

## Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

### Project/Activity Report

#### Workshop on development of national emission inventories for air pollutants having adverse effects on health

Particulate matter (PM), a major component of outdoor air pollution consisting of a mixture of solid and liquid particles suspended in the air, has been recently classified as carcinogenic to humans by WHO. Fine particulate matter, with a particle diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres, penetrates deep into the respiratory system of humans and animals and passes into the bloodstream. Both short-term and long-term exposure to PM can trigger cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and lead to a reduction of life expectancy. There is a significant loss for the economy, due to the health effects of air pollution associated with treatment costs and loss of productivity. The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its revised Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone include emission ceiling targets and identify specific measures to reduce emissions of key air pollutants, including PM, which can serve as a policy response to the problem of air pollution. According to the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study 2010, coordinated by WHO, ambient PM pollution is the sixth top risk factor accounting for the disease burden in Uzbekistan. Various combustion installations and transport are the major sources of anthropogenic emissions of PM in the country. Uzbekistan is not yet a Party to the Convention and its protocols.

The ECE organized a workshop in Tashkent to discuss the impact of PM on health and the situation in Uzbekistan, to share information on existing experience related to the organization and management of emission inventory data, PM emission inventories development, emission estimation methods and reporting requirements under the Convention. The workshop brought together over 40 national environmental, emission and public health experts and representatives of the industrial sector of Uzbekistan.

The workshop raised awareness of the national experts of health effects of PM and the necessity for a policy response to the problem of air pollution, improved their understanding of the Convention's reporting requirements and approaches for compiling a national emissions inventory. The recommendations on further steps to harmonize national inventory system with the Convention's standards were developed; this harmonization would enable Uzbekistan to ratify the Convention and its key protocols, including the Gothenburg Protocol. The participants expressed their interest in continuing cooperation with the ECE on that matter.

The link to the respective webpage: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=33736>

| <b>Thematic focus</b> | <b>Venue of the conference/workshop</b> | <b>Date</b>    | <b>Total participants/Female participants</b> |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Particulate matter    | Tashkent, Uzbekistan                    | 20-21 Nov 2013 | 45/17   |