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**Review of implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan:
communication and outreach**

Report on outreach activities

Submitted by the Bureau

Summary

This document was prepared by the Bureau of the Executive Body for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in cooperation with the secretariat in accordance with the 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention and its component on communication and outreach (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2, item 5.4.2). It contains a review of existing cooperation and outlines areas in which an interest in (enhanced) collaboration has been expressed.



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I. Introduction

1. The present document was prepared by the Bureau of the Executive Body for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) in cooperation with the secretariat in accordance with the 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2) and its component on communication and outreach (item 5.4.2).

2. The report follows up on the secretariat's earlier report on outreach activities (ECE/EB.AIR/2014/7), presented at the thirty-third session of the Executive Body (Geneva, 8–11 December 2014), which summarized existing activities and highlighted possible additional opportunities for cooperation. Taking note of that report, the Executive Body entrusted the Bureau and the secretariat with contacting relevant regional networks and agreements with a view to determining possible areas of collaboration and presenting a report summarizing the results of that information-gathering exercise to the Executive Body at its thirty-fifth session.

3. The document contains a review of existing cooperation and outlines areas in which an interest in (enhanced) collaboration has been expressed.

4. The report builds on the Long-term Strategy for the Convention ((ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/18, annex), which identifies the following organizations as potential partners in future activities: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the World Health Organization (WHO); and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (*ibid.*, paras. 14 (c) and 16 (j)).

5. Similarly, in the 2014–2015 workplan (item 5.4.3) and the Action Plan for the implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/109/Add.1, decision 2011/14, annex, paras. 10 (c) and 11 (b)), the Executive Body further calls for the maintenance or establishment of contacts, with a view to the development of collaboration and the sharing of data and information, as well as to potentially establish longer-term cooperation on a more strategic level, with the following organizations and processes: the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET); the Arctic Council; the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Malé Declaration); the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention); and the World Climate Research Programme. The Action Plan also calls for a further fostering of cooperation between regional agreements and networks around the world, including on short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). Cooperation with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition has been discussed at meetings of the Executive Body Bureau. In addition, the previous report on outreach activities mentions the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environment (NEASPEC).

6. Further information on already ongoing, planned (in the 2016–2017 workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1)) and possible future cooperation with the organizations and networks outlined above is presented under section II of this report. For most of the organizations mentioned above, different levels of cooperation are already in place. In addition to concrete items for cooperation, the 2016–2017 workplan generally confirms under item 5.3 that outreach to the organizations mentioned should continue. Many of the

basic and multi-year activities in the 2016–2017 workplan also involve cooperation with other organizations.

7. The information presented in this report will provide a basis for the Executive Body to discuss and prioritize possible further cooperation. The document also includes some recommendations and proposed measures to improve outreach activities in areas outside the ECE region.

II. Ongoing and possible future efforts to strengthen cooperation

A. Global organizations and agreements

1. The United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization

8. There is already ongoing cooperation on the scientific and policy levels with WHO and UNEP. The most prominent example of cooperation with WHO is the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution, which was established in 1998. Regular information exchange with UNEP has been established at the sessions of the Executive Body over the last couple of years in discussions under a standing agenda item on “activities of bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and international organizations relevant to the Convention”.

9. In view of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality and World Health Assembly resolution 68/8 on “health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution”, cooperation between ECE, WHO and UNEP has been further strengthened.

10. Responding to the new global momentum on the topic of air pollution, and at the initiative of the Executive Secretary of ECE, WHO and UNEP were invited to explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation with ECE, in particular around joint efforts to mitigate the impacts of air pollution on health and the environment. The first such inter-agency meeting between the three organizations took place in Geneva in February 2015, and a follow-up meeting was held in October 2015. A third meeting is planned for March 2016.

