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

Thirty-ninth session
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda
Revised mandates of task forces and centres under the Convention

Revised mandates for the international cooperative programmes under the Working Group on Effects: draft decisions of the Executive Body
Submitted by the Working Group on Effects in cooperation with the secretariat

Summary
At its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 10–14 December 2018), the Executive Body took note of the draft revised mandates for the task forces and centres under the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/7) and adopted them provisionally. It further requested the secretariat to finalize them and submit draft decisions for their formal adoption at its next session (ECE/EB.AIR/142, para. 55).

The present document contains draft decisions on the adoption of revised mandates for the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes, the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests, the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops, the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems, the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, Including Historic and Cultural Monuments, the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends and the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution.

The Executive Body is invited to consider and adopt the draft decisions.
Revised mandates for the international cooperative programmes under the Working Group on Effects

A. Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes

The Executive Body,

Recalling the relevant provisions of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Recalling also its decision 1999/2 concerning the structure and organization of work,

Recalling further the terms of reference for the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, annex III), noted at its eighteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/71, para. 58 (c)),

Recalling its decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities, as amended by decision 2018/8,

Acknowledging the achievements of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes, including:

(a) Maintenance of a regionally extensive database on water chemistry and biology (aquatic macroinvertebrates) in areas in Europe and North America sensitive to air pollution;

(b) Developing and maintaining high data quality standards by developing and adhering to a manual of recommended methods, and undertaking an annual inter-calibration of chemical analyses and biological classifications;

(c) Documentation of widespread biological and chemical recovery of acid-sensitive waters as a response to reduced emissions of sulphur and nitrogen, through periodic trend assessments in water chemistry and biology, providing evidence that air pollution policy has its intended effect, but also highlighting that many sensitive surface waters remain acidified;

(d) Documentation of increased aquatic biodiversity as a result of reduced sulphur emissions;

(e) Documentation of mercury in fish in northern, boreal lakes, at levels that exceed limits advised for human consumption; for lakes that are impacted by air pollution there is so far little evidence that levels of mercury in fish are declining, implying that mercury pollution remains a concern;

(f) Providing evidence that climate change may present a delay for chemical and biological recovery of surface waters.

Recognizing the need to update the Programme’s mandate to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention, and its strategic priorities, as set out in the following documents:

(a) The revised long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2);

(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;¹


Noting with appreciation the hosting of the Programme Centre by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research and the ongoing leadership of the Programme Task Force by Norway,

1. Adopts the Programme’s revised mandate as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Programme Task Force and the Programme Centre to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;

2. Decides that:

   (a) The Programme Centre, in cooperation with the Chair of the Programme Task Force, is responsible for the detailed planning and coordination of the Programme;

   (b) The lead country or countries are responsible for leading and coordinating the Task Force’s ongoing work and tasks, organizing its meetings, communicating with participating experts and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these tasks;

   (c) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs, and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. The withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for Task Force operations are provided to the appropriate country or person(s);

   (d) The Programme Centre is responsible for coordinating the relevant activities under the Programme, including development of technical projects, provision of deliverables according to the workplan (including annual reports and access to all relevant information and data), participation in the relevant Task Force meetings, organizing technical workshops and training workshops, communicating with national experts and providing direct support to Parties, maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the Programme and other organizational arrangements in accordance with the biennial workplan;

   (e) The Programme Centre is responsible for the production and provision of all information and data on air pollution impacts on surface waters necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by the Parties;

   (f) The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force are responsible for carrying out the work assigned to them in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, reporting thereon and keeping other relevant bodies apprised of their work.

Annex

Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes

1. The International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes will continue to assess, on a regional basis, the degree and geographical extent of the impact of atmospheric pollution on surface waters.

2. The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force report on their activities and deliverables to the Working Group on Effects.

3. The functions of the Programme Centre and the Task Force are to:

   (a) Plan and conduct the technical work to assess, using monitoring data and other sources of scientific evidence:

      (i) The degree and geographic extent of the impact of atmospheric pollution, in particular acidification, on surface water chemistry and biology – including biodiversity, and assess temporal trends and spatial patterns;

      (ii) Spatial patterns and temporal trends of heavy metals, most importantly mercury, in aquatic ecosystems, related to atmospheric pollution;
(iii) The impact of persistent organic pollutants in aquatic ecosystems, related to atmospheric pollution;

(iv) The impact of confounding factors relating to air pollution impacts on surface waters such as climate, climate change and land-use;

(b) Contribute to:

(i) Assessing air pollution impacts on aquatic ecosystems through collating and reviewing scientific literature;

(ii) Updating the Manual on Methodologies and Criteria for Modelling and Mapping Critical Loads and Levels and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends\(^3\) and related background documents with the latest relevant scientific knowledge.

