

Proposals for further action in response to the draft Long-Term Strategy and the Saltsjöbaden VI recommendations -- *Policy Review Group Considerations*

The purpose of this document is to respond to the request of the Working Group on Strategies and Review's (WGSR) at its 56st session (paragraph 23 of ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/120) for the Policy Review Group (PRG) to, as appropriate, take into consideration the recommendations of the Saltsjöbaden VI workshop insofar as they have not already been included in the draft revised Long-Term Strategy (LTS) (document ECE/EB.AIR/2018/1).

The PRG encourages the subsidiary bodies of the Convention to review all the Saltsjöbaden recommendations in light of the development of the upcoming workplan for 2020-21. The draft of the revised LTS contains specific information to guide the subsidiary bodies in developing their workplans for 2020-2021, although discussions are needed within the Convention on priority-setting for specific work items in order to balance available resources. The PRG also notes that its long-term recommendations from its final report (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and informal document No.2 from the 55th session of the WGSR) should be considered in the development of future workplans.

Saltsjöbaden VI recommendations

The Saltsjöbaden VI workshop (19–21 March 2018, Gothenburg, Sweden), “Clean Air for a Sustainable Future – Goals and Challenges” was the sixth in a series of workshops joining policymakers, scientists and other stakeholders for informal discussions on air pollution awareness and control on an international scale. The workshop participants came up with recommendations addressed to countries, international organizations, conventions, in particular the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the bodies under the Convention, and other actors in the field of air pollution.

The Working Group on Strategies and Review (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/120) took note of the recommendations of the Saltsjöbaden VI workshop addressed to it and its task forces and invited the Executive Body, as appropriate, to consider the recommendations from the workshop, especially those related to:

- (a) The need for increased political profile of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (b) Introducing flexibilities for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, including for ratification of protocols, to be considered during the policy discussion under item 2.1.3 of the 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1);
- (c) Future activities proposed for the Task Forces on Reactive Nitrogen, Techno-economic Issues and Integrated Assessment Modelling; and
- (d) The creation of a task force to consider next steps on broader cooperation, including the appropriate role for the Convention, and on the design of a platform for information-sharing and policy cooperation.

The PRG believes that the recommendations laid out in the “Saltsjobaden VI Workshop 2018’s final report are generally in line with the current draft of the revised LTS (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/1.rev.1) and some of the recommendations are already specifically addressed. In addition to the above considerations from the WGSR, the PRG recommends that the Convention consider the following more specific recommendations from the workshop’s final report:

Clean Air in Cities

There is a need to further assess the impact of local emission reduction strategies at the regional scale (e.g. production of secondary aerosols, ozone), and the impact of long-range transport at the city scale; improve science and communication. (page 21, 3.7)

There is a need for the Convention to account for the city scale in its mandates. (page 22, 3.7)

Alternatively, set up an expert panel under TFIAM to support local air policy with respect to the linkages between regional and local air pollution and the cost-effectiveness of coordinated actions. (page 11, 1.2)

There is a need for “user-friendly” guidance documents for local level air quality assessments and abatement options. (page 22, 3.7)

There is a need to assess cost-efficiency of trade-offs and co-benefits of combined strategies (air pollution and climate, energy, mobility, health, etc.) and interactions between different pollutants and sources (page 22, 3.7)

Communication and citizen science. *Should we recommend we use this as a communication form to raise awareness? (see 3.4.4)*

Clean Air Globally - Policy Track

Implement technical infrastructure for monitoring, capacity-building for emissions inventories and modelling, and health and ecosystems impact assessments in developing countries and work to provide and communicate the information to policy-makers. (page 24, 4.1)

Initiate an overarching coalition, dialogue or mechanism to spur regional action and cooperation worldwide, work through existing regional agreements if available, or facilitate the establishment of such regional coordination mechanism, and raise awareness through proactive communication. (page 24, 4.1)

Develop jointly with WMO, AMAP and others a global harmonized monitoring network, preferably in an Earth System observation concept, including interactions with ecosystems but also emission inventories and projections (and recent developments in remote sensing). (page 11, 1.3)

Countries in the Eastern Region of the Convention are moving at different speeds, and have different needs; further assistance, tailored to specific needs, would improve the possibility for countries to move forward. (page 33, 6.2.1)

The international community should continue to promote action on air pollution in the region through the agenda of international fora at the highest political level. (page 33, 6.2.2)

Guidance is particularly needed on specific requirements in the annexes to protocol, assistance in developing gridded emission data and emission projections, as well as in cost benefit and health impact assessments. (page 33, 6.2.2)

Attention should be drawn to section 6.3.2 on possible solutions encouraging future ratifications (page 34).

Clean Air - Ecosystem and Climate

Set up an expert group to coordinate and harmonize the monitoring for ecosystems between programmes under this Convention, the EU, the CBD and other relevant frameworks. (page 12, 1.5)

Follow up on the detailed recommendations concerning ecosystem and climate effects relating to ozone (page 38/39, 7.2.2), forestry (page 39/40, 7.3.2), biodiversity (page 40, 7.4.1) and synergies with other effect monitoring programs, including under the new EU NEC Directive (page 41, 7.5.1).

Sectors and Solutions

Shipping

PRG recommends considering the detailed recommendations made by the subgroup. In particular, a role for the Convention could be to assess the hemispheric transport and regional impact of emissions from shipping and then communicate the results effectively. (pages 43-44, 8.1)

Domestic solid-fuel heating

Develop a guidance document for proper operation of solid fuel stoves and boilers, replacement programs for old stoves and boilers, and further measures to reduce PM/BC emissions, especially economic instruments. (page 48, 9)

Review and revise Table 12 of Annex X of the revised Gothenburg Protocol concerning emission limit values for new stoves by addressing testing protocols for BC and PM_{2.5}, and by reviewing and revising emission limit values, taking into account the development of BAT since 2012. (page 48, 9)

Guidance on undertaking voluntary performance labelling of new stoves (page 48, 9)

Agriculture

PRG recommends considering the detailed recommendations made by the subgroup. In particular, there is a need to establish guidance on how to reduce emissions from agricultural residue burning. PRG believes the Convention should take a role in sharing best practices for ammonia abatement. (page 52, 10.2). PRG also believes it could be beneficial to forge a closer working relationship between the Air Convention and the UNFCCC on low carbon and low nitrogen strategies (page 60, 10.8) and that addressing methane emissions in agriculture policy and ammonia reduction plans is in line with the integrated environmental policy goals of the LTS (page 58, 10.6).