FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIES AND REVIEW
Geneva, 11 –15 April 2011

(Unedited) draft conclusions adopted by the Working Group

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Working Group adopted the agenda of the meeting as set out in ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/103

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group adopted the report of its forty-seventh session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/102) with the following amendments:

(a) In paragraph 30, replace the second sentence to read: "The Working Group invited the Executive Body to provide guidance on potential revisions to the Gothenburg Protocol that would enable the Parties to mitigate black carbon as a component of particulate matter for health purposes while also achieving climate co-benefits";

(b) In paragraph 43 (b), replace "No. 13" with "No. 3";

(c) In paragraph 50 (b), replace words "in line with" with "in light of".

OPTIONS FOR REVISING THE GOTHENBURG PROTOCOL TO ABATE ACIDIFICATION, EUTROPHICATION AND GROUND-LEVEL OZONE

Technical annexes to the Gothenburg Protocol

The Working Group:

(a) Considered options for emission limit values in the draft revised technical annexes to the Gothenburg Protocol on the basis of documents ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2011/2, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2009/17–22, and the suggestions and related questions presented inter alia in informal documents No. 14-20, as well as additional information provided by the Expert Group on Techno-economic Instruments on costs, as contained in informal documents No. 9-12;

(b) Requested the secretariat to update and consolidate without delay documents ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2009/17-22 taking into account the submissions and subsequently accepted changes referred to above as a basis for further negotiations at its forty-ninth session in September 2011 and make them available as official documents on the Convention website well in advance of that session, in all three official languages of the UNECE;

(c) Invited Canada to provide the secretariat by the end of May 2011 updates for the technical annexes regarding the sections that apply to Canada, for incorporation to the above document;

(d) Invited Parties to the Convention to formulate their preferred options for revising the Gothenburg Protocol and its technical annexes that would facilitate their ratification and implementation, in advance of the forty-ninth session of the Working Group in September 2011;

Integrated Assessment Modelling

The Working Group:

(a) Considered information presented by the Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Head of Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling on five new scenarios (low, low*, mid, high* and high) for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol (as contained in the informal documents No. 4 and 8);

(b) Noted that in accordance with the baseline scenario developed by the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, considerable emission reductions and associated health and environment benefits were expected by 2020 in comparison to 2000, owing to the significant efforts made by Parties, stressing, however, that despite these cuts in emissions, air pollution remained a challenge and that, consequently, further steps were needed to come closer to meeting the long term objectives of the Gothenburg Protocol; Requested the Task Force and CIAM to compare the results of the GAINS model, which are based on projections made with PRIMES and CAPRI models, with analogous projections based on national data for those Parties that have provided them, and to discuss the results of the comparison at the fortieth meeting of the Task Force (in Oslo on 18-20 May 2011) prior to their presentation at the forty-ninth session of the Working Group in September 2011; Invited Parties to send additional information and questions to the Chair of the Task Force and the Head of CIAM by 6 May;

(c) Requested CIAM to further identify key measures and sectors with a view to presenting recommendations at the forty-ninth session of the Working Group in September 2011. Further requested CIAM to provide data for the year 1990 in addition to the estimates for 2000 (as contained in the informal document No. 8) and provide more information on the assumptions made in the road and off-road transport sections;

(d) Invited the Task Force to organize a workshop to provide technical assistance to the countries with economies in transition to explain the assumptions under the GAINS model and to further consider the key measures for these countries; Invited Parties to take part as well as to explore opportunities to financially support the organization of the workshop and the interpretation into Russian;

(e) The Working Group invited Parties to further analyze the feasibility of the scenarios presented by TFIAM and, to the extent possible, communicate the outcomes of this analysis to the secretariat before the forty-ninth session of the WGSR.

The text of the Gothenburg Protocol

The Working Group requested the secretariat to update for further negotiations at its forty-ninth session in September 2011 the document on options for revising the text of the Gothenburg Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2011/1), taking into account the proposals submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Ad-hoc Expert Group on Black Carbon for addressing black carbon, as a component of particulate matter, in the Gothenburg Protocol, (informal document No. 5) and reflecting the amendments to proposed at the session.

