

Twenty-ninth session of the Executive Body
Geneva, 12-16 December 2011, Item 12

Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum

- Brings together regional networks and agreements, plus governmental and non-governmental organizations with interests in cooperation on air pollution at regional, hemispheric and global scales.
- Supported by the Convention, other regional agreements and networks, UNEP, etc
- As well as meetings on cooperation on specific issues, has held workshops and developed manuals for developing regions.
- Publishes regular newsletters on regional activities (No.10 September 2011 made available to the Executive Body)

Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum

Informal document no.12

“Strengthening Cooperation with Regional Air Pollution Networks and Initiatives outside the Convention”

- Document prepared by the GAPPF secretariat
- Funding support provided by USEPA
- First part of a GAPPF review of inter-regional cooperation on air pollution
- Aims to give background information to the EB/Convention to assist the commitment for outreach and foster cooperation between regions (Action Plan for Long-term Strategy, Informal doc. 9, para. 12(a))

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The document:

- Summarizes information on existing regional networks and agreements, e.g. country membership, legal status, structures, current activities, existing links with the Convention;
- Considers issues such as information exchange, possible decision mechanisms for cooperation, efforts and resources required;
- Draws conclusions and makes recommendations.

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Conclusions and recommendations:

(xi) It is hoped the document will provide useful reference material for developing cooperation; for this, it needs to be widely circulated within the Convention (and outside by the GAP Forum) to enable omissions, errors and updates to be included. The EB may wish to charge its Bureau with considering further action.

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Conclusions and recommendations:

(vi) There is already scientific collaboration between several of the Convention’s scientific bodies and other regions; further encouragement should be, and has been, given by the EB (N.B. Action Plan, informal doc. 9, para 5(c)), but lead countries and other donors need to consider at an early point how to ensure that the necessary resources and funds are available.

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Conclusions and recommendations:

(viii) The Long-term Strategy indicates cooperation at the strategy/policy level will be pursued and the Action Plan indicates it will explore ways to foster this, para 12(a); such enhanced cooperation will probably require an initiative by the EB and/or its Bureau.

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Conclusions and recommendations:

(iv) Supports TF HTAP (and UNEP) proposal for a global “confederation” (or “alliance”) of regional networks; this could operate at a more formal/policy level than the GAP Forum; we suggest that the Convention opens discussions with UNEP on how this could be promoted. (N.B. Link to Action Plan, informal doc. 9, para. 10(d))

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Other conclusions and recommendations:

- (i) Challenges facing the Convention will increasingly require collaboration outside the UNECE region;
- (ii) Need to recognize different characters and stages of development of other networks in deciding objectives and collaboration processes.;
- (iii) Formal collaboration with other networks needs to be supplemented by – cooperation with individual countries on specific issues, and – open-ended collaboration with relevant scientific institutions and individuals around the world;
- (iv) Other international organizations, e.g. UNEP and WMO need to be kept in play;
- (v) Practical priorities for early consideration include – EMEP Monitoring sites in North Africa, and transfer assessment methodologies to developing regions.