regional cooperation, including the Air Convention’s multilateral regional structure and framework as a model for other regions;
2. Promoting tools such as the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative;
3. Promoting an integrated approach to the management of air quality and other

environmental issues to achieve multiple benefits and coordinating to that end with relevant organizations, as appropriate;

1. Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution in existing or future networks.

Information-sharing on science

1. Facilitating access to scientific information, for example, online databases for best available control technologies;
2. Encouraging sharing of information related to global transport and emissions of air pollution and their impacts on ecosystems and human health;
3. Helping to establish contacts for scientific cooperation (for example, to share lessons learned with harmonized handbooks, monitoring methods, risk assessment and evaluation of the effectiveness and benefits of air pollution reductions on health and the environment and targeted “hands-on” training workshops) and possibly adaptation of Air Convention tools for other geographic scopes or activities.

Technical capacity-building and information-sharing on funding opportunities

1. Reaching out to funding organizations and providing a platform for information-sharing on funding opportunities for country participants and other organizations;
2. Providing a platform for information-sharing on available capacity-building and training opportunities;
3. Sharing experiences and information that could inform the development of action plans for addressing air pollution, including in urban centres;
4. Promoting an evidence-based approach to air quality management, including related to the development of emission inventories and the communication of health and ecosystem impacts to the public.

**VI. Next steps**

1. Develop a terms of reference for the forum, for consultation with forum participants (led by the Executive Body Bureau);
2. Identify countries willing to lead the forum;
3. Organize the first meeting of the forum;
4. Continue to develop a website for the forum, based on an analysis of similar existing websites to avoid overlaps;
5. Reach out to organizations such as UNEP, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Global Methane Initiative, the World Resources Institute, the International Union of Air Pollution and Environmental Protection Associations and C40 to explore possible synergies in activities.

**Comment by the European Union**

The EU and its Member States will not submit any comments on the concept note for the Forum for international cooperation at this time. We are pleased with the version of the note as revised at the EB39 meeting and the approach discussed there. We look forward to being informed about the continued work by the EB Bureau, the Secretariat and other Parties in the framework of the Forum in the coming months of the Forum initial phase and hope that co-leads might be found for transition to an active phase in the near future.

**Comment by Switzerland**

With regard to the proposal concerning the Forum for international cooperation on air pollution, Switzerland welcomes the further development of these activities as we consider them an important element of the future outreach activities of the LRTAP Convention to tackle worldwide abatement of air pollution. As long as the UNEP does not provide a global leadership and a platform as requested by the resolution UNEA 3/8 it is even more important that the Parties to the LRTAP Convention together with its secretariat share their expertise with other regions and countries confronted with major air pollution problems. It is not necessary to reinvent the wheel and start from scratch, but to build up on the positive experiences and to actively share the knowledge acquired under the Convention.

**Comments by the United States of America**

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Forum proposal, and have provided a short list of conceptual and editorial comments that we hope are useful.

Our most significant view is that the Forum’s mission of reducing air pollution locally, regionally, and internationally is *broader* than the Convention’s mission of addressing transboundary air pollution. We have provided some reframing to this effect, as well as some restructuring of this section in the document, separating out a higher level Vision statement from the more specific Mission statement.

Second, we see it as fundamental that the Forum function as a facilitator of financing, but not as a financier of air pollution projects itself. The details of how the Forum facilitates this process will presumably become clearer as the terms of reference are developed, and may be an area of active discussion. For now, we edited this section to be more general.

We think some discussion of the following Forum-related issues would be helpful at the upcoming Bureau meeting.

1. Title – We think a shorter title that more immediately telegraphs the intention of this group may be helpful. Our tentative suggestion is the ‘Global Air Quality Forum’, and we’re eager to discuss this with others.
2. Function - Several aspects of the Forum’s remit, including facilitating versus financing of activities, adaptation of UNECE Air Convention tools,
3. Structure - If representatives of organizations and other international for a would participate on an equal footing with countries, or more in an observer capacity?
4. We’d also like to discuss the relationship between the EU Clean Air Forum and the LRTAP Forum.

Annex I

Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution: Proposal

Background

The need for coordinated actions **on air pollution** has been recognized in many different international fora (e.g. through ~~the~~ United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and World Health Assembly **resolutions** ~~and the draft guidelines from 2019 of the International Law Commission (UN) on protection of the atmosphere~~). The importance of cooperation beyond the UNECE region has also been recognized in the updated long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2, decision 2018/5, annex, para 76). Given its 40 years of experience in tackling transboundary air pollution on a regional basis, the Convention is keen to cooperate with other regions to ascertain common challenges and to exchange experiences on air pollution policy.