Annex I and Guidance document V to the Gothenburg Protocol

The Working Group:

(a) Further amended options for revising annex I on critical loads and levels and requested the secretariat to present a revised version of document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2011/5 for its forty-ninth session in September 2011; and

(b) Accepted the structure of the draft guidance document [No. V] on recovery of ecosystems and on environmental and health improvements as presented in (informal document No.2) while leaving open the question of whether the document is properly considered a guidance document and whether and how to refer to the document in the Protocol; and invited the Working Group on Effects to provide information on environmental improvements based on the scenarios provided by CIAM.

Annex IX to the Gothenburg Protocol

The Working Group:

(a) Considered the draft revised annex IX to the Gothenburg Protocol and noted the need for additional flexibility in the annex or in the main text of the Protocol (article 3.8) to facilitate the implementation of the proposed measures by the Parties; Invited Parties to provide suggestions on how to include flexibility into the obligations and restructure the annex accordingly to inform the further negotiations on amending the annex IX at its next session;

(b) Requested the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen to continue assessing information from all Parties of the Convention on the cost, effectiveness and applicability of the proposed measures for reducing ammonia emissions and invited CIAM to integrate this information to the extent possible into the GAINS model; Further requested the Task Force to report on progress at the forty-ninth session of the Working Group in September 2011;

(c) Made comments to the updated draft guidance document on control techniques for preventing and abating emissions of ammonia (informal document No. 7); and Requested the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen to produce a revised version of the draft for its forty-ninth session, in September 2011, taking into account the comments made; Requested, in particular that the Task Force more clearly and directly link the Guidance document and the measures set out in annex IX and make it more usable as a reference document for their practical implementation; Invited the

Parties to the Convention to provide specific guidance for the further revision of the draft Guidance document to the co-Chairs in advance of the next meeting of the Task Force (10-12 May 2011) ;

(d) Took note of the report on the "Nitrogen and Global Change" conference (Edinburgh, 11-15 April 2011); and invited the Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen to submit the Summary for policy makers of the European Nitrogen Assessment to its forty-ninth session, in September 2011 (as an informal document) with a view to being forwarded to the Executive Body in December 2011 (as an official document).

Procedural issues related to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol

The Working Group:

(a) Recalled the need for a formal proposal by a Party to amend the Protocol in accordance with article 13, and noted that in line with the advice provided by the Ad hoc group of legal experts on procedural requirements (Informal document No. 26) such proposal should be submitted to the secretariat as soon as possible but at any event no later than 12 August 2011;

(b) For the sake of clarity, recommended that the Parties to the Protocol should not renumber the annexes I-IX to the Gothenburg Protocol as part of the revision of the Protocol, but include the proposed limit values for emissions of dust or TSP from stationary sources into a new draft annex X; and those for VOC content of products into a new annex XI;

(c) Recommended that the Parties to the Protocol consider adopting the draft revised sections I to IV of the Guidance document on control techniques and economic instruments to the Gothenburg Protocol as separate Guidance documents to facilitate their future amendment; Invited the delegations to explore opportunities for funding the translation of the revised Guidance documents, into Russian (as a priority) and into French.

Guidance document on economic instruments to the Gothenburg Protocol

The Working Group invited the delegations to submit comments on the draft revised Guidance document on economic instruments prepared by the Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments (NEBEI) (informal document No. 25) to the delegation of the United Kingdom by mid-May 2011; and Invited NEBEI to present a finalized draft for the Working Group’s forty-ninth session reflecting the comments made.

