



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 February 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 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session

To be held as a hybrid session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 May 2021*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-eighth session of the Working Group.
3. Progress in the implementation of the 2020–2021 workplan.
4. Review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.
5. Draft 2022–2023 workplan.
6. Reporting of condensable part in emissions of particulate matter.
7. Information-sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures;

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates attending the meeting are therefore requested to register online, **by 3 May 2021**, through the relevant link, which is available on the meeting web page:

<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-strategies-and-review-fifty-ninth-session>. Please find further information on in-person attendance and related restrictions on the meeting web page.

This will be a paperless meeting. All the documentation for the session and related information will be posted on the meeting web page. Delegates should bring copies of any documentation they will require. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit at the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>. In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat at +41 22 917 3570.



- (b) Implementation of commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative.
- 8. Broader geographic cooperation on air pollution.
- 9. Amendments to the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body.
- 10. Election of officers.
- 11. Other business.
- 12. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 18 May, 1–1.10 p.m.

1. The Working Group on Strategies and Review under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution will be invited to adopt its agenda, as contained in the present document.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/125)

2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-eighth session of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 18 May, 1.10–1.20 p.m.

2. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fifty-eighth session (Geneva, 14, 15 and 17 December 2020).

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-eighth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/124)

3. Progress in the implementation of the 2020–2021 workplan

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 18 May, 1.20–3 p.m., and 4–4.15 p.m.

3. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling will present progress in implementing the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.2). The Working Group may wish to take note of the reports.

4. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues will present the draft guidance document on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning (item 2.2.2 of the workplan). A final draft, incorporating any comments of the Working Group, will be submitted to the Executive Body for consideration and adoption at its session in December 2021.

5. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling will present the following documents for consideration by the Working Group:

¹ All documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review can be found on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website:
<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-strategies-and-review-fifty-ninth-session>.

(a) Prioritizing reductions of particulate matter from sources that are also significant sources of black carbon – analysis and guidance (item 2.2.1 of the workplan);

(b) The assessment report on ammonia (item 1.1.3.3) prepared in cooperation with the Task Force on Measurement and Modelling and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen; and

(c) The report on the costs of inaction on air pollution (item 2.1.7) prepared in cooperation with the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues. The final drafts, incorporating any comments of the Working Group, will be submitted to the Executive Body for consideration and adoption at its session in December 2021.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2021/1)

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2021/2)

Draft guidance document on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2021/5)

Prioritizing reductions of particulate matter from sources that are also significant sources of black carbon – analysis and guidance (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2021/8)

Assessment report on ammonia (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2021/7) and its annexes (informal document No.1)

Document on costs of inaction on air pollution (informal document No. 2)

4. Review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 18 May, 4.15–6 p.m., and Wednesday, 19 May, 1–3 p.m. and 4–5 p.m.

6. At its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019), the Executive Body decided to initiate the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (the Gothenburg Protocol) as amended in 2012. At its fortieth session (Geneva, 18 December 2020), the Executive Body adopted decision 2020/2 on the plan for undertaking the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (ECE/EB.AIR/146, annex II). In operative paragraph 2 of this decision, it requested that the Convention’s subsidiary bodies consider the tasks contained in annex I to the document “Preparations for the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone as amended in 2012” (ECE/EB.AIR/2020/3–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2020/3) to be carried out to support the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, and also requested that implicated bodies submit to the secretariat, by 1 February 2021, timelines for completion and initial input, and that any further input from implicated bodies, in consideration of the tasks in annex I to the above-mentioned document, be submitted as informal documents for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-ninth session.

7. The Executive Body further requested the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to compile the inputs and information received into an annotated outline, to undertake the policy-related work of the review, including assessing the policy implications of the information received, and to elaborate and prepare the report of the review, including its conclusions (decision 2020/2, operative para. 4). The Working Group will be invited to consider the annotated outline of the report on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012.

8. The Executive Body also requested the Working Group to continue to develop the evaluations required by article 10 (3) and (4) of the Gothenburg Protocol relating to black carbon emissions and ammonia control measures, as part of the broader review process, and invited Parties to submit comments on the informal documents “Considerations for ammonia relevant to future review of the Gothenburg Protocol” and “Draft guidance document on

prioritizing reductions of particulate matter so as to also achieve reduction of black carbon” as well as any additional views by 1 February 2021 (decision 2020/2, operative paras. 6 and 7). The Working Group will be invited to consider any further input to develop the evaluations required by the Protocol, which will be included in the annotated outline referred to in paragraph 7 above.

Documentation

Draft annotated outline of the report on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2021/4)

Prioritizing reductions of particulate matter that are also significant sources of black carbon - analysis and guidance (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2021/8)

Assessment report on ammonia (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2021/7) and its annexes (informal document No.1)

5. Draft 2022–2023 workplan

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 19 May, 5–6 p.m.

9. The Working Group will be invited to discuss policy-related aspects and elements of the draft 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention that will be presented for adoption by the Executive Body at its session in December 2021. The Working Group will be invited to take into account the activities proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Task Forces on Reactive Nitrogen, Techno-economic Issues and Integrated Assessment Modelling, as included in the draft 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention: policy-related aspects and elements, the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2, decision 2018/5, annex), and relevant decisions by the Executive Body, including with regard to information-sharing on policies, strategies and measures (decisions 2013/2 (see ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1) and 2016/3 (see ECE/EB.AIR/137, annex I).

Documentation

Draft 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention: policy-related aspects and elements (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2021/3)

6. Reporting of condensable part in emissions of particulate matter

Tentative timing: Thursday, 20 May, 1–1.45 p.m.

