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Economic Commission for Europe

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

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Sixtieth session

Geneva, 11–14 April 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixtieth session

To be held as a hybrid session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 11 a.m. on Monday, 11 April 2022*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the fifty-ninth session of the Working Group.
3. Progress in the implementation of the 2022–2023 workplan.
4. Review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone:
 - (a) Preparation of the draft report on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol;
 - (b) Flexibilities and barriers to ratification;
 - (c) Synergies with other policy areas;
 - (d) Development of emission scenarios, including for regions outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, to explore the mitigation potential;

* Delegates attending the meeting are requested to register online, **by 25 March 2022**, through the relevant link, which is available on the meeting web page: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-strategies-and-review-sixtieth-session>. There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic restrictions, only a limited number of delegates can attend the session in-person. This will be a paperless meeting. All documentation for the session and related information will be posted on the meeting web page. Delegates should bring copies of any documentation they may 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.



- (e) Emission limit values, technical annexes and guidance documents of the Protocol;
 - (f) Policy implications of reporting of the condensable part in particulate matter.
5. Information-sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention.
 6. Financial requirements for implementation of the Convention.
 7. Review of the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body.
 8. Other business.
 9. Adoption of the draft report on the sixtieth session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 April, morning

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.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixtieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/127)

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

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 April, morning

2. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fifty-ninth session (Geneva, 18–21 May 2021).

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-ninth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/126)

3. Progress in the implementation of the 2022–2023 workplan

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 April, morning and afternoon

3. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Task Force on International Cooperation on Air Pollution will present progress and plans to implement the 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/148/Add.1, forthcoming). The Working Group may wish to take note of the reports.

4. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling will present for consideration by the Working Group the report on the costs of inaction on air pollution (item 2.1.5) prepared in cooperation with the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues. The final draft, incorporating any comments of the Working Group, will be submitted to the Executive Body for consideration at its forty-second session (Geneva, 12–16 December 2022, tentatively).

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/1)

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/2)

Cost of inaction (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/4)

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

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 April, afternoon, Tuesday, 12 April, and Wednesday, 13 April, morning and afternoon

5. At its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019), the Executive Body initiated the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (the Gothenburg Protocol) as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.1, decision 2019/4). 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).

(a) Preparation of the draft report on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol

6. The Executive Body welcomed the initial draft of the report on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/4) at its forty-first session (Geneva, 6–8 December 2021). The draft report was prepared by the Gothenburg Protocol Review Group, convened by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, with inputs provided by subsidiary bodies under the Convention. The Executive Body agreed that work should continue in accordance with decision 2020/2 with the aim of finalizing the review and submitting its conclusions to the Executive Body at its forty-second session for consideration of next steps. The Executive Body requested that the Gothenburg Protocol Review Group revise the draft report based on comments received from Parties by 10 December 2021 and other inputs and submit it for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its sixtieth session. The Working Group is invited to consider the revised draft report on the review.

(b) Flexibilities and barriers to ratification

7. The Working Group discussed at its fifty-ninth session the informal document entitled “Overview and review of flexibilities in the amended Gothenburg Protocol” prepared by the Gothenburg Protocol Review Group and invited delegations of Parties and non-Parties to the Protocol to submit comments on the document. The Working Group agreed that an official document should be prepared based on the comments submitted for consideration at its sixtieth session. The Working Group requested the Gothenburg Protocol Review Group to develop and circulate through the secretariat a questionnaire among Parties and non-Parties to answer the questions on flexibilities, responses to which would be anonymized. The Working Group also agreed to discuss barriers identified by Parties to meeting the 2020 emission reduction obligations during, or in conjunction with, its sixtieth session in order to provide input to the report on the review, and invited delegations to submit relevant information to the secretariat.¹ The Working Group is invited to consider the document entitled “Review of the flexibility provisions to facilitate ratification and implementation” prepared by the Gothenburg Protocol Review Group. This document will support preparations for the thematic session on flexibilities and barriers to ratification. At its forty-first session, the Executive Body highlighted the importance of holding this thematic session in person.

(c) Synergies with other policy areas

8. At its forty-first session, the Executive Body endorsed the request of the Working Group on Strategies and Review for the Gothenburg Protocol Review Group, in cooperation with the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling, to prepare an informal document on synergies with other policy areas, in particular air-climate synergies, for consideration by the Working Group at its sixtieth session, and to inform consideration of methane in a future

¹ ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/126, paras. 21 and 23–24.

instrument, and requested that the pollutants covered in the informal document should include methane, black carbon and nitrogen compounds.² The Working Group is thus invited to consider the informal document on synergies and interactions with other policy areas.

(d) Development of emission scenarios, including for regions outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, to explore the mitigation potential

9. At its fifty-ninth session, the Working Group recommended that the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, with the support of the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling, and the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, begin discussions on the development of air pollution control policy scenarios, including the impact of emission control strategies outside the ECE region, for use in regional and global modelling, inter alia, by the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution in exploring mitigation potential for ozone and particulate matter precursors. It also recommended that the potential scenarios be assessed by the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects. The Working Group on Strategies and Review requested the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling to report on progress to the Working Group at its sixtieth session to inform its future policy discussions and enable it to make recommendations on priority emission sectors and regions for future modelling work at a later stage.³ The Working Group is invited to take note of the information to be presented by the task forces.

