



40 years of success: The UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution



CLRTAP – the oldest multilateral environmental treaty



- Signed in Geneva in 1979, entered into force in 1983
- Dealing with air pollution on a broad regional basis
- 8 Protocols to complete the framework Convention
- Emission reduction targets for several pollutants
- Close cooperation between science and policy
- Multi-pollutant, multi-effect
- Effect based approach



Areas of work

ENVIRONMENT



- Policy: international agreement setting emission reduction targets
- Science underpinning policy:
 - The Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects
- Compliance monitoring
- Capacity-building and awareness raising

Results

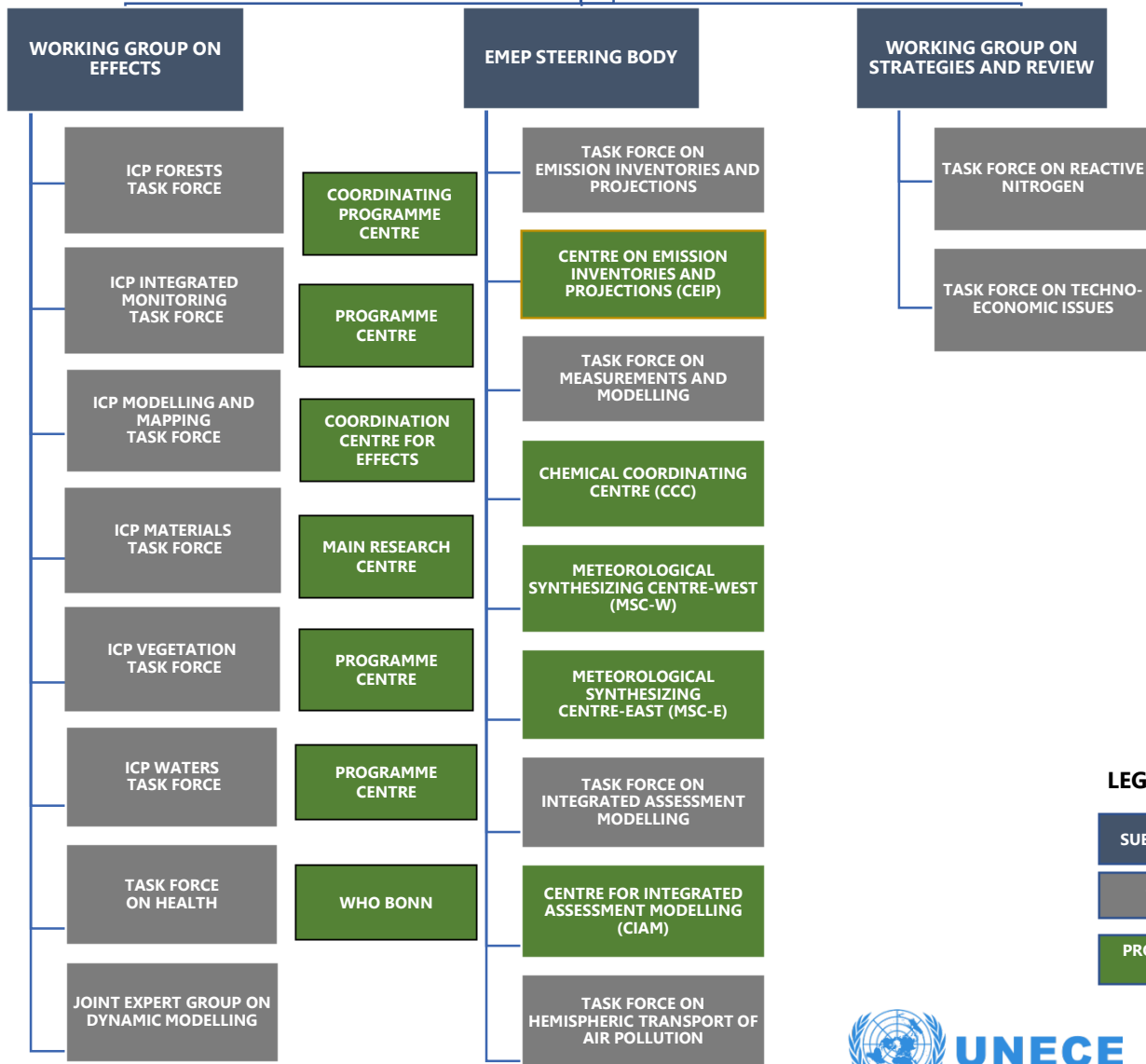
ENVIRONMENT

- Significant emission reductions since 1990 (sulphur: ~ 70%, nitrogen oxides: ~ 50%)
- Decoupling of economic growth and air pollution trends
- **600,000 premature deaths avoided annually**
- Average life expectancy is today 12 months more than in a hypothetical unabated world.
- Acidification halted in most parts of Europe
- Recovery of forest soils and lakes