OPTIONS FOR REVISING THE PROTOCOL ON HEAVY METALS

The Working Group

(a) Exchanged views on options for revising the Protocol on Heavy Metals, as presented in document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2011/4 and decided to continue related work under Heavy Metals Protocol at the forty-ninth session of the Working Group in September 2011, in accordance with the direction of the Executive Body at its twenty-eight session in 2010;

(b) Took note of the information provided by the Chair of the Task Force on Heavy Metals (Informal document No. 6), by an expert of the Netherlands concerning mercury emissions from coal fired power plants (Informal document No. 3) and by the delegation of Belarus (as included in the report of the session); and accepted the need to update annex V on emission limit values from major stationary sources in a manner consistent with those proposed in the Gothenburg Protocol but without this introducing further obstacles for ratifications;

(c) Accepted that the Protocol on Heavy Metals should be made more adaptable to future developments through the production of a guidance document on BAT extracted from annex III and updated as appropriate; Invited the Parties and the members of the Task Force on Heavy Metals to review the draft guidance document on BAT (as presented in informal document 7 to its forty-sixth session, in April 2010) and submit those comments no later than mid-July to the secretariat for it to compile them ; Invited the Chair of the Task Force to update the draft guidelines and to present the updated version to the Working Group at its forty-ninth session, in September 2011; Invited delegations to explore opportunities to finance the translation of the Guidance document into Russian, while reiterating the need for the secretariat to translate all working negotiating documents;

(d) Invited the countries with economies in transition, in advance to the forty-ninth session of the Working Group in September 2011, to formulate, to the extent possible, their positions on the available options for revising the Protocol on Heavy Metals that would facilitate their implementation and ratification of the Protocol.

(e) Noted the information provided by the Chair of the Task Force on Heavy Metals on the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument for mercury under UNEP (held in Japan, in January 2011); and stressed the need to continue to closely coordinate the regional and global efforts to address heavy metals.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

The Working Group:

(a) Welcomed the report on the first session of the Coordination Group held in St. Petersburg on 18 March 2011 (Informal document No. 21), and encouraged the Group to continue its efforts with a view to providing in advance of the Working Group's forty-ninth session in September 2011 clear preferences on the options for revising the Gothenburg and the Heavy Metal Protocol obligations that would make it possible for the countries with economies in transition to ratify and implement them;

(b) Acknowledged the important role of the Coordination Group for the countries in East-Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia chaired by the Russian Federation in promoting the ratification of the Protocols to the Convention and increasing the involvement of the countries in the activities of the Convention;

(c) Noted the three proposals for adding flexibility to the Gothenburg and Heavy Metal Protocols put forward by the Coordination Group, acknowledging that two

of them (related to the timescales for the application of the emission limit values and BAT; as well as to the base year) had already been reflected in the amendment proposals to the Gothenburg Protocol; Referred the discussion on the proposal to add flexibility with respect to the obligation to report emissions in article 7 of both Protocols to its forty-ninth session in September 2011;

(d) Encouraged the countries in Eastern-Europe the Caucasus and Central Asia and in South-Eastern Europe to continue their efforts to ratify and implement the three most recent protocols; and Urged Parties to consider funding these efforts and the secretariat to continue supporting them, including through ensuring the availability of the relevant documentation in Russian;

(e) Acknowledged the usefulness of the informal coordination meeting organized by the Hungarian EU-presidency prior to Working Group's forty-eight session and of the informal discussions chaired by the delegation of the United States during the session for exchanging information and for gaining further knowledge about how to best reduce the complexity of the obligations of the Gothenburg and Heavy Metal Protocols and to add flexibility into them with a view to facilitating their implementation by the countries with economies in transition; Recommended that similar informal discussions with interpretation be held also during the forty-ninth session;

(f) Requested the Coordinating Group to present proposed updates and additions to the Action Plan for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia at the forty-ninth session of the Working Group in September 2011;

(g) Supported the development and the implementation of a project for the harmonization of the systems and methods for assessing national emissions in place in the countries in Eastern-Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with those adopted under the Convention and based on the methodologies in the EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook; and

(h) Welcomed the joint initiative of the Russian Federation and the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues with regard to the emission reduction cost assessment for industrial sectors in the Russian Federation.