11. In the follow-up to the inter-agency meetings, further bilateral exchanges have taken place between the three organizations. With WHO, ECE discussed plans for the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution 68/8. ECE also participated in the WHO-led second consultation meeting on the Global Platform on Air Quality and Health in August 2015 to present the Air Convention. In addition, a representative from WHO gave a presentation at the first joint session of 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 (Geneva, 14–18 September 2015), suggesting opportunities for cooperation in relation to the implementation of the World Health Assembly resolution, the Global Platform on Air Quality and the work on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

12. Exchanges have taken place with UNEP regarding United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7, the sixth Global Environment Outlook and the sub-item of the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law on “Law to regulate air pollution and protect Earth’s atmosphere”. In addition, ECE has recently joined efforts with UNEP and others in a new multi-stakeholder project to improve nitrogen management at the global and regional levels and to contribute to the establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System. Cooperation between

UNEP and ECE has also recently been formalized in a memorandum of understanding. Among many other topics, the memorandum mentions air quality as an area for cooperation.

13. In addition, ECE, together with UNEP and WHO, also participates in a number of other processes on environment and health that include the topic of air pollution. Inputs and information exchange on air pollution topics are provided through the ECE secretariat. For example, all three organizations participate in the European Environment and Health Process. At the European Environment and Health Process Mid-term Review meeting in Haifa, Israel, in April 2015, the topic of air pollution and the associated health costs were highlighted.

14. Further cooperation between all three organizations has taken place in the preparation of the thematic background paper on air quality for the Eighth Environment for Europe Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016). Also, a number of side events on health, climate change and air pollution were organized for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (Paris, 30 November–12 December 2015).

15. In addition to the 2016–2017 workplan activities to be carried out by the Joint Task Force on Health, other areas for cooperation with WHO are listed in the workplan. For example, item 2.3.10 calls for the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen to provide technical information on the effects of human diets on nitrogen use and emissions and the associated synergies between environment, agriculture, health and diet.

16. Cooperation with UNEP on the scientific level is provided for under item 1.3.2 of the 2016–2017 workplan, which calls for support for the Stockholm Convention in relation to atmospheric observations and data management within the ECE region, as well as the provision of input to the Stockholm Convention data warehouse. On the policy level, cooperation with UNEP is described under item 2.3.7, which covers work on the international framework for nitrogen management, linking Convention activities with other conventions at the global scale, including understanding of linkages of air, water, climate and biodiversity targets, in liaison with the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management.

17. The ECE secretariat will invite representatives from UNEP and WHO to the thirty-fifth session of the Executive Body to give presentations on the respective resolutions on air pollution. Based on the information presented, the Executive Body will be invited to discuss the steps taken and to share additional ideas for inclusion in the follow-up activities, as well as for further strengthening of the cooperation with UNEP and WHO.

2. Climate and Clean Air Coalition

18. Cooperation with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, hosted by UNEP, has been considered at several Executive Body Bureau meetings. Subsequent to a Bureau meeting in March 2015, at which the benefits of ECE participation in the Coalition for the Air Convention was discussed, ECE joined the Coalition as a non-State partner.

19. As a partner, ECE can contribute to a number of Climate and Clean Air Coalition initiatives for the exchange of information and sharing of best practices. For bodies under the Convention, initiatives of interest might be: regional assessments of SLCPs; urban health; SLCPs from agriculture; and initiatives dealing with black carbon, such as the initiatives dealing with brick production, heavy-duty vehicles and engines, and oil and gas production.

20. In addition, at the first inter-agency meeting between ECE, UNEP and WHO, held in February 2015, the Coalition secretariat expressed a need for the Coalition to also focus

on Europe and to reach out further to countries in the ECE region, specifically to Central Asia. In turn, the Coalition could be a platform to promote the results of the Air Convention beyond the ECE region.

21. ECE participated in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition working group meeting in September 2015, where the organization was officially welcomed as a partner. In December 2015, on the margins of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, ECE also participated in the working group meeting, the ensuing seventh High-Level Assembly and in the SLCP Focus Day organized by the Coalition, to present the Air Convention. In addition to these meetings, ECE is also already engaged in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition's communications task force.