(c) Promote international harmonization of monitoring practices by:

(i) Maintaining and updating a manual for methods and operation;

(ii) Conducting an annual chemical intercomparison and an annual biological inter-calibration;

(iii) Compiling a centralized database with data quality control and assessment capabilities.

(d) Support the Parties with the further development and implementation of methodologies described under paragraph 3 (a) and (b) above, including requirements of the new European Union National Emissions Ceilings Directive;\(^3\) organize the annual Task Force meeting and invite Parties to attend, present their work related to the Programme and contribute to discussions and new developments;

(e) Support and encourage participation of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in Task Force meetings and activities;

(f) Collaborate with: the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems on the organization of meetings, and on assessing air pollution impacts on surface waters; other bodies under the Convention (such as the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends, the Coordination Centre for Effects and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West) on thematic reports defined in the workplan;

(g) Collaborate with external partners, particularly the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Arctic Council, on issues of common interest;

(h) Carry out other tasks assigned to them by Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body.

B. Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests

The Executive Body,

Recalling the relevant provisions of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Recalling also its decision 1999/2 concerning the structure and organization of work,


Recalling further the terms of reference for the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, annex II), noted at its eighteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/71, para. 58 (c)),

Recalling its decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities, as amended by decision 2018/8,

Acknowledging the achievements of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution on Forests, including:

(a) Continuous data collection from the two levels of the forest ecosystem monitoring and research infrastructure installed by the member States; continuous improvement of quality assurance measures in the field and in laboratories and quality control measures during data submission;

(b) Data dissemination and evaluation activities in support of various research activities within the Convention and beyond;

(c) Joint evaluation activities comparing the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe modelling estimates and International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution on Forests field measurements, with important outcomes for both programmes; the launch of various publications relating observed effects, modelled Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe estimates and on-site measurement of environmental conditions, including soil conditions, affected by deposition and climate;

(d) Joint activities with the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (integrated study) and the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ozone symptoms);

(e) Increased focus on evaluations of long-term trends using data from its respective surveys (deposition, crown condition and tree damage causes, meteorology, phenology and leaf area index, ozone concentrations and ozone-induced injury, ground vegetation, litterfall, parameters from soil and soil solution and foliar analyses, tree growth) under additional consideration of space, under additional consideration of space;

(f) Support to various studies on cause-effect relationship;

(g) Progress in the evaluation of biodiversity aspects derived from International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution on Forests field surveys (influence of nitrogen deposition could be shown);

(h) Increased consideration of/focus on other aspects relevant for forest ecosystems, such as climate change effects, in many cause-effect studies;

(i) Annual popularized publications; regular publication of a technical report and contributions to various scientific publications;

(j) Strengthened cooperation with the European Union on activities relevant to the European Union National Emissions Ceilings Directive and pursued in cooperation with the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems, the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends, the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops, the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops and the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes;

(k) Update of the Manual on methods and criteria for harmonized sampling, assessment, monitoring and analysis of the effects of air pollution on forests.5

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4 ibid.
Recognizing the need to update the mandate of the Programme to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention, and its strategic priorities, as set out in the following documents:

(a) The revised long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2);
(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;\(^6\)

Noting with appreciation the hosting of the Programme Centre by the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, in Braunschweig, Germany, and the ongoing leadership of the Programme Task Force by Germany,

1. Adopts the Programme’s revised mandate as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Programme Task Force and the Programme Centre to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;

2. Decides that:
   (a) The Programme Centre, in cooperation with the Chair of the Programme Task Force, is responsible for the detailed planning and coordination of the Programme;
   (b) The lead country or countries are responsible for leading and coordinating the Task Force’s ongoing work and tasks, organizing its meetings, communicating with participating experts and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these tasks;
   (c) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs, and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. The withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for Task Force operations are provided to the appropriate country or person(s);
   (d) The Programme Centre is responsible for coordinating the relevant activities under the Programme, including development of technical projects, provision of deliverables according to the workplan (including annual reports and access to all relevant information and data), participation in the relevant Task Force meetings, organizing technical workshops and training workshops, communicating with national experts and providing direct support to Parties, maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the Programme and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan;
   (e) The Programme Centre is responsible for the compilation and provision of all information and data on air pollution impacts on forests necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by the Parties;
   (f) The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force are responsible for carrying out the work assigned to them in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, reporting thereon and keeping other relevant bodies apprised of their work.

\(^6\) See footnote 1.
Annex

Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests

1. The International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests will continue to monitor and assess the effects of air pollution on the condition and development of forest ecosystems in Europe and to contribute to a better understanding of cause-effect relationships in forest ecosystem functioning in various parts of the region.

2. The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force report on their activities and deliverables to the Working Group on Effects.

