

Revised mandate for the EMEP Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP)

The EMEP Steering Body, considering the evolution of EMEP since the TFHTAP was established and in order to harmonize and co-ordinate better the activities of Task Forces and Centres decided:

1. The mandates for the EMEP task forces need to be revised and updated to make them consistent with provisions and priorities of the Convention and EMEP set in the following documents:
 - (a) Revised Strategy for EMEP for 2010-2019 (ECE/EB.AIR/2009/16/Rev.1);
 - (b) EMEP Revised Monitoring Strategy 2010-2019 (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2009/15);
 - (c) Long-term Strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1);
 - (d) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;¹
 - (e) Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3/Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4 forthcoming);
 - (f) Draft 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention;
 - (g) The new Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the Paris Agreement on tackling Climate Change, that will also have effect on air pollution;
 - (h) Reports by WHO, OECD, IEA, UNEP and World Bank, stressing the important role of air pollution in public health damage, will increase the need for increased efforts to reduce air pollution at the global scale.

The revised mandates will include key objectives and functions of the task forces and centres. The mandates are expected to be in force for the next 5 to 10 years. Specific activities and related deliverables on a shorter timeframe will be included in the bi-annual workplans for the implementation of the Convention.

2. The Task Force on hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP) was established by decision of Executive Body of the Convention to offer a forum to the Parties, and the EMEP centres for technical and scientific discussions with experts from non-UNECE regions to evaluate methods and tools for the description of air pollution patterns at the hemispheric scale, and assessment of global emission reduction strategies. Recent achievements include:

- a) Analysis of the responses in terms of ozone and particulate matter concentrations, to a large set of emission reduction scenarios applied in the large regions of the Northern hemisphere;

¹ See Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds., *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (Oslo, 2016) and United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 – North America* (2016, online report).

- b) Fostering global models development and evaluation against a set of observations gathered from several networks implemented in the world and building up partnership with those network ;
- c) Assessment of synergies between regional and global modelling for integrated assessment modelling and policy support purposes;
- d) Assessment of the impact of Short Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) on air pollution in and outside the UNECE region and conception and evaluation of mitigation options to target those pollutants.

Annex

Revised mandate for the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air pollution (TFHTAP)

1. The Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, under the leadership of the European Union and the United States of America, will examine the transport of air pollution across the northern hemisphere and its regional impacts, considering air quality, health, ecosystem, and near-term climate effects.
2. The lead Parties will assume principal responsibility for coordinating the work of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for designating its chair(s), for communications with participating experts, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the workplan. Meetings will occur annually or more frequently as appropriate.
3. The Task Force will carry out the tasks specified for it in the workplan adopted biannually by the Executive Body, and will report thereon to the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP).
4. The Task Force will be composed of experts from the Parties to the Convention. Each Party will nominate a focal point to the secretariat. Meetings of the Task Force will be open to designated representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations. The chair(s) are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force and experts from non-Convention countries in the northern hemisphere.
5. All reports prepared by the Task Force for the Executive Body and other groups under the Convention will reflect the full range of views expressed during its meetings.
6. The functions of the Task Force will be to:
 - (a) Plan and conduct the technical work necessary to develop a fuller understanding of:
 - (i) the impact of air pollutant emissions from the Parties on human health, ecosystems, and climate change outside the UNECE (i.e. extra-regional impacts),
 - (ii) the impact of air pollutant emissions sources outside the UNECE on the achievement of the environmental objectives of the Convention and its protocols (i.e., extra-regional influences).
 - (iii) the impacts of emission-reduction opportunities in the UNECE region on regional and intercontinental transport of air pollution and the associated air quality, health, ecosystem and near-term climate effects of such impacts and the impacts of complementary measures that might be taken in other regions where mitigation may prove cost-effective.

(b). Conduct the work specified in (a) as it pertains to all of the pollutants and precursors addressed by the Convention, with priority given to tropospheric ozone and aerosols

(c). Conduct the technical work identified above through coordination, cooperation, and collaboration with:

(i) other technical bodies under the Convention, including the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, the Task Force on Emissions Inventories and Projections, the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, the Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues, and the International Coordinating Programmes of the Working Group on Effects;

(ii) the relevant technical bodies under the Stockholm on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury;

(iii) other regional air pollution agreements and networks;

(iv) related international organizations and scientific efforts, including the Arctic Council/Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to develop a common understanding of shared air pollution problems, and improve the technical capacity to evaluate emission reduction opportunities.

(c) Facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and methodologies developed within the Convention to other regions of the world, through cooperation with bodies inside and outside the Convention, to help build a common understanding of shared air pollution problems and improve the technical capacity to evaluate emission reduction opportunities

(d) Carry out such other tasks related to the above work as the Executive Body may assign to it in the annual workplan.