Following a special event on clean air globally, the Executive Body, at its 38th session in 2018, agreed to establish ~~a~~ **~~t~~he Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (the Forum)** ~~forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution~~ and requested the Bureau of the Executive Body to further elaborate this proposal. The proposal ~~has been~~ **was** updated based on discussions during the global event on clean air, which recommended that the forum should be steered by the Air Convention in close cooperation with other key stakeholders and especially with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to link the initiative to the platform called for in UNEA’s resolution 3/8 on air pollution. In these discussions, it was also recommended to reach out to countries and organizations not present at the session. **At its 39th session in 2019, the Executive Body welcomed the establishment of the Forum, invited the Executive Body Bureau to continue to develop the proposal for the forum, and invited Parties to submit further comments. The proposal has been updated in light of such comments.** The Forum promotes integrated approaches to addressing air pollution aimed at achieving multiple benefits to human health, the economy, ecosystems and climate and efforts across sectors that improve air quality.

I. Vision

The Forum’s vision is clean air everywhere, accomplished by enhanced, transparent and open collaboration on the science, prevention, and reduction of air pollution across the globe.

II. Purpose

The Forum’s purpose is to promote international collaboration towards enhancing scientific knowledge and awareness related to air pollution, and preventing and reducing air pollution, to improve air quality globally. The Forum is a platform for international exchange of information and mutual learning on both the scientific/technical and policy levels on air pollution. It is intended to be a repository for technical information and a convenor of countries and organizations with the goal of increased international cooperation, training and capacity-building on addressing air pollution. Rather than being a negotiating body, the Forum will aim to get the right information, expertise and tools into the hands that need them, targeting both air quality experts and those that implement components of air quality management.

~~II. Vision~~

~~1. The Forum’s vision is to promote international collaboration towards enhancing scientific knowledge and awareness related to air pollution and preventing and reducing air pollution, in particular transboundary transport to improve air quality globally.~~

2. The Forum aims to fulfil its purpose by:

(a) Acting as an international platform for information sharing, mutual learning and collaboration on air pollution;

(b) Fostering emissions reductions of air pollutants through exchange of information on best practices, clean air technological solutions and policy approaches;

(c) Promoting integrated environmental policy in addressing international air pollution;

(d) **Sharing information on funding opportunities in order to help countries meet** needs;

(e) Promoting an evidence-based approach to air quality management;

(f) Working to raise public awareness of the health and environmental impacts of air pollution;

(g) Collaborating and communicating with partners and stakeholders.

III. Proposed structure and operation

1. The Forum is open to participation by UNECE and non-UNECE country representatives, as well as representatives of organizations and ~~conventions~~ **international fora** with an interest in reducing air pollution.

2. The aim is, that in the initial phase, the Forum will be led by **chairperson(s) from** one or more countries, including at least one from the UNECE region ~~who are to appoint chairperson(s)~~. Interested countries are invited to express their interest **in leading the Forum** to the UNECE secretariat.

3. The Forum operation and activities will be funded through voluntary financial and in-kind contributions.

4. The Forum will mainly be a web-based platform. Efforts should be made to make use of tools that enable virtual meetings. Periodic face-to-face meetings ~~will~~ **may** occur as decided by the Forum’s lead countries (Chairpersons).**in consultation with participants in the Forum**. Forum ~~members~~ **participants** could also attend existing relevant meetings to leverage resources and share information on similar efforts. Meetings or workshops may also be held to implement specific **activities** ~~projects decided upon~~ ~~supported~~ **in alignment with** ~~by~~ the Forum’s .

IV. Activities of the Forum

Activities of the Forum could include:

Information sharing on policy

1. Providing a platform to exchange information and views on addressing air pollution and raise awareness of its health and environmental impacts;

2. Providing an overview of international policy initiatives in the air pollution field and summarize the state of international efforts to address air pollution;

3. Seeking connections with relevant organizations or bodies involved in practical efforts to reduce air pollution;

4. Sharing experiences on regional cooperation, including the UNECE Air Convention’s multi-lateral regional structure and framework as a model for other regions;

5. Promoting tools such as the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air;

6. Promoting an integrated approach for the management of air quality and other environmental issues to achieve multiple benefits and coordinating to that end with relevant organizations as appropriate;

7. Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution in existing or future networks;