(e) Emission limit values, technical annexes and guidance documents of the Protocol

10. The Working Group agreed at its fifty-ninth session to discuss emission limit values, technical annexes and related guidance documents of the Protocol, with priority given to black carbon and ammonia measures at its sixtieth session in order to provide input to the report on the review and invited delegations to submit relevant information to the secretariat.⁴ The Task Force on Techno-economic Issues will present the result of its analysis of annexes IV–VI, VIII, X and XI to the Protocol, as amended, and their associated guidance documents (informal document No. 2) to identify the emission limit values and other technical requirements in the technical annexes that could potentially be updated as a consequence of the evolution of technology since 2012. The Working Group is invited to consider the results of the analysis.

(f) Policy implications of reporting of the condensable part in particulate matter

11. At its fifty-ninth session, the Working Group also agreed to continue the discussion on policy implications of reporting of the condensable part in particulate matter at its sixtieth session.⁵ The Working Group is invited to consider the brief note prepared by the EMEP Steering Body Chair and the ad hoc group of experts on condensables to support its discussions (informal document No. 3).

Documentation

Draft report on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/3)

Review of the flexibility provisions to facilitate ratification and implementation (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/5)

Synergies and interactions with other policy areas (informal document No. 1)

Review of annexes IV–VI, VIII, X and XI to the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended, and new information for the associated guidance documents (informal document No. 2)

² *ibid.*, para. 25.

³ *ibid.*, paras. 16–17.

⁴ *ibid.*, para. 22.

⁵ *ibid.*, para. 32.

Note on the progress in the implementation of the science road map on condensables (informal document No. 3)

Compilation of responses to the questionnaire to support the review of the flexibilities in the amended Gothenburg Protocol (informal document No. 4)

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

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 13 April, afternoon

12. Regular exchange of information on air pollution-related policies and strategies 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.⁶ In accordance with Executive Body decision 2013/2,⁷ 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 Gothenburg Protocol. Moreover, Parties to the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (the Protocol on NO_x) and the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (the Protocol on VOCs) may utilize the time set aside during the annual session of the Working Group to report on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies and measures to implement their respective obligations under article 8 (1) of the Protocol on NO_x and article 8 (2) of the Protocol on VOCs.

13. At its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15 and 16 December 2016), the Executive Body adopted decision 2016/3 on improving the effectiveness of reporting on strategies, policies and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols.⁸ It 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.⁹

14. At its fifty-ninth session, the Working Group recalled that, in accordance with decision 2016/3, the period for reporting information under the four protocols was at least once every four years and strongly encouraged delegations that had not reported on the respective protocols to do so at its next session.¹⁰

15. The Working Group will be invited to exchange information on policies and strategies for the control of major air pollutants, including exchanging experiences and best practices to implement the Convention's protocols. Representatives of Parties and other States are invited to submit their completed reporting templates in advance of the session, describing their experiences and best practices regarding policies, strategies and specific measures to implement their obligations under any of the protocols to the Convention. The Working Group will be expected to take note of the summary of the received inputs made during the session.

⁶ ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1, decision 2013/2, operative para. (a).

⁷ Available at <https://unece.org/decisions>.

⁸ Available at <https://unece.org/decisions>.

⁹ Decision 2016/3, para. 4.

¹⁰ ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/126, para. 34.

16. Under item 2.1.1 of the 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention,¹¹ the secretariat is tasked with collecting 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. 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.¹²

6. Financial requirement for implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 April, morning

17. At its forty-first session, the Executive Body requested its Bureau, in cooperation with the secretariat, to assess the financial situation of the Convention in further detail, using as a basis the information presented at the session, giving initial consideration to an assessment of the financial requirements for holding an additional meeting of the Working Group on Strategies and Review in 2023, and to present its draft findings to the Working Group at its sixtieth session. Following the request of the Executive Body, the Working Group will be invited to consider these findings and to recommend options for the organization of its second meeting in 2023 for consideration by the Executive Body at its forty-second session.

Documentation

Preliminary findings on the financial requirements for implementation of the Convention (informal document No. 5)

7. Review of the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 April, morning

18. The Executive Body, with its decision 2021/6, adopted at the forty-first session, initiated a comprehensive review of the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body. It decided that the review would be undertaken by an ad hoc group of experts, including notably with experience in the Convention or other multilateral environmental agreements, convened by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, with the aim of first assessing the need for potential revisions and, as appropriate, providing recommendations on further steps. It invited Parties to designate participants in the ad hoc group and encouraged interested Parties to submit views on potential review considerations or needs for revisions to the rules of procedure by a deadline to be set by the ad hoc group. The Executive Body requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review to discuss the review conclusions and the proposed changes to the rules of procedure, if any, at its sessions in 2022–2023, and to report on progress to the Executive Body at its forty-second session. It also requested the ad hoc group of experts to present its final recommendations for consideration by the Executive Body at its forty-third session. The Working Group at its current session will be invited to consider the information to be provided by the ad hoc group on the progress in the review.

8. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 April, morning

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

¹¹ ECE/EB.AIR/2021/2, table 2.

¹² See <https://unece.org/strategies-and-policies-abatement-air-pollution>.

9. Adoption of the draft report on the sixtieth session

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 April, afternoon

20. The Chair, with support from the secretariat, will present a record of the main conclusions and recommendations made at the session, which will form the basis for the draft report. The Working Group is invited to review and adopt the draft report on the session and entrust the secretariat to finalize it following the session.
