



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2021

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range
Transboundary Air Pollution

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fifty-ninth session

Geneva, 18–21 May 2021

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Draft 2022–2023 workplan

Draft 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention: policy-related aspects and elements

Summary

The current document sets out activities proposed for inclusion in the policy section of the draft 2022–2023 workplan based on the vision and strategic priorities outlined in the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2, decision 2018/5, annex). It was compiled by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the secretariat with input from the Task force on Techno-economic Issues, the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling. The workplan will be considered and adopted by the Executive Body at its session in December 2021.



I. Introduction

1. The biennial workplan for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution translates the vision and strategic priorities set out in the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2, decision 2018/5, annex) into a list of activities to be implemented by respective bodies under the Convention during the period 2022–2023. Its structure is built on five main areas of work: science; policy; compliance; capacity-building and awareness raising to promote ratification and implementation; and communication, outreach and cooperation. During the biennium the task forces and centres under the Convention will carry out the activities in accordance with their revised mandates adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions (Geneva, 10–14 December 2018 and 9–13 December 2019, respectively). The workplan contains additional activities of the task forces and centres, not mentioned in the mandates. The workplan will be considered and adopted by the Executive Body at its session in December 2021.

2. The current document sets out activities proposed for inclusion in the policy section of the draft 2022–2023 workplan for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-ninth session. The document was compiled by the Chair of the Working Group and the secretariat with input from the Task force on Techno-economic Issues, the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling.

II. Policy-related aspects and elements of the draft 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

3. In line with the priorities set out in the long-term strategy for the Convention, the policy-related work in the period 2022–2023 will *inter alia* aim to support increased ratification and implementation of the three most recent protocols as amended (i.e., the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants) throughout the ECE region, with a particular emphasis on the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. It will also continue to focus on the pollutants best controlled at the regional level and consider the need for further action to address emerging issues, including particulate matter and its precursors, black carbon as a component of particulate matter, tropospheric ozone and its precursors, eutrophying pollution with a focus on ammonia and, where still needed, acidifying pollution. An integrated approach for environmental policymaking will be sought that includes interaction between ground level ozone, nitrogen, climate change and ecosystems; integrated nitrogen management; and co-benefits and interactions between air pollution and climate change policies.

4. Policy work will also support the completion of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended and consideration of the need for any future update of the Protocol. The Working Group on Strategies and Review is expected to continue policy conversations on the hemispheric transport of ozone and particulate matter and their precursors, including a discussion of control strategies to recommend for use by the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution in future scenarios. Specific policy related activities in the 2022–2023 period are presented in the table below.

<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
2.1.	Exchange information on national, subregional and regional policies and strategies for the control of major air pollutants, in accordance with article 8 of the Convention and the protocols to the Convention. Provide a platform for sharing information on progress and challenges faced by countries in acceding to and implementing the Convention's three latest protocols.	(a) Information on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement throughout the ECE region, including information on measures shared at the sessions of the Working Group, following Executive Body decision 2016/3	Secretariat	
		(b) Recommendations to the Executive Body on strengthening the ratification of the protocols	WGSR	
		(c) Session on barriers to ratification and implementation	WGSR, EECCA Coordinating Group	
2.2	Review of the sufficiency and effectiveness of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended	Input provided to support the review	WGSR, TFIAM, TFTEI, TFRN and scientific bodies	
		Final report on the review submitted to the Executive Body	WGSR	
2.3	Policy discussions on reporting of condensable part in emissions of particulate matter	Recommendations provided to the Executive Body	WGSR	
2.4	Encourage ratification of the key Protocols to the Convention, in particular the Gothenburg Protocol, through demonstrating the costs of inaction on air pollution	The report for policymakers on the costs of inaction on air pollution submitted to the Executive Body for adoption	TFIAM, TFTEI	

<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
2.5	Promotion of multiscale modelling for formulating effective measures and policies	Policy brief on multilevel governance	TFIAM	Funding needed
2.6	Analysis of the interactions between ammonia emission and methane emissions and the potential for their co-mitigation from agricultural sources	Guidance document and policy brief	TFRN in cooperation with other bodies	EUR 50,000, subject to co-funding
2.7	Promotion of the Guidance document on integrated sustainable nitrogen management	Workshops with further analysis	TFRN	EUR 50,000, subject to co-funding
2.8	Discuss control strategies to recommend for use by the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution in future scenarios	Development of policy questions; recommendations on priority sectors for analysis	WGSR, TFHTAP, TFIAM	
2.9	Discuss hemispheric transport to further inform the review of the Gothenburg Protocol	Policy discussions in the framework of the WGSR; related recommendations made to the Executive Body	WGSR	

Abbreviations: EECCA Coordinating Group= Coordinating group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; TFIAM = Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling; TFHTAP = Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution; TFRN = Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen; TFTEI = Task Force on Techno-economic Issues; WGSR = Working Group on Strategies and Review.