22. The ECE secretariat will invite a representative of the Coalition secretariat to the thirty-fifth session of the Executive Body to give a presentation. The Executive Body will be invited to share its ideas for next steps in shaping the cooperation with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

3. Chemicals conventions under the United Nations Environment Programme

23. The Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, both under UNEP, provide ample opportunities for cooperation with regard to the abatement of persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals. Having global coverage, the Conventions can build on the success of the Air Convention's 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (as amended in 2009) and the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals (as amended in 2012), which have contributed considerably to the abatement of those harmful pollutants in the ECE region.

24. At its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 9–11 September 2013), the EMEP Steering Body welcomed the proposal to enhance long-term cooperation between subsidiary bodies under the Air Convention and the Stockholm Convention, and recognized the importance for both ECE and UNEP to sign a memorandum of understanding to provide for closer cooperation, as well as to enhance the transfer of scientific knowledge and for capacity strengthening on a global level (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2013/2, para. 52 (b)).

25. A memorandum of understanding between ECE and UNEP was signed in 2015 to strengthen cooperation and to bring together common areas of work. With regard to cooperation in the area of the environment, air quality is mentioned as one of the themes. The memorandum of understanding is expected to further facilitate efforts to strengthen the cooperation between bodies under the Air Convention and Conventions under UNEP.

(a) Stockholm Convention

26. All the Parties to the Air Convention's 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants are also Parties to the Stockholm Convention. The Long-term Strategy for the Air Convention (in para.16 (f)) recognizes the need to change the balance of work on persistent organic pollutants under the Convention and to explore options to better complement measures and actions taken at the global level to secure the added value of the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The need to strengthen the links with the Stockholm Convention is also expressed (in para. 16 (f) and (j)).

27. Cooperation between the various subsidiary bodies and experts under the Air and Stockholm Conventions already has a long tradition. Different task forces and centres under EMEP have provided scientific inputs to the work of the Stockholm Convention. EMEP, along with WHO, is also a key partner in the Global Monitoring Programme, which provides an organizational framework for the collection of comparable monitoring data. On several occasions, experts involved in the work of both Conventions have called for closer cooperation on the compilation of emission data and the respective assessment of pollution levels.

28. At the thirty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body in 2013, a representative of the Stockholm Convention secretariat highlighted several concrete areas for possible future cooperation, such as: compilation, storage and analysis of monitoring data on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in air; POPs emission inventories; effects of POPs in core media other than air; and modelling work under the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution. The Steering Body welcomed the proposal to enhance long-term cooperation between subsidiary bodies under the Air and Stockholm Conventions (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2013/2, paras. 49 and 52).

29. The most recent exchange between the ECE secretariat and the Stockholm Convention secretariat was at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, which took place in Geneva in May 2015. At the meeting, the ECE secretariat gave a presentation of the activities under the Air Convention. A representative from EMEP also participated in the accompanying science fair.

30. At the first joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, in September 2015, a representative from the Stockholm Convention secretariat gave a presentation and discussed further cooperation on the technical level.

31. As a result of the discussions with the Stockholm Convention secretariat, cooperation is foreseen under item 1.3.2 of the 2016–2017 workplan: “Support UNEP Stockholm Convention in relation to atmospheric observations and data management within the ECE region; Provide input to the Stockholm Convention data warehouse and secure visibility of EMEP capacities and data”.

32. As discussed in Executive Body Bureau meetings, further cooperation could be in the area of expert data on POPs.

33. The ECE secretariat will invite a representative of the Stockholm Convention secretariat to the thirty-fifth session of the Executive Body to give a presentation. The Executive Body will be invited to further discuss the cooperation with the Stockholm Convention.

(b) Minamata Convention

34. On a scientific level, the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East, jointly with the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and other bodies under the Air Convention, provides inputs to global studies on mercury, including the Global Mercury Assessment to support the Minamata Convention.

35. In 2014, the Executive Body underlined that, in relation to the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals, priority should be given to the ratification and implementation of the amendments to the Protocol adopted in 2012, noting the importance of maintaining scientific work under the Air Convention related to heavy metals. It further decided to discontinue the Task Force on Heavy Metals and invited the experts previously active in it to contribute to the activities of the newly established Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/127, para. 67 (c)).