Information sharing on science **and technical information**

8. **Promoting enhanced** ~~Facilitating~~ access to scientific information, for example **through** online databases for best available control technologies;

9. Encouraging sharing information related to international transport and global emissions of air pollution and their impacts on ecosystems and human health;

10. Helping to establish contacts for science cooperation (for example, to share lessons learned with harmonized handbooks, monitoring methods, risk assessment and evaluation of the effectiveness and benefits of air pollution reductions on health and the environment, and targeted “hands-on” training workshops) and possibly adaptation of UNECE Air Convention tools for other geographic scopes or activities;

~~Technical~~ Capacity building and information sharing on funding opportunities

11. Reaching out to funding organizations and providing a platform for information sharing on funding opportunities for country participants and other organizations;

12. Providing a platform for information sharing on available capacity building and training opportunities;

13. Sharing experience and information that could inform the development of action plans for addressing air pollution, including in urban centres;

14. Promoting an evidence-based approach to air quality management, including related to the development of emission inventories and the communication of health and ecosystem impacts to the public.

15. Building capacity in air pollution policy, including sharing expertise in the development of air quality legislation, standard, action plans, management plans, and communication.

16. Provide a proposal ~~template~~ **guide** for countries, regional organizations, and/or local governments on the Forum’s website to use to ~~submit~~ enable the Forum to facilitate the connection with an appropriate funder ~~project proposal ideas to the Forum.~~

~~17. Develop and provide project selection criteria on the website to go along with the template for proposals.~~

**17. Maintain a list of funding organizations and opportunities.**

**18. Facilitate matching experts and/or partners with projects for technical capacity building efforts, including air quality management planning.**

V. Next steps

1. Develop terms of reference for the Forum for consultation with Forum participants (led by **the** Executive Body Bureau);

2. Identify countries willing to lead the Forum;

3. Organize first meeting;

4. Continue to develop **the** website for the **F**orum, based on an analysis of similar existing websites to avoid overlaps **and identify existing resources that may be appropriate to link to the Forum**;

5. Reach out to organizations such as UNEP, WMO, WHO, CCAC, GMI, WRI, IUAPPA and C-40 and others to explore possible ~~synergies~~ **alignment** on activities.

**Comments by the United Nations Environment Programme**

1. UNEP would like to express its support to the development of the Forum for International cooperation. Member States who convened at the third session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in December 2017, adopted a Resolution on Air Quality (referred to as UNEA3/8). The Operative Paragraph 7 requested the Executive Director to provide a platform for cooperation and information sharing. As described in the attached proposal, the objective of the Forum is clearly aligned with and complementary to UNEA3/8 Resolution.
2. In response to the Resolution, UNEP set-up an Air Quality Global Programme to ensure more coherence and alignment of interventions in-house and offer a menu of services to countries on Air Quality.  UNEP’s global air quality programme has the following components: (a)Air Quality monitoring and assessments, (b) policy and technology support and, (c) outreach and awareness raising. It is closely implemented with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). It brings together the work of UNEP and the CCAC in a number of sectors such as:

* Mobility & transport programmes such as e.g. the new electric mobility programme
* Waste management, open waste burning and agricultural burning
* Chemicals/Forest fires/ sand and dust storms
* CCAC: and its eleven initiatives as well as the science based solutions of the Coalition

1. Key deliverables todate include regional assessments, support to +10 countries/cities worldwide in developing clean air action plans, deployment of low-cost monitoring equipment, regulatory and policy support as well as global and local awareness-raising efforts.  These concrete activities can feed into the information-sharing (on both science and policy) and capacity-building components of the Forum as described in the Proposal.
2. Another key opportunity/contribution of UNEP could be the **Air quality global policy report**: this is another key global ask from Resolution 3/8. At the request of member States UNEP launched at the second session of UNEA, a Policy report entitled : *Actions on Air Quality: policies and programmes for improving Air Quality around the world*” which provided an overview of the actions taken by governments to promote better air quality across 10 key policy actions. UNEA3/8 requested the Executive Director to provide an update of the global policy report in order to take stock of progress, challenges and documenting successful case studies. This effort is starting this year, to be released at the next session of UNEA, i.e. in February 2021. This could be a key tangible input from UNEP to the Forum.
3. UNEP can play a substantive role in the development of the Forum from the work described above, both at normative, policy and sectoral level as well as through the work of Regional Offices (e.g. Asia and the Pacific & Europe).
4. However, in order to clearly define its engagement going forward, UNEP has a number of questions on how the Forum will function: the attached proposal does not define how the Forum will operate, whether a Secretariat is envisaged and if it has already secured a budget. Are these issues going to be decided at the first meeting, anticipated to take place in October, and hosted by Argentina?
5. In conclusion, UNEP is supporting the establishment of the proposed Forum and our role would focus on providing substantive support/inputs as well as ensuring alignment and integration with several ongoing initiatives (as described above and beyond e.g. cooperation with WHO, WMO and other key partners). The global Air Quality policy report to be prepared for UNEA5 could be a first tangible contribution from our side.

**Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution: Proposal**

**Background**

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Following a special event on clean air globally, the Executive Body, at its 38th session in 2018, agreed to establish a forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution and requested the Bureau of the Executive Body to further elaborate this proposal. The proposal has been updated based on discussions during the global event on clean air, which recommended that the forum should be steered by the Air Convention in close cooperation with other key stakeholders and especially with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to link the initiative to the platform called for in UNEA’s resolution 3/8 on air pollution. In these discussions, it was also recommended to reach out to countries and organizations not present at the session. The Forum promotes integrated approaches to addressing air pollution aimed at achieving multiple benefits to human health, the economy, ecosystems and climate and efforts across sectors that improve air quality.

1. **Purpose**

1. The Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (the Forum) is a forum for international exchange of information and mutual learning on both the scientific/technical and policy levels. It is intended to be a repository for technical information and a convenor of countries and organizations with the goal of increased international cooperation on addressing air pollution.

## Vision []

1. The Forum’s vision is to promote international collaboration towards enhancing scientific knowledge and awareness related to air pollution and preventing and reducing air pollution, in particular transboundary transport to improve air quality globally.

2. The Forum aims to fulfil its purpose including by:

1. Acting as an international platform for information sharing, mutual learning and collaboration on air pollution;
2. Fostering emissions reductions of air pollutants through exchange of information on best practices, clean air technological solutions and policy approaches;
3. Promotes integrated environmental policy in addressing international air pollution;
4. Facilitating the matching of funding opportunities with country efforts and needs;
5. Promoting an evidence-based approach to air quality management;
6. Working to raise public awareness of the health and environmental impacts of air pollution;
7. Collaborating and communicating with partners and stakeholders.

## Proposed structure and operation

1. The Forum is open to participation by UNECE and non-UNECE country representatives, as well as representatives of organizations and conventions with an interest in reducing air pollution.

2. The aim is, that in the initial phase, the Forum will be led by one or more countries, including at least one from the UNECE region, who are to appoint chairperson(s). Interested countries are invited to express their interest to the UNECE secretariat.

3. The Forum operation and activities will be funded through voluntary financial and in-kind contributions.

4. The Forum will mainly be a web-based platform. Efforts should be made to make use of tools that enable virtual meetings. Periodic face to face meetings will occur as decided by the Forum’s lead countries (Chair persons). Forum members could also attend existing relevant meetings to leverage resources and share information on similar efforts. Meetings or workshops may also be held to implement specific projects decided upon by the Forum.

## Activities of the Forum

Activities of the Forum could include:

Information sharing on policy

1. Providing a platform to exchange information and views on addressing air pollution and raise awareness of its health and environmental impacts;
2. Providing an overview of international policy initiatives in the air pollution field and summarize the state of international efforts to address air pollution;
3. Seeking connections with relevant organizations or bodies involved in practical efforts to reduce air pollution;
4. Sharing experiences on regional cooperation, including the UNECE Air Convention’s multi-lateral regional structure and framework as a model for other regions;
5. Promoting tools such as the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air;
6. Promoting an integrated approach for the management of air quality and other environmental issues to achieve multiple benefits and coordinating to that end with relevant organizations as appropriate;
7. Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution in existing or future networks;

Information sharing on science

1. Facilitating access to scientific information, for example online databases for best available control technologies;
2. Encouraging sharing information related to international transport and global emissions of air pollution and their impacts on ecosystems and human health;
3. Helping to establish contacts for science cooperation (for example, to share lessons learned with harmonized handbooks, monitoring methods, risk assessment and evaluation of the effectiveness and benefits of air pollution reductions on health and the environment, and targeted “hands-on” training workshops) and possibly adaptation of UNECE Air Convention tools for other geographic scopes or activities;

Technical capacity building and information sharing on funding opportunities

1. Reaching out to funding organizations and providing a platform for information sharing on funding opportunities for country participants and other organizations;
2. Providing a platform for information sharing on available capacity-building and training opportunities;
3. Sharing experience and information that could inform the development of action plans for addressing air pollution, including in urban centres;
4. Promoting an evidence-based approach to air quality management, including related to the development of emission inventories and the communication of health and ecosystem impacts to the public.

