

"High-level awareness-raising meeting on the UNECE Air Convention and roundtable discussion on the analysis of national air quality regulatory framework and National Action Plan for ratification of the Convention's key protocols"

3 October 2018

Venue: "Holiday Inn Tbilisi", 1, 0171 Twentysix May Square, Tbilisi

The objectives of the meeting are as follows:

- Inform the national authorities of UNECE's work in the field of environmental governance, air pollution reduction and support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Raise the profile and awareness on UNECE Air Convention and the benefits of joining the protocols;
- Increase the visibility of activities under the Air Convention's assistance programme for EECCA region;
- Increase the visibility of the progress made by the country in implementing the Convention;
- Advise the country on aligning national legislation with the provisions of the Protocols and determine next steps for ratification.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

9.30 - 10.00	<i>Registration</i>
10.00 – 10.30	<p><i>Opening and welcoming statements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Levan Davitashvili – Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</i> • <i>Mr. Marco Keiner - Director, Environment Division, UNECE</i> • <i>Mr. Carlo Natale - Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Georgia</i> • <i>Ms. Nino Tandilashvili - Deputy Minister of Environment protection and Agriculture of Georgia - Chair of the meeting</i>
Session 1	Introduction to UNECE and its Air Convention
10:30 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>UNECE's activities in support of the 2030 Agenda on strengthening environmental governance and air pollution reduction - Mr. Marco Keiner - Director, Environment Division, UNECE;</i> • <i>UNECE's support to target countries in the implementation of ECE multilateral environmental agreements and promotion of the ratification process - Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa - Regional Adviser on Environment, UNECE;</i>
11:15 - 11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
	Continuation of Session 1
11:45 –12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Air Convention – a tool to combat air pollution - Ms. Anna Engleryd – The Chair of the Executive Body for the CLRTAP;</i> • <i>Activities under the assistance programme to promote ratification and implementation in EECCA region - Ms. Ketevan Kordzakhia - CLRTAP secretariat, UNECE;</i> • <i>Q&A followed by discussion</i>

<i>12:30 - 13:30</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>
Session 2	Implementation of the Air Convention
13:30 –15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Progress towards the implementation of the Convention and challenges and opportunities for the ratification of the protocols and on the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA) initiative - Mr. Noe Megrelishvili, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia;</i> • <i>Experience in the ratification and implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol - Mr. Ivan Angelov – Ministry of Environment and water of Bulgaria;</i> • <i>Gap-analysis of national air quality management policy and regulatory framework in relation with the requirements of the Air Convention and its key protocols - Ms. Olga Melnicenko - Expert, UNECE;</i> • <i>Q&A followed by discussion</i>
<i>15:30 - 16:00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
Session 3	Steps forward to ratification of the Protocols
16:00 –17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cost-benefit analysis/recommendations on the “best” scenario option for country of joining the Convention’s key protocols (Gothenburg Protocol, the Protocols on Heavy Metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)) - Mr. Arturs Caune, Expert, UNECE;</i> • <i>Funding opportunities to support a sustainable development, including reduction of air pollution - Mr. Alexandre Darras, EU Delegation to Georgia;</i> • <i>Discussion on further steps and National Action Plan for ratification of the Conventions’ key Protocols - Ms. Olga Melnicenko - Expert, UNECE;</i> • <i>Q&A followed by discussion</i>
17:30-17:45	<i>Wrap up and conclusions – Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister</i>