EXECUTIVE BODY

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE



LEGEND:

- SUBSIDIARY BODIES
- TASK FORCES
- PROGRAMME/EMEP CENTRES



Science bodies: EMEP

ENVIRONMENT



- **Objectives:** atmospheric monitoring and modeling; emission inventories and emission projections; integrated assessment
- **Structure:** EMEP Steering Body, Bureau, 5 programme centres and 4 task forces
- **Financing:** EMEP protocol (mandatory contributions) and voluntary contributions by Parties to the Convention (in cash or in-kind)

Science bodies: WGE

ENVIRONMENT



- **Objectives:** impacts of major air pollutants on human health and the environment
- **Structure:** WGE, Bureau, 6 International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs), TF Health and Joint Expert Group
- **Financing:** Voluntary contributions by Parties to the Convention (in cash or in-kind)

Policy bodies: EB



- **Objectives:** decision-making body for the Convention
- **Structure:** EB, all subsidiary bodies of the Convention report to the EB
- **Financing:** Voluntary contributions by Parties to the Convention (in cash or in-kind)

Policy bodies: WGSR



- **Objectives:** negotiating body for the Convention
- **Structure:** WGSR, currently 2 Task Forces formally report
- **Financing:** Voluntary contributions by Parties to the Convention (in cash or in-kind)



- Exchange of experiences on strategies, policies and measures
 - 2016 Scientific Assessment Report (SAR)
 - Policy response to the SAR
 - Updated long-term strategy for the Convention
 - Upcoming review of the Gothenburg Protocol
- Broadening Cooperation
 - Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution
 - Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative
- Emission Limit Values and guidance documents
- Outreach and cooperation across scales: local, national, regional, global



Capacity building

ENVIRONMENT



Activities: Roundtable discussions on national legislation analyses and workshops on the development of national emission inventories in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

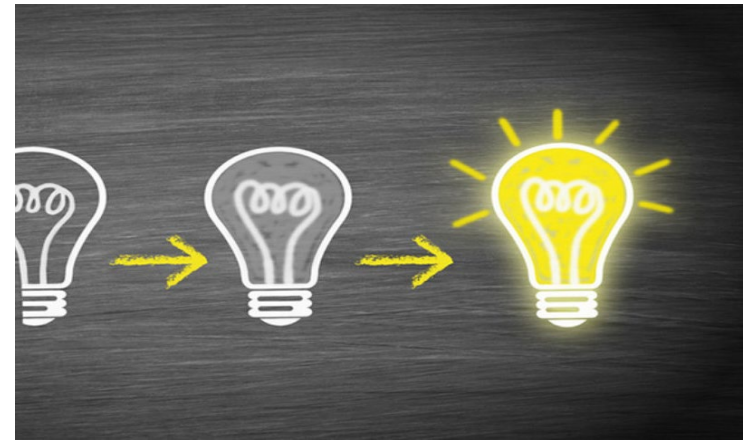
Results: Progress in emissions reporting and improved quality and completeness of reporting

Lessons learned

ENVIRONMENT



- Science-policy interface: development over time – key success
- Strong expert network
- Financing: mix of mandatory and voluntary cash and in-kind contributions
- Guidance to Parties
- Exchange of experiences
- Capacity building to create level-playing field



UNECE



Priorities ahead

ENVIRONMENT



- Air pollution has been recognized as a problem at the global level
- Remaining pollution issues: ground-level ozone, particulate matter
- Cooperation across the scales needed – local, national, regional, global
- Cooperation with organizations and networks beyond the UNECE region
- Lessons learnt from the Convention to contribute to solutions around the globe





Thank you!

<http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/welcome.html>