## Next steps

1. Develop terms of reference for the Forum for consultation with Forum participants (led by Executive Body Bureau);
2. Identify countries willing to lead the Forum;
3. Organize first meeting;
4. Continue to develop website for the forum, based on an analysis of similar existing websites to avoid overlaps;
5. Reach out to organizations such as UNEP, WMO, WHO, CCAC, GMI, WRI, IUAPPA and C-40 and others to explore possible synergies in activities.

**Comments by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

**Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution: Proposal**

**Background**

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1. **Purpose**

1. The Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (the Forum) is a forum for international exchange of information and mutual learning on both the scientific/technical and policy levels. It is intended to be a repository for technical information and a convenor of countries and organizations with the goal of increased international cooperation on addressing air pollution.

## Vision []

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1. Acting as an international platform for information sharing, mutual learning and collaboration on air pollution;
2. Fostering emissions reductions of air pollutants through exchange of information on best practices, clean air technological solutions and policy approaches;
3. Promotes integrated environmental policy in addressing international air pollution;
4. Facilitating the matching of funding opportunities with country efforts and needs;
5. Promoting an evidence-based approach to air quality management;
6. Working to raise public awareness of the health and environmental impacts of air pollution;
7. Collaborating and communicating with partners and stakeholders.

## Proposed structure and operation

1. The Forum is open to participation by UNECE and non-UNECE country representatives, as well as representatives of organizations and conventions with an interest in reducing air pollution.

2. The aim is, that in the initial phase, the Forum will be led by one or more countries, including at least one from the UNECE region, who are to appoint chairperson(s). Interested countries are invited to express their interest to the UNECE secretariat.

3. The Forum operation and activities will be funded through voluntary financial and in-kind contributions.

4. The Forum will mainly be a web-based platform. Efforts should be made to make use of tools that enable virtual meetings. Periodic face to face meetings will occur as decided by the Forum’s lead countries (Chair persons). Forum members could also attend existing relevant meetings to leverage resources and share information on similar efforts. Meetings or workshops may also be held to implement specific projects decided upon by the Forum.

## Activities of the Forum

Activities of the Forum could include:

Information sharing on policy

1. Providing a platform to exchange information and views on addressing air pollution and raise awareness of its health and environmental impacts;
2. Providing an overview of international policy frameworks and initiatives in the air pollution field and summarize the state of international efforts to address air pollution;
3. Seeking connections with relevant organizations or bodies involved in practical efforts to reduce air pollution;
4. Sharing experiences on international and regional cooperation, including the UNECE Air Convention’s multi-lateral regional structure and framework as a model for other regions;
5. Promoting tools such as the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air;
6. Promoting an integrated approach for the management of air quality and other environmental issues to achieve multiple benefits and coordinating to that end with relevant organizations as appropriate;
7. Promoting international and regional cooperation on air pollution in existing or future networks;

Information sharing on science

1. Facilitating access to scientific information, for example online databases for best available control technologies;
2. Encouraging sharing information related to international transport and global emissions of air pollution and their impacts on ecosystems and human health;
3. Helping to establish contacts for science cooperation (for example, to share lessons learned with harmonized handbooks, monitoring methods, risk assessment and evaluation of the effectiveness and benefits of air pollution reductions on health and the environment, and targeted “hands-on” training workshops) and possibly adaptation of UNECE Air Convention tools for other geographic scopes or activities;

Technical capacity building and information sharing on funding opportunities

1. Reaching out to funding organizations and providing a platform for information sharing on funding opportunities for country participants and other organizations;
2. Providing a platform for information sharing on available capacity-building and training opportunities;
3. Sharing experience and information that could inform the development of action plans for addressing air pollution, including in urban centres;
4. Promoting an evidence-based approach to air quality management, including related to the development of emission inventories and the communication of health and ecosystem impacts to the public.

## Next steps

1. Develop terms of reference for the Forum for consultation with Forum participants (led by Executive Body Bureau);
2. Identify countries willing to lead the Forum;
3. Organize first meeting;
4. Continue to develop website for the forum, based on an analysis of similar existing websites to avoid overlaps;
5. Reach out to organizations such as UNEP, WMO, WHO, CCAC, GMI, WRI, IUAPPA, C-40 and conventions secretariats such as the BRS Secretariat, and others to explore possible synergies in activities.