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

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fifty-eighth session

Geneva, 26–29 May 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 26 May 2020*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-seventh session of the Working Group.
3. Progress in the implementation of the 2020–2021 workplan.
4. Hemispheric transport and control strategies for use in future scenarios.
5. Review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.
6. Reporting of condensable part in emissions of particulate matter.
7. 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;
 - (b) Implementation of commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative.

* 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 8 May 2020**, through the relevant link, which is available on the meeting web page: www.unece.org/index.php?id=52975. The registration code for the meeting is 78590. This will be a paperless meeting. All the documentation for the session and related information will be posted on the meeting web page. Delegates should bring copies of any documentation they will require. A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html. In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat at +41 22 917 3570.



8. Broader geographic cooperation on air pollution.
9. Amendments to the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body.
10. Election of officers.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 May, morning

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-eighth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/123)

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

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 May, morning

2. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fifty-seventh session (Geneva, 21–24 May 2019).

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-seventh session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/122)

3. Progress in the implementation of the 2020–2021 workplan

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 May, morning

3. The Working Group will undertake tasks assigned to it in the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.2) under various items of the present agenda. Item 2.1.2 of the workplan will be advanced under agenda item 5, items 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 of the workplan under agenda item 4, item 2.1.5 of the workplan under agenda item 8 and item 2.1.10 of the workplan under agenda item 6.
4. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling will present progress in implementing the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.2). The Working Group may wish to take note of the reports.
5. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen will present the draft guidance document on integrated sustainable nitrogen management (item 2.2.3 of the workplan). A final draft, incorporating any comments of the Working Group at its current session will be submitted to the Executive Body for adoption at its fortieth session (Geneva, 14–18 December 2020).

¹ All documentation for the fifty-eighth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review can be found on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/index.php?id=52975.

6. The Working Group is expected to hold initial discussions on the guidance documents and reports under preparation that will be submitted to the Executive Body for adoption at its fortieth or forty-first session. These include: (a) the draft guidance on prioritizing reductions of particulate matter in its sources that are also significant sources of black carbon (item 2.2.1 of the workplan); (b) the joint Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen/Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling report on ammonia (item 1.1.3.3); and (c) the guidance on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning (item 2.2.2). The Working Group is expected to receive an update from the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling on progress in the preparation of the report on the costs of control versus the costs of inaction (item 2.1.7).

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2020/1)

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2020/2)

Draft guidance document on integrated sustainable nitrogen management (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2020/L.1)

Draft guidance document on prioritizing reductions of particulate matter in its sources that are also significant sources of black carbon (informal document No. 1)

Joint Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen/Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling report on ammonia (informal document No. 2)

Draft guidance on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning (informal document No. 3)

4. Hemispheric transport and control strategies for use in future scenarios

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 May, morning

7. Under items 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, the Working Group is tasked with starting policy conversations on the hemispheric transport of ozone and particulate matter and their precursors to further inform the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). This should also include a discussion of control strategies to recommend for use by the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution in future scenarios. The Working Group is expected to develop policy questions and recommendations on control strategies and priority sectors for analysis.

5. Review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 May, afternoon, and Wednesday, 27 May, morning and afternoon

8. At its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019), the Executive Body decided to initiate the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012. It requested the Working Group to develop a plan and work schedule for the review and to forward them to the Executive Body for consideration at its fortieth session, with a view to concluding the review at its forty-second session, unless otherwise decided by the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.1, decision 2019/4, operative paras. 1, 2, 4 and 6).

9. Item 2.1.2 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention tasks the Working Group with defining the scope and content of, and undertaking work to carry out, the review.

10. The Working Group is invited to develop a plan for the review, including its scope and content, by continuing to elaborate elements for, and inputs to, the review on the basis of annex I to the report of the Working Group on its fifty-seventh session, taking into account

the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention,² the recommendations of the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4) and the long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex).

11. In its decision 2019/4, the Executive Body invited Parties, subsidiary bodies, observers and other interested groups and organizations to submit views on additional elements to be considered in the upcoming review by 15 March 2020, to be compiled by the secretariat. The Working Group was requested to give due consideration to any views received. This will also include additions to the list of potential elements proposed at the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body, and the suggestion for further discussion on ratification barriers (ECE/EB.AIR/144, para. 27 (c)).

12. The Working Group, working in collaboration with appropriate bodies of the Convention, is expected to develop a detailed work schedule for the review, including the procedure for undertaking it, that includes a prioritization, as needed, of the elements to be considered in the review, as forwarded to the Executive Body by the Working Group and contained in the annex to decision 2019/4.

