



Joint Canada-United States submission for the outline of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol

Decision 2020/2 requests that the Convention's subsidiary bodies consider the tasks contained in Annex I of the Preparatory Document to be carried out to support the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), and requests implicated bodies to submit timelines for completion and initial input by February 1, 2021. Canada and the United States are pleased to also take this opportunity and submit the information below

Canada and the United States have ratified the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol (in December 1999 and December 2018 for the United States and Canada respectively) and its 2012 amendments (in January 2017 and November 2017 for the United States and Canada respectively), and have, upon ratification, submitted their respective emission reduction commitments to annex II and relevant emission limit values into annexes IV, V, VI, VIII, X and XI. Canada and the United States have a long history of bilateral cooperation on transboundary air pollution through the 1991 Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement (AQA). The two countries plan to undertake a review of the effectiveness of the AQA in terms of meeting its environmental objectives as well as its sufficiency in addressing transboundary air pollution. The scope and content of the review are being finalized. It is expected to focus on issues covered by the AQA including acid rain and ozone and their transboundary impacts, while discussions are underway on how and whether to address fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), as well as other appropriate additional topics. Although the work schedule for the review of the AQA is not yet confirmed, it is expected to begin in the first half of 2021, with a tentative completion date in 2022.

Ammonia is not covered by the AQA, but it is also of concern in Canada and the United States as atmospheric ammonia is a key precursor to the formation of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and contributes to acid deposition and eutrophication. Additional assessments are needed to quantify the impacts. Discussions are ongoing.