3. The functions of the Programme Centre and the Task Force are to:
   (a) Support Parties in installing and operating their forest monitoring and research infrastructures by providing and constantly developing respective technical and analytical guidelines (for example, by updating the Manual on methods and criteria for harmonized sampling, assessment, monitoring and analysis of the effects of air pollution on forests and organizing or supporting intercomparison courses);
   (b) Permanently update and further develop the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution on Forests collaborative database, carry out quality control and quality assurance measures on data submitted by Parties, provide assistance to Parties directly and via adequate documentation and foster dissemination of high-quality data within and outside of the Convention;
   (c) Contribute to the work and publications of other international institutions (such as the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia) and research institutes to promote the Convention’s visibility and its aims and to ensure the further development of evaluation techniques and strategies regarding possible cause-effect relationships;
   (d) Support Parties (in general) by organizing annual Task Force meetings, workshops and related activities to exchange experiences and make suggestions to further develop the monitoring and research activities of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution on Forests at all levels;
   (e) Support specifically the Parties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and further encourage them to intensify or install forest monitoring infrastructures in line with International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution on Forests standards;
   (f) Further collaborate with thematically related international cooperative programmes (such as the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems, the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends and the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops) and Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe bodies (such as the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West) by designing joint evaluations, organizing common scientific events and producing joint publications;
   (g) Carry out other tasks assigned to them by the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body.

7 See footnote 5.
C. Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops

Recalling the relevant provisions of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Recalling also its decision 1999/2 concerning the structure and organization of work,

Recalling further the terms of reference for the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, annex V), noted at its eighteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/71, para. 58 (c)),

Recalling its decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities, as amended by decision 2018/8,

Acknowledging the achievements of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops, including:

(a) The establishment of more than 20 ozone flux-based critical levels for vegetation (including forests) – biologically a more relevant indicator of the risk of ozone impacts on vegetation than concentration-based critical levels – and identifying areas most at risk of ozone impacts;

(b) Provision of evidence of ozone impacts on vegetation, including interactions with nitrogen pollution and climate change, and consequences for ecosystem services and biodiversity, showing that impacts are widespread;

(c) Demonstrating that no clear trends of ozone impacts on vegetation have been observed in the last two decades, hence ozone pollution remains of global concern, with background concentrations rising in Europe, contributing to impacts on vegetation;

(d) Monitoring of heavy metal and nitrogen concentrations in naturally growing mosses since 1990, identifying declines in concentrations in many areas of Europe with hotspots of heavy metal and nitrogen pollution still remaining;

(e) Identifying considerable decline in cadmium and lead concentrations in mosses since 1990 and, to a lesser extent, mercury concentrations, thus providing evidence for the success of heavy metal air pollution abatement policies in Europe, with mercury pollution remaining of global concern.

Recognizing the need to update the Programme’s mandate to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention, and its strategic priorities, as set out in the following documents:

(a) The revised long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2);

(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;


Noting with appreciation the hosting of the Programme Centre by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology at Bangor, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the ongoing leadership of the Task Force by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

1. Adopts the Programme’s revised mandate as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Programme Task Force and the Programme Centre to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;

2. Decides that:

8 See footnote 1.
(a) The Programme Centre, in cooperation with the Chair of the Programme Task Force, is responsible for the detailed planning and coordination of the Programme;

(b) The lead country or countries are responsible for leading and coordinating the Task Force’s ongoing work and tasks, organizing its meetings, communicating with participating experts and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these tasks;

(c) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs, and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. The withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for Task Force operations are provided to the appropriate country or person(s);

(d) The Programme Centre is responsible for coordinating the relevant activities under the Programme, including development of technical projects, provision of deliverables according to the workplan (including annual reports and access to all relevant information and data), participation in the relevant Task Force meetings, organizing technical workshops and training workshops, communicating with national experts, providing direct support to Parties, maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the Programme and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan;

(e) The Programme Centre is responsible for the production and provision of information and data on air pollution impacts on natural vegetation and crops necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by the Parties;

(f) The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force are responsible for carrying out the work assigned to them in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, reporting thereon and keeping other relevant bodies apprised of their work.

Annex

Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution Effects on Natural Vegetation and Crops

1. The International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops will continue to investigate the impacts of air pollutants on crops and natural vegetation.

2. The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force report on their activities and deliverables to the Working Group on Effects.

3. The functions of the Programme Centre and the Task Force are to:

(a) Plan and conduct technical work to collate and review evidence of:

(i) Air pollution impacts on vegetation from monitoring activities, experiments, surveys and the literature, including impacts in a changing climate, at the local, regional and global scale, and assess spatial patterns and temporal trends;

(ii) Spatial patterns and temporal trends of the deposition of, for example, heavy metals, nitrogen and persistent organic pollutants to vegetation, using naturally growing mosses as biomonitor.

