



# Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution

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FICAP or 'The Forum'

# Background

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- As part of the 38th session of the Executive Body in 2018, a global event on clean air was held where representatives of countries, organizations and networks from different regions participated.
- Following this event, the Executive Body agreed to establish a forum for collaboration on reducing air pollution and requested the Bureau of the Executive Body to further elaborate this proposal.
- The forum for international Cooperation on Air Pollution was established by Executive Body decision 2019/5.

# Purpose

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- The purpose is to provide a forum for international exchange of information and mutual learning on both the scientific/technical and policy levels, to help address the threat to human health and ecosystems from air pollution.
- It is intended to be a repository for technical information and a convenor of countries and organizations with the goal of increased international cooperation on addressing air pollution.

# Possible activities of the Forum

*The informal document number 4, of the Thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body in 2019 outlined the following possible activities:*

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## Information sharing on policy

1. Providing a platform to exchange information and views on addressing air pollution and raise awareness of its health and environmental impacts;
2. Providing an overview of international policy initiatives in the air pollution field and summarize the state of international efforts to address air pollution;
3. Seeking connections with relevant organizations or bodies involved in practical efforts to reduce air pollution;
4. Sharing experiences on regional cooperation, including the UNECE Air Convention's multilateral regional structure and framework as a model for other regions;
5. Promoting tools such as the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air;
6. Promoting an integrated approach for the management of air quality and other environmental issues to achieve multiple benefits and coordinating to that end with relevant organizations as appropriate;
7. Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution in existing or future networks;

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## Information sharing on science

8. Facilitating access to scientific information, for example online databases for best available control technologies;
9. Encouraging sharing information related to international transport and global emissions of air pollution and their impacts on ecosystems and human health;
10. Helping to establish contacts for science cooperation (for example, to share lessons learned with harmonized handbooks, monitoring methods, risk assessment and evaluation of the effectiveness and benefits of air pollution reductions on health and the environment, and targeted “hands-on” training workshops) and possibly adaptation of UNECE Air Convention tools for other geographic scopes or activities;

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## Technical capacity building and information sharing on funding opportunities

11. Reaching out to funding organizations and providing a platform for information sharing on funding opportunities for country participants and other organizations;
12. Providing a platform for information sharing on available capacity-building and training opportunities;
13. Sharing experience and information that could inform the development of action plans for addressing air pollution, including in urban centres;
14. Promoting an evidence-based approach to air quality management, including related to the development of emission inventories and the communication of health and ecosystem impacts to the public.

# Next steps

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- Identify countries willing to lead the forum – United Kingdom and Sweden confirmed
- With feedback from WGSR, develop a mandate for consideration by the Executive Body at its 41st session in December 2021.
- Reach out to more globally focussed organizations, NGOs and stakeholders to explore possible synergies in activities and facilitate sharing of information and expertise developed in CLRTAP.

# Shaping our proposal

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- We propose to establish the forum as a Task Force under the Working Group on Strategies and Review.
- Our initial thinking is that the Forum's aims could be delivered through two core activities; provision of an annual event and delivery of a form of communications plan.
- Possible additional options: newsletter and events timeline



# Questions for discussion at WGSR 59

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1. Do parties agree with the forum being set up as a Task Force? If yes, is it best placed under the WGSR? Other views?
2. Do the purpose, vision and mission, structure and operation as set out in inf document no 4 still seem appropriate?
3. The co-chairs consider the provision of an annual event and communications package to be important for delivering the forum. Do parties have any views on delivering the forum which the UK and Sweden should consider in developing the forum?
4. Are there any activities in terms of information sharing on policy or science or technical capacity building and sharing of funding opportunities listed in inf document no 4, that parties would now not like to see the forum undertake?
5. Do parties have views on how to best reach out to non-UNECE countries and organisations, and are there specific countries and organisations that should be targeted for participation in the forum?