

Jennifer Kerr
Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review
Jennifer.Kerr2@canada.ca

To: Heads of Delegation of the Working Group on Strategies and Review

Dear Colleagues,

I am looking forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks at the fifty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review that will take place from May 21 to May 24, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. I am writing to provide you with information as to how the session will unfold and to bring to your attention the key issues to be discussed, for which you should be prepared. I apologize for being a bit late in sending this letter and hope that it has not hindered your preparations for the session.

Item 3: Progress in the implementation of the 2018-2019 workplan

Under this agenda item, the co-chairs of the Task Forces on Techno-economic Issues, Reactive Nitrogen and Integrated Assessment Modeling will present their progress in implementing their tasks under the 2018-2019 workplan. The co-chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues will also present the draft code of good practice for solid fuel burning and small combustion installations. Delegations will be invited to provide comments, and if numerous comments are provided, there may be a need for discussions outside of the session to ensure all Parties are comfortable with the disposition of their comments. I have asked the secretariat to look into finding space for such a discussion should one be necessary.

Item 4: Policy discussions to inform any future review of the Gothenburg Protocol

At its 38th session, the EB invited Parties to the Convention and subsidiary bodies to submit view on issues that should be discussed by the Working Group at its 57th session. The Working Group is to consider the views proposed in informal document no.1 “Submission of views on issues for policy discussions pursuant to item 2.1.3 of the 18-19 workplan for the Convention” and make recommendations to the EB for consideration and adoption at its 39th session. The Working Group may also take into account additional information if any is provided to it, and may decide what additional information it may require going forward. Please come prepared to come to agreement as the Working Group on recommendations for the approach and path forward on the elements that will inform any future review of the Gothenburg Protocol to the Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session (EB39).

Item 5: Draft 2020-2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

You will be invited to discuss the policy aspects of the draft workplan taking into account informal document no.2 proposed by the Policy Review Group for proposals of further action in response to the Long-term Strategy for the Convention for 2020-2030 and beyond, and the Saltsjöbaden VI recommendations. I ask that you keep in mind that at its 38th session, the EB adopted the revised mandates of the TFTEI and TFRN. Given that the mandates are now broader and include many of the activities that previously regularly appeared in the biennial workplans, going forward, the workplans should include new activities not covered by the revised mandates. Your comments and views will be incorporated into the draft workplan so that it may be sent forward for discussion at EB39.

Item 6: Information-sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

In addition, as usual, we will also hear from Parties on the implementation of the Convention, both in terms of updates or reports on policies in place in various countries and in terms of progress in implementing their commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air. I very much enjoy these sessions, and this session is shaping up to be rich, including in terms of hearing from some countries who have not reported previously.

Item 7: Workshop

The workshop will start at 15:00 on May 22 and will conclude at 13:00 on May 23. The purpose of the workshop is to bring together ECE countries, organizations and country partners beyond the ECE region with the goal of discussing national, regional and international approaches to abating air pollutants, and furthering collaboration on addressing air pollution, including those that are also short-lived climate pollutants. I would like to emphasize that all participants are encouraged to actively participate, as we will proceed with discussions according to Chatham House Rules, i.e., comments are not for attribution.

A draft concept note and agenda for the workshop is being finalized, and will be sent out by the secretariat. The final programme will also be available on the website in the near future. A Chair's summary will be drafted of the workshop which will include possible next steps related to addressing air pollution at a broader geographic scope including possible recommendations for consideration by the EB at its 39th session. Discussions related to the path forward will be informed by questions provided in advance, including on the establishment of the forum for collaboration on air pollution – the questions will relate to four themes:

1. Meeting scientific and technical needs at the country level
2. Raising-awareness at the political level
3. Matching funding needs and opportunities
4. Expanding the scope of regional cooperation

Discussions related to the forum will help inform the recommendations that the Working Group will develop to send forward to EB39.

Item 8: Proposal for the forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution

Taking into account informal document no. 4, the Working Group is expected to discuss the proposal for the forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution as elaborated by the EB Bureau, with a view to making recommendations for consideration at EB 39. The Working Group is expected to provide recommendations on the proposal for the forum which will be forwarded to the EB for decision at its 39th session.

Item 9: Preparation for the celebration of the 40th anniversary for the Convention

The Working Group will also be expected to discuss the proposal for the celebration of the Convention's 40th anniversary, which is proposed to take place within the framework of the 39th session of the EB. Parties are asked to consider the options for the organization of the event, and if there are any possibilities for providing resources, including in-kind. Delegations will be invited to provide comments on a draft declaration that is being prepared as an outcome of the event, which is available along with the proposal, as an informal document on the website.

I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks and to interesting, productive and engaging discussions during the session.

Yours sincerely,



Jennifer Kerr