(b) Develop further and apply flux-based ozone critical levels for vegetation; map areas at risk of ozone impacts on vegetation and exceedances of critical levels at the regional and global scale in the current and future climate; update the Manual on Methodologies and Criteria for Modelling and Mapping Critical Loads and Levels and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends and associated background documents with the latest relevant scientific

9 See footnote 2.
knowledge; collate and review information on impacts of air pollution on food production (including economic assessments), ecosystem services and biodiversity;

(c) Encourage outreach activities and train new partners, in all Parties and other countries (for example, the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops-Asia network), to apply methodologies described in paragraph 3 (a) and (b) above and liaise with global networks and initiatives inside and outside the Convention to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; invite new partners to attend the annual Task Force meeting and specific workshops;

(d) Support Parties in further developing and implementing the methodologies described in paragraph 3 (a) and (b) above, including requirements of the new European Union National Emissions Ceilings Directive; organize the annual Task Force meeting and invite Parties to attend, present their work related to the Programme and contribute to discussions and new developments;

(e) Following the transfer of the coordination of the moss survey to monitor deposition of specified air pollutants (see paragraph 3 (a) (ii) above) to the Russian Federation in 2014 to enhance participation of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, use contacts made within this network to stimulate participation in ozone-related activities; translate relevant documents into Russian to stimulate knowledge transfer and encourage the organization of relevant meetings and workshops in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(f) Collaborate with: the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution on Forests on monitoring and modelling ozone impacts on forests and monitoring deposition of relevant air pollutants to mosses; the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends on further developing critical levels and loads for vegetation; the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West on modelling ozone fluxes and nitrogen deposition to vegetation; the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East on modelling heavy metal deposition to vegetation; the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling on modelling ozone fluxes in the Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies model; and the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution on modelling ozone fluxes to vegetation using Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution scenarios and assess implications for food production and ecosystem services;

(g) Collaborate with: the Tropospheric Ozone Assessment Report – initiated by the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Project – on producing reports and generate globally easily accessible ozone exposure and dose metrics; and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants and future United Nations Environment Programme initiatives benefiting from assessment of the risk of ozone impacts on vegetation;

(h) Carry out other tasks assigned to them by the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body.

D. Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems

Recalling the relevant provisions of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Recalling also its decision 1999/2 concerning the structure and organization of work,

Recalling further the terms of reference for the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, annex VI), noted at its eighteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/71, para. 58 (c)),

10 See footnote 3.
Recalling its decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities, as amended by decision 2018/8,

Acknowledging the achievements of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution on Ecosystems, including:

(a) Maintenance of a regionally extensive database on intensively monitored background sites in Europe, valuable for assessing both air pollution and climate change impacts and their interactions; publication of assessment results in high-class scientific journals;

(b) Documentation of long-term complex impacts and recovery of sulphur and nitrogen deposition on both chemical and biological variables;

(c) Assessment of long-term trends and fluxes of heavy metals in various ecosystem compartments;

(d) Provision of evidence of negative effects on plant species richness when nitrogen deposition exceeds the critical load;

(e) Setting-up of dynamic modelling systems that have enabled assessment of impacts of future nitrogen and sulphur emission/deposition scenarios;

(f) Validation of critical load concepts using both empirical data and modelling;

(g) Close cooperation with other international cooperative programmes and the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling on ecosystem impact assessment and dynamic modelling;

(h) Development and maintenance of European monitoring and research infrastructures together with the Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, Critical Zone and Socio-Ecological Research Infrastructure.

Recognizing the need to update the Programme’s mandate to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention and its strategic priorities, as set out in the following documents:

(a) The revised long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2);

(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;


Noting with appreciation the hosting of the Programme Centre by the Finnish Environment Institute in Helsinki and the ongoing leadership of the Task Force by Sweden,

1. Adopts the Programme’s revised mandate as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Programme Task Force and the Programme Centre to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;

2. Decides that:

(a) The Programme Centre, in cooperation with the Chair of the Programme Task Force, is responsible for the detailed planning, coordination and evaluation of the Programme;

(b) The lead country or countries are responsible for leading and coordinating the Task Force’s ongoing work and tasks, organizing its meetings, communicating with participating experts and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these tasks;

11 See footnote 1.
(c) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs, and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. The withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for Task Force operations are provided to the appropriate country or person(s);

(d) The Programme Centre is responsible for maintaining the database, conducting and coordinating evaluations of the data and reporting and disseminating the Programme’s results;

(e) The Programme Centre is responsible for coordinating the relevant activities under the Programme, including development of technical projects, provision of deliverables according to the workplan (including annual reports and access to all relevant information and data), participation in the relevant Task Force meetings, organizing technical workshops and training workshops, communicating with national experts and providing direct support to Parties, maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the Programme and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan;

(f) The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force are responsible for carrying out the work assigned to them in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, reporting thereon and keeping other relevant bodies apprised of their work.

