

## Decision 2019/8

### Revised mandate of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling

*The Executive Body,*

*Recalling* its decision 1999/2 concerning the structure and organization of work, whereby it established the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (ECE/EB.AIR/68, annex III),

*Acknowledging* the support provided by the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling to Parties to the Convention, among other things, through the following actions:

- (a) Continuously discussing and fostering the development of an observational network and modelling tools essential for the verification of the impact of the actions taken on pollutants emission reduction;
- (b) Actively participating in the discussions on and the elaboration, revisions and implementation of the EMEP monitoring strategy in cooperation with the Chemical Coordinating Centre;
- (c) Contributing to the improvement of the scientific understanding of the processes that control European air pollution levels through regular intensive measurement campaigns;
- (d) Coordinating the benchmarking of EMEP modelling tools by means of model comparison projects and focused case studies, in particular by liaising with the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West;
- (e) Supporting the sharing, use and evaluation of EMEP models as tools for the assessment of air pollution transport and deposition at the national and regional levels by the Parties;
- (f) Performing and publishing assessment reports and trend analyses of air pollution concentrations and deposition in the EMEP domain over the past 40 years.

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

- (a) The long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex);
- (b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;<sup>1</sup>
- (c) The policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4).

*Welcoming* the ongoing leadership of the Task Force by France and the World Meteorological Organization,

1. *Adopts* the revised mandate of the Task Force as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Task Force 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 lead country or countries have the responsibility for leading and coordinating the ongoing work and tasks of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for communicating with participating experts, for maintaining an up-to-date web page that

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

includes information on the activities, work, meetings and participants of the Task Force, and for 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 responsibilities;

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

(c) The Task Force will be comprised of subject matter experts from the Parties to the Convention, acting in their personal capacity;

(d) Meetings will be open to representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations, researchers, industry associations and other relevant organizations. Co-Chairs are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force. Meeting reports will reflect the views of all participants to the extent practicable;

(e) 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. In that event, 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 the operations of the Task Force are provided to the appropriate country or person(s).

## **Annex**

### **Revised mandate of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling**

1. The Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, in view of up-to-date scientific knowledge and technical developments within the Parties to the Convention and worldwide, will continue to examine the needs and requirements of the Parties to the Convention with the aim of supporting the improvement of tools and good practices for monitoring the state of air pollution and modelling past and future changes of concentrations of air pollutants, transboundary fluxes and deposition within the EMEP region.

2. The Task Force will report on its activities and deliverables to the Steering Body to EMEP.

3. The functions of the Task Force are to:

(a) Provide a forum for the Parties to share knowledge, experiences, views and suggestions and develop recommendations on issues related to air quality, efficiency and sufficiency of EMEP measurements and modelling;

(b) Provide an opportunity for national experts and EMEP centres to discuss performance of measurements and models (EMEP models and those developed by Parties), and their improvement, bearing in mind the scope and range of their application (such as for national assessments of air quality, assessment of transboundary fluxes and their influence on air quality and trend analyses);

(c) Plan and conduct its technical work towards implementation of the EMEP Monitoring Strategy, including provision of support to Parties' national experts, taking into consideration the challenges encountered at the national level, best practices available and recommendations provided by the EMEP Manual for Sampling and Chemical Analysis;<sup>2</sup>

(d) Interpret and assess observations and modelling results related to air pollution levels, assess its temporal and spatial trends and contribute to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;

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<sup>2</sup> <https://projects.nilu.no//ccc/manual/index.html>.

(e) Ensure the coordinated efforts of Parties in the organization and conduct of the intensive measurement periods and focused case studies, following data processing, model interpretation and results dissemination;

(f) Provide support for and facilitate involvement of Parties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, for example, with regard to setting up monitoring stations and national programmes, case studies, use of models and promoting tools developed under EMEP during workshops and other dedicated meetings;

(g) Collaborate with EMEP centres and task forces and the Working Group on Effects to evaluate emission inventories, improve modelling tools to serve the integrated modelling and effects assessment and ensure consistency between regional and hemispheric scale analyses;

(h) Strengthen linkages with European Union scientific programmes and infrastructures (for example, the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service and the European Research Infrastructure for the observation of Aerosol, Clouds and Trace Gases) with a focus on the development of common tools and regional assessments; develop joint activities with European and international organizations and conventions (for example, the European Environment Agency, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the World Meteorological Organization) to ensure synergies between regional and global scales, strengthening national activities;

(i) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by the EMEP Steering Body and the Executive Body.