36. At the first joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, a representative from the Minamata Convention secretariat gave a presentation suggesting cooperation to develop reporting guidelines for the Minamata Convention, thereby harmonizing them with the existing reporting guidelines under the Air Convention.

37. Following the Executive Body Bureau’s request, the ECE secretariat contacted the Minamata Convention, making reference to the scientific work and expertise on heavy metals undertaken under the Air Convention. Moreover, the secretariat expressed the willingness of bodies under the Air Convention to share their experiences in developing

reporting guidelines with the aim of harmonizing reporting guidelines under the Minamata Convention with those under the Air Convention.

38. The Minamata Convention has not as yet provided a response.

39. The Executive Body may wish to encourage the ECE secretariat and the co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues to further explore opportunities for cooperation, as outlined above.

4. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

40. The Long-term Strategy (para. 16 (i)) specifically refers to the strengthening of links between bodies under the Air Convention and UNFCCC, which would be undertaken by the secretariats of both Conventions, in order to establish longer-term cooperation on a more strategic level.

41. At the thirty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body in September 2013, a representative of the UNFCCC secretariat outlined three areas in which the UNFCCC secretariat could cooperate with EMEP: emission reporting by Parties; capacity-building; and outreach and communication (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2013/2, para. 51).

42. Previously, the ECE secretariat had presented information about activities under the Convention at the thirty-fifth session of IPCC in Geneva in June 2012. It had also attended expert meetings (Learning Lessons from Other International Agreements and Processes, April 2013) under UNFCCC to present the results of the revision of the Convention's protocols.

43. In 2015, ECE organized a side event at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris together with CBD, UNEP, UNICEF and WHO, as well as a side event in the European Union pavilion. ECE was also involved in a number of other side events to promote the Air Convention.

44. The Executive Body may wish to encourage the ECE secretariat and the bodies under the Convention to continue to follow relevant developments under UNFCCC. In addition, the Executive Body may wish to encourage the ad hoc group of experts established to develop a policy response to the 2016 assessment report (see ECE/EB.AIR/133.Add.1, item 2.1.3) to also take into account the Paris Agreement.

5. Convention on Biological Diversity

45. A reference to "clean air" can be found in the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 8 refers to the reduction of pollution, including from excess nutrients. Building on the Global Environment Facility project "Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System", which is coordinated and led by the co-Chair of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and supported by ECE, the issue of nitrogen use, ammonia emissions and the related impact on biodiversity could be one of the central themes for the establishment of a stronger link between bodies under the Air Convention and CBD, and possibly also with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The work of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ICP Vegetation) on ozone damage to vegetation could be another theme for cooperation.

46. A formal basis for increasing the cooperation with CBD on the effects of air pollution on biodiversity exists through the memorandum of understanding between ECE and the CBD secretariat, signed in October 2010. The Executive Body was informed about it at its twenty-eighth session in December 2010 (ECE/EB.AIR/106, para. 13). The

memorandum was valid for a period of five years from the date of signature. The renewal of this agreement is under discussion.

47. As proposed in the draft 2016–2017 workplan, cooperation with CBD is envisaged under item 2.3.8: “Develop and apply indicators of biodiversity targets in cooperation with CBD and the International Nitrogen Initiative”.

48. At the request of the Executive Body Bureau, the ECE secretariat contacted the CBD secretariat, referring to the work undertaken by the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and ICP Vegetation (workplan item 2.3.8), and suggesting strengthened cooperation on the themes of excess nitrogen use and related ammonia emissions and impacts on biodiversity, as well as the damage to plants caused by ozone.

49. In its reply, the CBD secretariat suggested some additional areas of work (eutrophication, acidification and impacts of pesticides as well as geoengineering) and mentioned the Air Convention’s workplan and the memorandum of understanding as basis for collaboration and information-sharing. CBD also designated a focal point for future joint work with the Air Convention.

50. The Executive Body may wish to encourage the ECE secretariat, the co-Chairs of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the co-Chairs of the ICP Vegetation to continue exploring possibilities for further cooperation.