Annex

Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems

1. The International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems will continue to monitor the state of ecosystems, their changes and effects of air pollutants and climate change from a long-term perspective, and to develop and validate models for the simulation of ecosystem responses.

2. The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force report on their activities and deliverables to the Working Group on Effects.

3. The functions of the Programme Centre and the Task Force are to:

(a) Provide information on the state of ecosystems and their long-term changes, with respect to the regional variation and impact of selected air pollutants, including effects on biota, particularly to:

(i) Monitor the state of natural/semi-natural ecosystems and provide explanations for changes, in terms of causative environmental factors;

(ii) Develop and validate models for simulation of ecosystem effects and use these to estimate responses to actual or predicted changes in pollution stress;

(iii) Carry out biomonitoring for detecting changes and develop biota indicators identifying future alterations;

(iv) Develop further tools to guide users in interpreting the available data and their use in (effects) models.

(b) Prioritize and rationalize the Programme’s network, monitoring activities and data reporting;

(c) Monitor and assess long-term trends, stores and fluxes of elements and compounds of priority interest to the Convention (for example, nitrogen and heavy metals), and other elements and parameters important for the evaluation of environmental effects (such as base cations, carbon and phosphorous) and for meeting relevant international data requirements;

(d) Develop dynamic models of biogeochemical effects and recovery, risk assessment and interactions with climate change, with emphasis on timescales of ecosystem effects;
(e) Develop biomonitoring and assessment of biological data, particularly on vegetation;

(f) Collaborate with ecosystem-oriented international cooperative programmes, the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling and Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe centres on impact assessment using monitoring data and dynamic modelling;

(g) Collaborate with external partners, particularly European research infrastructures (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures/Long-term Ecosystem in Europe Research Infrastructure and LifeWatch) on impact assessments and modelling and database infrastructures;

(h) Carry out other tasks assigned to them by the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body.

E. Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution Effects on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments

Recalling the relevant provisions of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Recalling also its decision 1999/2 concerning the structure and organization of work,

Recalling further the terms of reference for the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, annex IV), noted at its eighteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/71, para. 58 (c)),

Recalling its decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities, as amended by decision 2018/8,

Acknowledging the achievements of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments, including,

(a) Maintenance of a regionally extensive database on pollution, climate, corrosion and soiling in a network of urban, rural and industrial test sites in Europe and North America;

(b) Developing and maintaining high quality standards in data collection by adhering to relevant International Organization for Standardization standards within ISO TC 156 for exposure and evaluation of corrosion attack on materials;

(c) Development of corrosion dose-response functions for the sulphur dioxide dominating situation, corrosion dose-response functions for the multi-pollutant situation and soiling dose-response functions for a variety of materials;

(d) Regular exposure of indicator materials for periodic trend assessments (every third year) enabling quantification of trends in pollution, corrosion and soiling;

(e) Several case studies on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization cultural heritage sites as policy relevant indicators for verification of air pollution effects on real objects of cultural heritage, including economic assessment.

Recognizing the need to update the mandate of the Programme to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention and its strategic priorities, as set out in the following documents:

(a) The revised long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2);

(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;  

12 ibid.

Noting with appreciation the hosting of the Programme Centre by Research Institutes of Sweden/Corrosion and Metals Research Institute in Stockholm and the ongoing leadership of the Task Force by Italy and Sweden,

1. Adopts the Programme’s revised mandate as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Programme Task Force and the Programme Centre to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;

2. Decides that:

(a) The Programme Centre, in cooperation with the Chair of the Programme Task Force, is responsible for the detailed planning, coordination and evaluation of the Programme;

(b) The lead country or countries are responsible for leading and coordinating the Task Force’s ongoing work and tasks, organizing its meetings, communicating with participating experts and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these tasks;

(c) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs, and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. The withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for Task Force operations are provided to the appropriate country or person(s);

(d) The Programme Centre is responsible for the production and provision of quantitative policy-relevant information on monitored and modelled air pollution effects on materials necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by the Parties;

(e) The Programme Centre is responsible for coordinating the relevant activities under the Programme, including development of technical projects, provision of deliverables according to the workplan (including annual reports and access to all relevant information and data), participation in the relevant Task Force meetings, organizing technical workshops and training workshops, communicating with national experts, providing direct support to Parties, maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the Programme and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan;

(f) The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force are responsible for carrying out the work assigned to them in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, reporting thereon and keeping other relevant bodies apprised of their work.

Annex

Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments

1. The International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments will continue to evaluate the effects of air pollutants on the atmospheric corrosion and soiling of important materials, and to assess long-term corrosion and soiling trends attributable to atmospheric pollution, including the further development of dose-response functions quantifying the corrosion effects under different environmental conditions to support the economic evaluation of air pollution damage.

2. The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force report on their activities and deliverables to the Working Group on Effects.