10. The Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session requested the Working Group to discuss the policy implications of reporting of the condensable part in particulate matter emissions (ECE/EB.AIR/144, para. 22 (h)). Item 2.1.10 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention includes a policy discussion on condensables reporting, in particular regarding the residential heating sector. At its fifty-eighth session, the Working Group began discussing the policy implications of reporting of the condensable part in particulate matter emissions and decided to continue the discussion at its fifty-ninth session.

7. Information-sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

11. Regular exchange of information is stipulated under article 8 of the Convention. At its thirty-second session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2013), the Executive Body decided that the Working Group on Strategies and Review would continue to devote time each year to policy discussions related to the design and implementation of different regulatory, voluntary, economic or other measures relating to air pollution (see decision 2013/2). At its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15 and 16 December 2016), the Executive Body adopted a further decision on improving the effectiveness of reporting on strategies, policies and other

measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols (see decision 2016/3). Under item 2.1.1 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, the secretariat is tasked with collecting and displaying information on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region shared at the sessions of the Working Group following decision 2016/3. Under the same item, the Working Group is tasked with providing recommendations to the Executive Body on strengthening the ratification of the Protocols.

(a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures

Tentative timing: Thursday, 20 May, 1.45–3 p.m., and Friday, 21 May, 1–2.15 p.m.

12. The Working Group will be invited to 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, including exchanging experiences and best practices on policies, strategies and measures to implement the Convention's Protocols and their amendments.

13. In accordance with Executive Body decision 2013/2, the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review are considered the format for reporting on strategies, policies and measures referenced in article 5 (1) of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, article 7 (2) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9 (2) of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7 (2) of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). Moreover, Parties to the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes and the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes may utilize the time set aside during the annual session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to report on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies and measures to implement their respective obligations under article 8 (1) of the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes and article 8 (2) of the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes.

14. At its thirty-sixth session, the Executive Body reviewed the effectiveness of decision 2013/2 and decided that the period for reporting the information referred to in article 5 (1) (a) of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, article 7 (1) (a) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9 (1) (a) of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7 (1) (a) of the Gothenburg Protocol was at least once every four years. It furthermore invited other States and organizations referred to in article 14 (1) of the Convention that were not Parties to those four Protocols to provide information on strategies, policies and measures to abate air pollution at the sessions of the Working Group (decision 2016/3, operative paras. 4 and 5).

15. Representatives of Parties and other States are invited to submit their completed reporting templates in advance of the session and to present their experiences and best practices regarding policies, strategies and specific measures to implement their obligations under any of the Protocols to the Convention at the session. This invitation is extended in particular to Parties and other States that have not previously presented their experiences and best practices. Representatives of countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia are specifically invited to share their lessons learned and best practices related to the introduction of abatement measures. An overview of reporting by countries of experiences and challenges related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review has been made available by the secretariat on the Convention website.²

² See <https://unece.org/strategies-and-policies-abatement-air-pollution>.

(b) Implementation of commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative

Tentative timing: Friday, 21 May, 2.15–2.45 p.m.

16. The Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative was endorsed at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016). The Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session encouraged Parties to report regularly on progress in implementing their voluntary commitments under the initiative within the sessions of the Working Group (ECE/EB.AIR/140, para. 29) and provided for such reporting in the 2020–2021 workplan (item 2.1.1). Delegations will be invited to share information on the submission of new commitments and the implementation of existing ones.

8. Broader geographic cooperation on air pollution

Tentative timing: Thursday, 20 May, 4–4.45 p.m.

17. At its thirty-ninth session, the Executive Body adopted decision 2019/5 on the establishment of the forum for international cooperation on air pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.1). In accordance with item 2.1.5 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, the Working Group will be invited to discuss the next steps on broader geographic cooperation on air pollution, including the role for the Convention and for the forum. The Working Group will take note of the outcomes of the discussions of the Executive Body Bureau on the forum and its draft terms of reference developed in line with the comments made at the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body on the proposal regarding the forum (ECE/EB.AIR/144, annex I) and further views submitted by Parties.

Documentation

Draft terms of reference of the forum for international cooperation on air pollution (informal document No. 3)

9. Amendments to the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body

Tentative timing: Thursday, 20 May, 4.45–5.30 p.m.

18. Following the request of the Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session, the Working Group is invited to discuss possible amendments to the rules of procedure for the Executive Body (as adopted by decision 2010/19 (see ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1) and amended by decision 2013/1 (see ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1)). The discussion will be informed by proposals that Parties were invited to submit by 15 March 2020 to the secretariat (ECE/EB.AIR/144, para. 57 (a) and (b)). The Working Group will report back to the Executive Body at its forty-first session.

Documentation

Compilation of proposals by Parties for amendments to the rules of procedure for the Executive Body (informal document No. 4)

10. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Thursday, 20 May, 5.30–6 p.m.

19. The Working Group is expected to elect its Vice-Chairs for 2021–2022. At its fifty-sixth session (Geneva, 22–25 May 2018), the Working Group re-elected Mr. Till Spranger (Germany), Mr. Ivan Angelov (Bulgaria), and elected Ms. Dominique Pritula (Canada) as Vice-Chairs for the period 2019–2020 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/120, para. 33). At its fifty-eighth session, the Working Group decided on an exceptional basis to defer the elections of its Vice-Chairs.

11. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 21 May, 2.45–3 p.m.

20. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this agenda item. Parties wishing to propose any other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

12. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Friday, 21 May, 4–6 p.m.

21. The Working Group is expected to adopt its conclusions and recommendations agreed during the session. The draft report of the session, reflecting these conclusions and recommendations, will be finalized by the secretariat following the session. The report will be presented for adoption at the Working Group's sixtieth session.