6. World Meteorological Organization

51. There is already ongoing cooperation on the scientific level between bodies under the Air Convention and WMO. Both the Revised Strategy for EMEP 2010–2019 (ECE/EB.AIR/2009/16/Rev.1)¹ and the EMEP Monitoring Strategy (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2009/15) refer to the importance of cooperation with the WMO Global Atmospheric Watch Programme, especially in relation to regional collaboration on the operation of sites and the collaboration with WMO through the operation of joint EMEP-Global Atmospheric Watch supersites. WMO also co-chairs the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling.

52. The Executive Body may wish to encourage subsidiary bodies, and specifically the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, to continue the good cooperation with WMO and to implement the relevant items in the 2016–2017 workplan, which are expected to result in the further strengthened relations.

7. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

53. There is ongoing cooperation between the Working Group on Effects International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments (ICP Materials) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the corrosion and soiling of historical monuments.

54. As proposed in the 2016–2017 workplan, cooperation with UNESCO is envisaged to continue under item 1.1.1.5: “Quantify multi-pollutant effects on corrosion and soiling of selected materials under different environmental conditions; Invite Parties to participate in studies evaluating material deterioration due to air pollution at UNESCO cultural heritage sites”.

¹ Available as informal document No. 20 on the web page for the thirty-first session of the Executive Body (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28315#/>).

55. The Executive Body may wish to encourage the co-Chairs of ICP Materials to continue the good cooperation with UNESCO and to fulfil the related item in the 2016–2017 workplan, which is expected to result in further strengthened relations.

8. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

56. There has been ad hoc cooperation between bodies under the Air Convention and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the past. The OECD Environment Policy Committee implements the OECD Environment Programme. The Committee holds meetings at the ministerial level approximately every four years. The next meeting will be held in 2016.

57. Recent exchanges between the co-Chair of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and The Environment Policy Committee on nitrogen balance and indicators in relation to the work of the Task Force have taken place. The Task Force could potentially contribute to discussions in this regard during the OECD ministerial level meeting to be convened under the Environment Policy Committee in 2016.

58. Similarly, the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues has an interest in cooperating with OECD on the cost of air pollution abatement technologies and the clearing house that is currently being developed under the Task Force.

59. The Executive Body may wish to encourage the co-Chairs of the Task Forces on Techno-economic Issues and on Reactive Nitrogen to explore possibilities for cooperation, if useful for their work.

9. International Maritime Organization

60. The IMO International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships regulates a number of different sources and pollutants from ships. At the moment, however, the regulations do not contain any direct restriction on emissions of black carbon. In January 2015, the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response recommended that a black carbon definition be adopted by the governing body of the Convention, the Marine Environment Protection Committee. The definition was approved at the Committee's sixty-eighth session in May 2015. At the same time, it was further noted that there was a need to identify the most appropriate measurement methods for black carbon emissions from international shipping and that that need for measurement studies made it impossible at present to consider adequate black carbon emission control measures from international shipping that would reduce the impact on the Arctic (MEPC 68/21, paras. 3.26–3.29).

61. There were contacts with IMO in 2011. The Executive Body Bureau, in cooperation with the ECE secretariat, submitted a document on the reduction of emissions of black carbon from shipping in the Arctic to the sixty-second session of MEPC, held in July 2011 (MEPC 62/4/3). The document highlighted the important public health benefits that can be achieved by reducing black carbon-rich particulate matter, while also slowing the rate of warming in the Arctic region.

62. As it seems that the most appropriate body under the Air Convention to explore opportunities for cooperation with IMO would be the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, the Executive Body may wish to encourage the co-Chairs of that Task Force to explore these possibilities, as relevant.

B. Regional organizations and agreements

1. Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia

63. Exchange of information and experience has already been in place between EANET and different bodies under the Air Convention, such as the Chemical Coordinating Centre, and the ECE secretariat. Possible future cooperation activities could possibly result from the outputs of the Model Inter-comparison Study in Asia (MICS-Asia) which aims at devising long-term strategies for air pollution control at the local, national and regional levels in East Asia (see ECE/EB.AIR/2014/7, section II.A). The future establishment of Network centres with a focus on clean technologies is being considered. Informal enquiries in this regard have been made with the ECE secretariat, specifically in relation to the functioning of the scientific centres under the Air Convention (e.g., terms of reference, work plans, staff composition, logistics and funding).