Documentation

Compilation of submissions of views on additional elements to be considered in the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended (informal document No. 4)

Report of the Executive Body on its thirty-ninth session (ECE/EB.AIR/144)

6. Reporting of condensable part in emissions of particulate matter

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 May, afternoon

13. The Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session requested the Working Group to discuss the policy implications of reporting of the condensable part in particulate matter emissions and to report back to the Executive Body at its fortieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/144, para. 22 (h)). Item 2.1.10 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention includes policy discussion on condensables reporting, in particular in relation to the residential heating sector. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the issue in connection with the review of the Gothenburg Protocol. The discussion may be informed by the related outcomes of the fifth joint session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 9–13 September 2019) and those of the workshop on reporting of condensables organized by the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West under the Convention (Gothenburg, Sweden, 17–19 March 2020).

Documentation

Report of the fifth joint session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2019/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2019/2)

7. Information-sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

14. Regular exchange of information is stipulated under article 8 of the Convention. At its thirty-second session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2013), the Executive Body decided that

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). Available at: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2016/AIR/Publications/LRTAP_Assessment_Report_-_North_America.pdf.

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 and 16 December 2016), the Executive Body adopted a further decision on improving the effectiveness of reporting on strategies, policies and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols (see ECE/EB.AIR/137, annex I, decision 2016/3). Under item 2.1.1 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, the secretariat is tasked with collecting and displaying information on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement throughout the ECE region shared at the sessions of the Working Group following decision 2016/3. Under the same item, the Working Group is tasked with providing recommendations to the Executive Body on strengthening the ratification of the Protocols.

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 May, morning

15. 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.

16. 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 (1) of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, article 7 (2) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9 (2) of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7 (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 and the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes 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 (1) of the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes and article 8 (2) of the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes.

17. 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 (1) (a) of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, article 7 (1) (a) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9 (1) (a) of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7 (1) (a) of the Gothenburg Protocol was at least once every four years. It furthermore invited other States and organizations referred to in article 14 (1) of the Convention that were 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 (ECE/EB.AIR/137, annex I, decision 2016/3, operative paras. 4 and 5).

18. Representatives of Parties and other States are invited to submit their completed reporting templates in advance of the session and to present their experiences and best practices regarding policies, strategies and specific measures to implement their obligations under any of the Protocols to the Convention at the session. This invitation is extended in particular to Parties and other States that have not previously presented their experiences and best practices. 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 has been made available by the secretariat on the Convention website.³

(b) Implementation of commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative

Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 May, morning

19. 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 the initiative within the sessions of the Working Group (ECE/EB.AIR/140, para. 29) and provided for such reporting in the 2020–2021 workplan (item 2.1.1). Delegations will be invited to share information on the submission of new commitments and the implementation of existing ones.

8. Broader geographic cooperation on air pollution

Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 May, morning

20. At its thirty-ninth session, the Executive Body adopted decision 2019/5 on the establishment of the forum for international cooperation on air pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/144, para. 41 (a)). In accordance with item 2.1.5 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, the Working Group will be invited to discuss the next steps on broader geographic cooperation on air pollution, including the role for the Convention and for the forum. The Working Group will take note of the outcomes of the discussions of the Executive Body Bureau on the forum and its draft terms of reference developed in line with the comments made at the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body on the proposal regarding the forum (ECE/EB.AIR/144, annex I) and further views submitted by Parties.

Documentation

Draft terms of reference of the forum for international cooperation on air pollution (informal document No. 5)

Comments on the proposal regarding the forum for international cooperation on air pollution submitted by Parties (informal document No. 6)

9. Amendments to the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body

Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 May, afternoon

21. Following the request of the Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session, the Working Group is invited to discuss possible amendments to the rules of procedure for the Executive Body (as adopted by decision 2010/19 and amended by decision 2013/1). The discussion will be informed by proposals that Parties were invited to submit by 15 March 2020 to the secretariat (ECE/EB.AIR/144, para. 57 (a) and (b)). The Working Group is requested to report back to the Executive Body at its fortieth session.

Documentation

Compilation of proposals by Parties for amendments to the rules of procedure for the Executive Body (informal document No. 7)

³ See 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.

10. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 May, afternoon

22. The Working Group is expected to elect its Vice-Chairs for 2021–2022. At its fifty-sixth session (Geneva, 22–25 May 2018), the Working Group re-elected Mr. Till Spranger (Germany) for a second term and Mr. Ivan Angelov (Bulgaria) for a third term as Vice-Chairs, and elected Ms. Dominique Pritula (Canada) for a first term as Vice-Chair for the period 2019–2020 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/120, para. 33).

11. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 28 May, afternoon

23. 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.

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

Tentative timing: Friday, 29 May, morning and afternoon

24. 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-ninth session.
