



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 February 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range
Transboundary Air Pollution

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fifty-sixth session

Geneva, 22–25 May 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m.
on Tuesday, 22 May 2018*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-fifth session of the Working Group.
3. Progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan.
4. Update of the long-term strategy for the Convention.
5. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures;

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates attending the meeting are therefore requested to register online by 4 May 2018 through the following link which is available on the meeting web page: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45535>. The registration code for the meeting is 83768. This will be a paperless meeting. All the documentation for the session and related information will be posted on the meeting web page listed above. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their own copies of any documentation they will require. A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: (https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/practical_information/Palais_des_Nations_map-English.pdf).

GE.18-02853(E)



* 1 8 0 2 8 5 3 *

Please recycle The recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.



- (b) Current policy issues: thematic session on residential wood combustion and air pollution.
- 6. Implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative.
- 7. Election of officers.
- 8. Other business.
- 9. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 May, afternoon

- 1. The Working Group on Strategies and Review under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution will be invited to adopt its agenda, as contained in the present document.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/119)

2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-fifth session of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 May, afternoon

- 2. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fifty-fifth session (Geneva, 31 May–2 June 2017).

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/118)

3. Progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 May, afternoon

- 3. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen will present progress in implementing the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1, forthcoming). The Working Group may wish to take note of the reports and to discuss a possible need for prioritization of activities. The Chair of the Working Group will present progress in implementing other policy-related items of the workplan, in particular items 2.1.3 and 2.2.1. The Working Group is expected to discuss how to take these items forward, should the Chair invite it to do so.

¹ All documentation for the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review can be found on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45535>.

4. The Working Group will be also invited to consider draft updated mandates for the task forces, which were prepared to reflect their respective main areas of activity and long-term objectives, taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention² (policy review group). The revised mandates of the task forces will be proposed for adoption by the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 10–13 December 2018).

Documentation

Report of Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2018/1)

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2018/2)

Proposed revised mandates of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2018/4)

4. Update of the long-term strategy for the Convention

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 May, afternoon and Wednesday, 23 May, morning

5. By decision 2016/1, taken at its thirty-fifth session (Geneva, 2–4 May 2016), the Executive Body established the policy review group. At its thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 11–14 December 2017), the Executive Body adopted decision 2017/4, providing a mandate to the policy review group to elaborate a draft revised long-term strategy for the Convention in consultation with the Bureau of the Executive Body. It furthermore requested the policy review group to submit the draft strategy for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-sixth session. A representative of the policy review group will present the draft revised long-term strategy elaborated in line with the guidance given by the Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session (see ECE/EB.AIR/140, forthcoming). In accordance with decision 2017/4, the Working Group is expected to discuss the draft revised strategy and to submit its recommendations to the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth session.

Documentation

Proposed updates and revisions to the long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2018/3)

5. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

6. In the framework of the Convention, regular exchange of information is stipulated under article 8. At its thirty-second session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2013), the Executive Body decided that the Working Group on Strategies and Review would continue to devote time each year to policy discussions related to the design and implementation of different regulatory, voluntary, economic or other measures relating to air pollution (see ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1, decision 2013/2). At its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016), the Executive Body adopted a further decision on improving the

² 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).

effectiveness of reporting on strategies, policies and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols (see ECE/EB.AIR/137, decision 2016/3).

(a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 May, afternoon

7. The Working Group will be invited to exchange information on national, subregional and regional policies and strategies for the control of major air pollutants in accordance with article 8 of the Convention, including exchanging experiences and best practices on policies, strategies and measures to implement the Convention's protocols and their amendments.

8. In accordance with Executive Body decision 2013/2, the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review are the format for reporting on strategies, policies, and measures referenced in article 5, paragraph 1, of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (1994 Sulphur Protocol), article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). Moreover, Parties to the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on NO_x) and the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on VOCs) may utilize the time set aside during the annual session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to report on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies and measures to implement their respective obligations under article 8, paragraph 1, of the Protocol on NO_x and article 8, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on VOCs.

9. At its thirty-sixth session, the Executive Body reviewed the effectiveness of decision 2013/2 and decided that the period for reporting the information referred to in article 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol, article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Gothenburg Protocol was at least once every four years (see ECE/EB.AIR/137, decision 2016/3). It furthermore invited other States and organizations referred to in article 14, paragraph 1, of the Convention that are not Parties to those four Protocols to provide information on strategies, policies and measures to abate air pollution at the sessions of the Working Group.

10. Representatives of Parties and other States, in particular those not having previously presented, are invited to submit their completed reporting templates in advance of the session and to present their experiences and best practices on policies, strategies and specific measures to implement their obligations under any of the Protocols to the Convention at the session. Representatives from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia are specifically invited to share their lessons learned and best practices related to the introduction of abatement measures. An overview of reporting by countries of experiences and challenges related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review is available on the Convention website.³

³ Available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrapwelcome/convention-bodies/working-group-on-strategies-and-review/strategies-and-policies-for-the-abatement-of-air-pollution.html>.

(b) **Current policy issues: thematic session on residential wood combustion and air pollution**

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 May, morning and afternoon

11. As encouraged by the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session (see decision 2016/3) and in line with the theme suggested by Parties at the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body, the Working Group will hold a thematic session devoted to policies and measures taken at the national and regional level to abate air pollution, including emissions of particulate matter and black carbon, from residential heating, in particular domestic wood combustion. It will discuss the relevance of these policies and measures to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, in particular its Gothenburg Protocol, and more broadly, to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other efforts to improve global air quality. Participants will be invited to showcase examples of linking air quality, climate, energy and health policies with regard to residential wood combustion.

12. Participants at the thematic session will, in its first part, discuss the actions and the integrated approach taken by the international community to address air pollution from residential heating, including domestic wood combustion. This part of the session is being organized in cooperation with the ECE Forest, Land and Housing and Sustainable Energy Divisions. During the second part of the thematic session, participants will be invited to engage in interactive discussions and to share their relevant experiences, lessons learned and good practices in accordance with decisions 2013/2 and 2016/3 and to consider challenges and opportunities related to reducing air pollution from domestic wood combustion, including the ways to advance in practical terms the implementation of the approach of the Gothenburg Protocol of prioritizing source categories known to emit high amounts of black carbon as they implement measures to comply with their commitments to reduce emissions of fine particulate matter.

6. Implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 May, morning

13. The Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative was endorsed at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016). The Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session encouraged Parties to report regularly on progress in implementing their voluntary commitments under this initiative within the sessions of the Working Group, and provided for such reporting in the 2018–2019 workplan (item 2.1.1). Delegations will be invited to share information on the submission of new commitments and the implementation of existing ones.

7. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 May, morning

14. The Working Group is expected to elect its vice-chairs for 2019–2020. At its fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 13–14 December 2016), the Working Group re-elected Mr. Paul Almodovar (United States of America) and Mr. Ivan Angelov (Bulgaria) and elected Mr. Till Spranger (Germany) as its Vice-Chairs for the period 2017–2018.

8. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 May, morning

15. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this agenda item. Parties wishing to propose any other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 May, morning and afternoon

16. The Working Group is expected to adopt its conclusions and recommendations agreed during the session. The draft report of the session, reflecting these conclusions and recommendations, will be finalized by the secretariat following the session. The report will be presented for adoption at the Working Group's fifty-seventh session.