64. The most recent exchange between the ECE secretariat and EANET was at the seventeenth session of the intergovernmental meeting on EANET, at which the ECE secretariat gave a presentation on the Air Convention.

65. Subsequently, the secretariat contacted the Network, offering to continue the existing cooperation between the bodies under the Air Convention and the ECE secretariat and to explore further opportunities for cooperation with the modelling centres under the Air Convention (based on input and interest from the centres).

66. In its reply, the Network welcomed the Air Convention secretariat's offer to further strengthen collaboration, particularly with regard to the establishment of a new EANET network centre, for which provision was made in the Medium Term Plan for EANET (2016–2020) approved at the seventeenth session of the intergovernmental meeting. It was noted that the eighteenth session of the intergovernmental meeting, to be held in late 2016, would provide an opportunity to consult with EANET countries on the exact nature of the collaboration with the Convention on establishing a new network centre.

67. The Executive Body may wish to encourage the ECE secretariat and subsidiary bodies to explore further cooperation opportunities with EANET.

2. The Malé Declaration

68. Cooperation at the technical level with the Malé Declaration process, in particular with ICP Vegetation regarding the impacts of ozone on crops, has already taken place (see ECE/EB.AIR/2014/7). Under the Malé Declaration, future activities on SLCPs might present further opportunities for increased collaboration.

69. As requested by the Executive Body Bureau, the secretariat contacted the secretariat to the Malé Declaration, offering to continue the cooperation on the impact of ozone on crops, while at the same time detailing the Convention's activities on black carbon to help identify if there were any opportunities for collaboration in that regard.

70. In its reply, the secretariat to the Malé Declaration confirmed its interest in strengthening cooperation, particularly on SLCPs in South Asia, including on strengthening monitoring networks, enhancing the impact assessment capacity of national institutions and assessing the impacts of air pollution and SLCPs and the socioeconomic implications for member countries, as well as enhancing the capacities of member countries to carry out emission inventories of black carbon, scenario development, atmospheric transfer modelling of black carbon and integrated assessment modelling.

71. In addition, the secretariat recalled that the Malé Declaration was funded through voluntary financial contributions from the member countries. It expressed readiness to

develop a concept note with a view to securing financial support from donors in Europe to carry out the proposed areas for cooperation and a plan of activities.

72. The Executive Body may wish to encourage the ECE secretariat and subsidiary bodies to explore further cooperation opportunities with the Malé Declaration, as outlined above, including the funding needs to support such cooperation.

3. North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation

73. The subregional office for East and North-East Asia of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the NEASPEC secretariat. The recent NEASPEC projects related to air pollution take inspiration from the institutional and technical frameworks of the Air Convention, and aim at establishing similar comprehensive umbrella mechanisms in North-East Asia, building on existing structures like EANET and the Joint Research Project on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollutants in North-East Asia. Consequently, ECE had previously been invited by ESCAP to provide technical and policy advice. This cooperation has proven to be successful and was acknowledged by the NEASPEC member States.

74. In line with the wishes expressed by the Executive Body Bureau, the secretariat followed up with a letter on previous discussions with NEASPEC, offering to continue ongoing cooperation and highlighting the importance of exchange of data, mutual access to databases, etc.

75. In its reply, the NEASPEC secretariat outlined two options for possible data sharing. The first option would be to share the East Asian inventory once data from Siberia and the Russian Far East has been included. The second option would be to circulate the letter by the ECE secretariat to NEASPEC member countries to explore their interest in sharing data from national inventories. In addition, the NEASPEC secretariat enquired whether subsidiary bodies would be specifically interested in data on black carbon.

76. The Executive Body may wish to encourage the ECE secretariat and EMEP to explore further cooperation opportunities with the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environment.

4. The Arctic Council

77. There are six working groups under the Arctic Council. Two of them, namely, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and the Arctic Contaminants Action Program, are of particular interest to the work under several bodies of the Air Convention.