3. The functions of the Programme Centre and the Task Force are to:
(a) Monitor and assess the impact of the environment on corrosion and soiling effects on materials and their trends by:

(i) Maintaining and developing an international network of atmospheric corrosion test sites;
(ii) Conducting regular short-term (one-year) and long-term (four-year) exposure assessments of corrosion and soiling specimens;
(iii) Collecting and measuring environmental data at test sites, in collaboration with the national focal points for test sites, the sub-centres for materials and the sub-centre for environmental data.

(b) Derive exposure-response functions for corrosion and soiling effects of air pollutants, in combination with other stresses such as climate change and chloride deposition;

(c) Gather information on policy-relevant user-friendly indicators to evaluate air pollution effects on materials by conducting case studies on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization cultural heritage sites, including:

(i) Assessment of the environment and condition;
(ii) Risk assessment;
(iii) Economic assessment of damages of corrosion and soiling, collaboration with the sub-centre for cultural heritage in Italy.

(d) Investigate the relevance of short-lived climate forcers, particularly black carbon, from the viewpoint of soiling of materials;


(f) Further develop and improve methodologies for measuring air pollution effects of materials through cooperation with relevant non-Convention standardization bodies, such as the International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee 156 Corrosion of Metals and Alloys;

(g) Carry out other tasks assigned to them by the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body.

F. Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends

Recalling the relevant provisions of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Recalling also its decision 1999/2 concerning the structure and organization of work,

Recalling further the terms of reference for the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, annex VII), noted at its eighteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/71, para. 58 (c)),

Recalling its decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities, as amended by decision 2018/8,

13 See footnote 2.
Noting the long-term strategy for the effects-oriented activities (ECE/EB.AIR/2009/17), adopted at its twenty-eighth session (ECE/EB.AIR/99, para. 25 (b)),

Further noting the Guidelines for reporting on the monitoring and modelling of air pollution effects (ECE/EB.AIR/2008/11, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2008/16/Rev.),

Acknowledging the achievements of the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends and the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling, including:

(a) Development and maintenance of critical levels and loads methodologies and databases to assess the risk to ecosystems of acidification, eutrophication and heavy metals. The approach has been extended to include dynamic modelling methodologies to enable the simulation and evaluation of the temporal development of these risks to future policy target years;

(b) Exploration of methodologies for the development of critical loads for biodiversity to assess the impact of nitrogen and sulphur deposition on endpoints for biodiversity in general and on the occurrence of plant species in particular;

(c) Compilation, by the Coordination Centre for Effects, of national critical loads data submitted by national focal centres, into a database of critical loads for acidification, eutrophication and biodiversity, applying gap-filling methods and compiling background information for European Parties that do not provide their national critical loads data; data from Canada and the United States of America were collected and compiled by the Coordination Centre for Effects to complete the geographic coverage of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region;

(d) Development of methodologies to include dynamics of ecosystem response to air pollution, including biodiversity, time lags and interactions with climate change and land use change;

(e) Development of modelling and mapping methodologies and guidance, which are documented in Coordination Centre for Effects reports, publications in the scientific literature and formal documents submitted under the Convention to the annual joint sessions of the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe;

(f) Publication and update of the Manual on Methodologies and Criteria for Modelling and Mapping Critical Loads and Levels and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends,\textsuperscript{14} describing modelling and mapping methodologies. The Manual provides a description of harmonized indicators to establish critical levels and loads and methods to assess the impacts of acidification, eutrophication, heavy metals, ozone and particulate matter on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, crops or building materials. It has been updated in collaboration with the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops and the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments;

(g) Identification of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe regional and national areas with critical load exceedance and assessment of the magnitude of these exceedances, in collaboration with the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling, the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West;

(h) Assisting the Working Group on Effects, the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling by providing scientific advice regarding the use and interpretation of data and modelling methodologies for critical levels and loads, exceedance maps with comprehensive information on air pollution effects on ecosystems for interpretation of policy effectiveness, for use in cost-benefit analysis; ecosystem response over time and future scenarios;

(i) Making available the data produced under the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution

\textsuperscript{14} ibid.
Effects, Risks and Trends according to decision 2006/1 on data availability under the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1).

Recognizing the need to update the Programme’s mandate to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention and its strategic priorities, as set out in the following documents:

(a) The revised long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2);
(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;15

Noting the recommendation of the Working Group on Effects to transform the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling into a programme centre under the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends as of 1 January 2020,

Noting with appreciation the hosting of the Coordinating Centre for Effects by the German Environment Agency in Dessau, Germany, and the ongoing leadership of the Task Force by France and the offer by the Swedish Environmental Research Institute in Stockholm to host the Centre for Dynamic Modelling,

1. Adopts the Programme’s revised mandate as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Programme Task Force and the Programme Centres to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;

2. Decides that:

(a) The Programme Centres, in cooperation with the Chair of the Task Force, are responsible for the detailed planning, coordination and evaluation of the Programme;
(b) The lead country or countries are responsible for leading and coordinating the Task Force’s ongoing work and tasks, organizing its meetings, communicating with participating experts and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these tasks;
(c) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs, and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. The withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for Task Force operations are provided to the appropriate country or person(s);
(d) The Programme Centres and the Chair of the Programme Task Force are responsible for carrying out the work assigned to them in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, reporting thereon and keeping other relevant bodies apprised of their work.