78. Cooperation with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme has already been established: EMEP has worked closely with it and several International Cooperative Programmes have provided inputs to its work.

79. The Arctic Contaminants Action Program acts as a strengthening and supporting mechanism to encourage national actions to reduce emissions. It has expert groups on dioxins/furans and on short-lived climate forcers and contaminants. The latter has organized workshops on black carbon, including on reducing emissions from residential wood combustion.

80. In addition to the two expert groups, the Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane, established in 2013 and co-chaired by Canada and Sweden, is of interest to the work under the Air Convention. The Task Force aims to propose ways in which the Arctic States can engage in appropriate forums and initiatives to achieve black carbon reductions

that benefit the Arctic climate. Furthermore, its terms of reference² refer to the work under the Air Convention.

81. Arctic Council countries are also Parties to the Air Convention and have legally binding obligations to submit black carbon emission inventories. Twenty-eight Parties to the Convention, six of them Arctic Council member States, submitted their first black carbon emission inventories to the Air Convention in 2015 in line with the recommendations that were endorsed by Arctic Environment Ministers at their meeting in Kiruna, Sweden, in 2013.³

82. At the most recent Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting, which took place in Canada on 24 April 2015, ECE participated as an observer. At the meeting, the importance of reducing black carbon was emphasized. ECE invited the Arctic Council to explore opportunities for closer cooperation with the work under the Air Convention in order to reduce black carbon emissions. At the meeting, the Arctic Council adopted the Arctic Council Framework for Action on Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions Reductions.⁴

83. At an informal meeting in June 2015 with the participation of the Chairs of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the Arctic Contaminants Action Program and the Chair of the Executive Body of the Air Convention, the interest in establishing closer cooperation between several bodies under the Air Convention and the two Arctic Council programmes was confirmed. The 2016–2017 workplan for the Air Convention provides for this activity under item 1.3.1: “Explore possible use of EMEP/Working Group on Effects tools, data and infrastructure to support the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme activities”. Further follow-up teleconferences and bilateral meetings have taken place.

84. At the thirty-fourth session of the Executive Body in December 2015, the Chair of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme gave a presentation on the ongoing cooperation with the Air Convention, including by means of a joint technical coordination meeting, in Potsdam, Germany on 16 February 2016 and a joint “Arctic session” to be included in the meeting of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution on 17 February 2016.

85. The Executive Body may wish to encourage EMEP to continue the good cooperation with the Arctic Council and to implement the related item in the 2016–2017 workplan.

5. The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission and the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

86. There is ongoing cooperation between subsidiary bodies under the Air Convention and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission, HELCOM), the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area. Cooperation with the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPARCOM) was mentioned in the 2014–2015 workplan (item 1.3.10).

² *Senior Arctic Officials' Report to Ministers, Kiruna, Sweden, 15 May 2013* (Tromsø, Norway, Arctic Council, 2013), p. 36; available from <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/848>.

³ See Kiruna Declaration, p. 3, available from <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/93>.

⁴ *Senior Arctic Officials' Report to Ministers, Iqaluit, Canada, 24 April 2015* (Tromsø, Norway, Arctic Council, 2015), annex, p. 118, available from <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/494>.

87. EMEP has acted as a data consultant for the Helsinki Commission concerning atmospheric pollution inputs to the Baltic Sea since 1998. The EMEP Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West and Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East model the deposition of nitrogen, cadmium, lead, mercury and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans to the Baltic Sea based on emission data reported by the Contracting Parties within the framework of the Air Convention. Every year, EMEP produces an annual report for the Helsinki Commission on emissions of these substances from different sources and the modelled depositions to the Baltic Sea.

88. As proposed in the 2016–2017 workplan (item 1.3.3), the relevant bodies under the Convention should: “Continue collaboration with OSPARCOM and HELCOM related to atmospheric monitoring and modelling and data management”.

89. The Executive Body may wish to encourage EMEP to continue the good cooperation with the Helsinki Commission and OSPARCOM and to implement the related item in the 2016–2017 workplan, which is expected to result in further strengthened relations.