Annex

Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends

1. The International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends will continue to provide the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body and other subsidiary bodies with comprehensive information on: critical levels and loads and their exceedances for selected

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15 See footnote 1.
pollutants; the development and application of other methods for effects-based approaches; and the modelling and mapping of the present status and trends in impacts of air pollution.

2. The Programme Centres and the Chair of the Task Force report on their activities and deliverables to the Working Group on Effects.

3. The common functions of the Programme Task Force, the Coordinating Centre for Effects and the Centre for Dynamic Modelling are to:
   
   (a) Collaborate with and provide guidance to national focal centres with comprehensive information on the following:
      
      (i) Critical levels and loads and the risk of exceedances for selected pollutants and effects on appropriate endpoints of the natural environment;
      
      (ii) The modelling and mapping of the present status and trends of impacts of air pollution on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.
      
   (b) Organize annual meetings and workshops, as appropriate, to share knowledge on critical loads and modelling methodologies addressing the risk of impacts on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems with all Parties, particularly with the Parties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
      
   (c) Carry out tasks adopted in the science-related part of the workplan of the Convention established by the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body, provided that sufficient funding is available;
      
   (d) Support the Working Group on Effects, the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling with scientific advice regarding the use and interpretation of data and modelling methodologies for critical levels and loads;
      
   (e) Collaborate with other international cooperative programmes to develop understanding and dose-response relationships for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, promote participation of all Parties and relevant long-range transport of atmospheric pollutants Convention bodies and seek ways in which collectively gathered knowledge and information can be used in the common framework of dynamic models;
      
   (f) Collaborate with the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling in elaborating and assessing pollution scenarios, and with the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe to compile deposition maps to enable the calculation of critical loads and their exceedances;
      
   (g) Carry out development and application of methods for effect-based approaches, including:
      
      (i) Understanding of timescales and time lags of responses to changes in air pollution;
      
      (ii) Designs for development of dynamic models describing the response over time;
      
      (iii) The modelling of impacts on suitable indicators of biodiversity and of possible impacts on selected ecosystem services in collaboration with other Working Group on Effects bodies.
      
   (h) Facilitate and be an entry point for cooperation between:
      
      (i) The Convention and non-Convention research groups and organizations, to increase visibility and widen use of results of modelling critical loads and their exceedance achieved by the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends in a cost-effective way. Collaboration with partners outside the Convention includes, in particular, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the United Nations
Environment Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the European Union;

(ii) The Working Group on Effects and research groups and networks such as the Long-term Ecosystem Research Network and LifeWatch active in development and application of dynamic models of air pollution effects, climate change and land use outside the Working Group on Effects.

(i) Carry out other tasks assigned to them by the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body.

4. The functions of the Programme Task Force are to:

   (a) Plan, organize and evaluate the Programme’s activities; review and assess methodologies and databases on critical levels and loads, and their exceedances and (trends of) the risk of impacts on suitable indicators for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems’ health;

   (b) Document modelling and mapping methodologies in the Manual on Methodologies and Criteria for Modelling and Mapping Critical Loads and Levels and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends;\(^\text{16}\)

   (c) Make recommendations regarding further development of effect-based approaches and future modelling and mapping requirements.

5. The functions of the Coordinating Centre for Effects are to:

   (a) Develop and implement databases for calculation of critical loads, their exceedances and their mapping at United Nations Economic Commission for Europe scale under the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends and provide technical advice regarding use and interpretation of critical loads and exceedances;

   (b) Implement established knowledge on effects of major air pollutants on the natural environment in modelling methodologies, including information exchanges with other Convention and Research Groups on available dose-response relationships assessed in order to protect ecosystems;

   (c) Support the development of dynamic models describing the response over time of suitable indicators for biodiversity, in collaboration with other international cooperative programmes and the Centre for Dynamic Modelling;

   (d) Apply methods for effect-based approaches, including dynamic modelling and the modelling of impacts on suitable indicators of biodiversity;

   (e) Conduct periodic training sessions and workshops to assist national focal centres in their work;

   (f) Maintain and update relevant databases and serve as a clearing house for data collection and exchanges regarding critical levels and loads among Parties and bodies under the Convention;

   (g) Produce information and data necessary for implementation of the Convention and its Protocols in relation to indicators for natural ecosystems’ health, including critical loads and their exceedances.

6. The functions of the Centre for Dynamic Modelling are to:

   (a) Develop and promote methods focusing on dynamic modelling to complement ecosystem effect assessment work in collaboration with all Working Group on Effects bodies;

   (b) Develop, test and elaborate suitable indicators of biodiversity using dynamic models that can be utilized for calculating critical loads, in close collaboration with the Coordination Centre for Effects, the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends Task Force and other international cooperative programmes;

\(^{16}\) See footnote 2.
(c) Identify gaps in ecosystem effect modelling under the Working Group on Effects, and propose areas where additional effort would be beneficial;

(d) Carry out the development and maintenance of the common Working Group on Effects website, with the aim of providing common access to the work of the Working Group on Effects from one entry point;

(e) Facilitate cooperation between the Working Group on Effects and non-Convention research groups and organizations to increase visibility and widen use of results achieved by the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends specifically and other international cooperative programmes in general, in a cost-effective way;

(f) Promote participation of all Parties and relevant Convention bodies and seek ways in which collectively gathered knowledge and information can be used in the common framework of dynamic models;

(g) Provide links between long-term monitoring and dynamic model development groups within the Convention.

G. Revised mandate for the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution

Recalling the relevant provisions of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Recalling also its decision 1999/2 concerning the structure and organization of work,

Recalling further the terms of reference of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, annex VIII), noted at its eighteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/71, para. 58 (c)),

Recalling its decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities, as amended by decision 2018/8,

Acknowledging the achievements of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution, including:

(a) Providing scientific evidence of health effects of long-range transboundary air pollutants by delivering a series of health assessment reports by pollutant: persistent organic pollutants (2003); particulate matter, ozone and nitrogen dioxide (2003); particulate matter (2006); heavy metals (2007); particulate matter from various sources (2007); ozone (2008); black carbon (2012); and residential heating with wood and coal (2015);

(b) Holding over 20 annual meetings providing a platform where Parties could share recent policies and activities related to air pollution and health;

(c) Providing updates on progress in research on the health impact of air pollution;

(d) Contributing to Parties’ capacity-building and supporting the effective implementation of the existing Protocols and their revisions.

Recognizing the need to update the Joint Task Force’s mandate to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention, and its strategic priorities, as set out in the following documents:

(a) The revised long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2);

(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;\textsuperscript{17}


\textsuperscript{17} See footnote 1.
Noting with appreciation the ongoing leadership of the Joint Task Force by the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health and its function as a Centre for Work on the Health Effects of Air Pollution,

1. Adopts the Joint Task Force’s revised mandate as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the Joint Task Force’s key objectives and functions to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;

2. Decides that:
   
   (a) The Joint Task Force will consist of experts nominated by Parties to the Convention;

   (b) The lead organization is responsible for leading and coordinating the Joint Task Force’s ongoing work and tasks, organizing its meetings, communicating with participating experts, maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the Joint Task Force’s activities, work, meetings and participants and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Joint Task Force are appointed by the lead organization to carry out these tasks;

   (c) In the event that the lead organization needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. The withdrawing lead organization will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for Joint Task Force operations are provided to the appropriate country, organization or person(s);

   (d) The Joint Task Force is responsible for the production and provision of all information and data on the health effects of air pollution necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by the Parties;

   (e) The Joint Task Force is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, reporting thereon and keeping other relevant bodies apprised of its work.

Annex

Revised mandate for the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution

1. The Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution will continue to evaluate and assess the health effects of long-range transboundary air pollution and provide necessary information on the subject. Assessments aim to quantify the contribution of transboundary air pollution to human health risks and help define priorities for guiding future monitoring and abatement strategies.

2. The Joint Task Force reports on its activities and deliverables to the Working Group on Effects.

3. The Joint Task Force’s functions are to:
   
   (a) Quantify health impacts of long-range transboundary air pollution;

   (b) Expand the knowledge base by consolidating existing evidence on health outcomes of exposure to air pollution and by identifying emerging issues relevant to health;

   (c) Provide a forum to the Parties and expertise to exchange recent research, experiences and suggestions on the health impact of air pollution;

   (d) Assist Parties in quantifying the health impact of transboundary air pollution and defining priorities to guide future monitoring and abatement strategies;

   (e) Facilitate communication by Parties of health risks associated with air pollution exposure;

   (f) Contribute to capacity-building on quantifying health impacts of air pollution
and assessing the health benefits from reducing air pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia by developing a curriculum and supporting the use of health impact quantification tools;

(g) Cooperate with the Working Group on Effects and the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe on tools and methods for facilitating streamlining of methodological approaches to assessing the effects of air pollution;

(h) Collaborate with the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe to assess the hazardousness of air pollutants in the region;

(i) Collaborate with other processes and organizations (the European Environment and Health Process, Health 2020, the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme) to identify and realize synergies;

(j) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body.