

**FINAL REPORT ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE BATUMI ACTION FOR CLEANER AIR**

CEP Secretariat, UNECE

WHAT IS THE BATUMI ACTION FOR CLEANER AIR?

- The Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA) was launched at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, 8–10 June 2016)
- BACA has the following objectives:
 - To provide Governments and other stakeholders with a list of possible concrete actions to address local, national and regional air pollution problems for their consideration;
 - To inspire action on air pollution issues that are not currently being addressed;
 - To aid the further implementation of the commitments under the ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) and its protocols;
 - To invite stakeholders (international organizations, donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)) to support actions that improve air quality, in particular capacity-building and technical assistance actions;
 - To invite Governments to voluntarily commit to implementing specific actions and to share their successes and further challenges at future meetings of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy.

COMMITMENTS TAKEN UNDER THE BACA

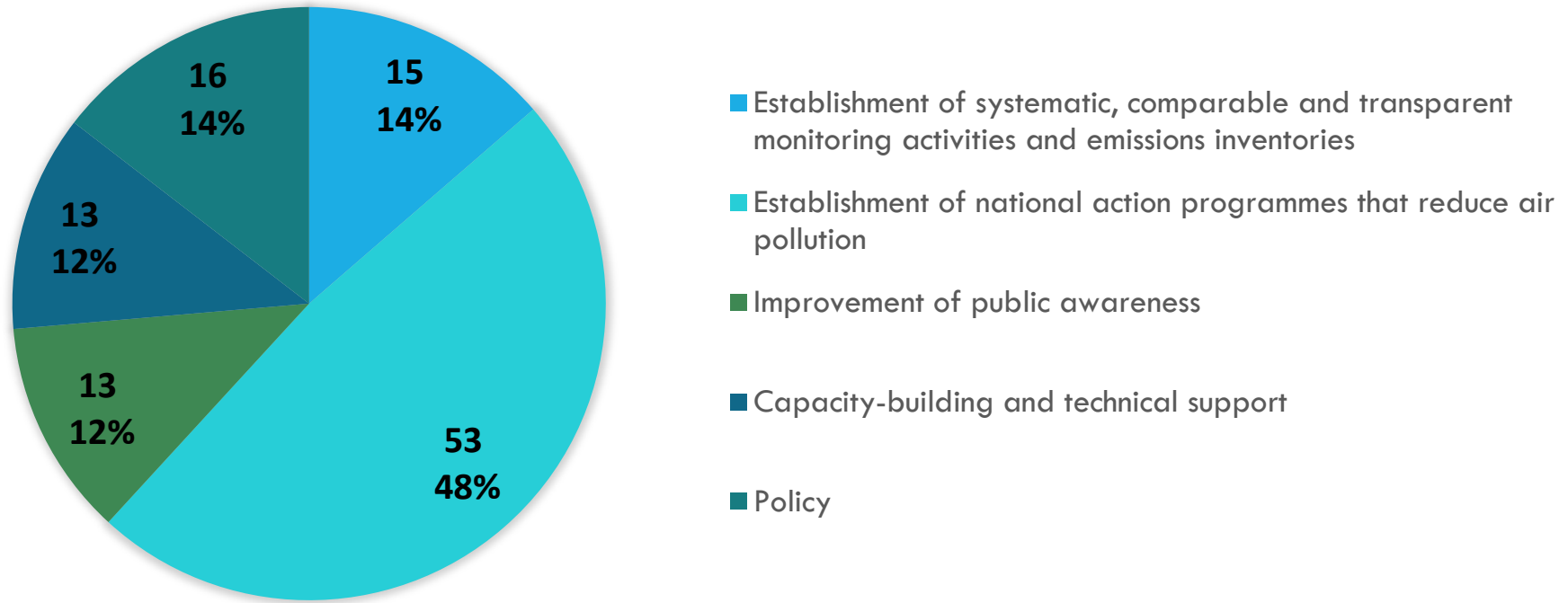
110 voluntary commitments - 27 countries and 4 organizations

Number of commitments taken/reported by the participants in the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air

Albania	0	Czechia	1/1	Italy	1/1	Poland	5/5	Tajikistan	0
Andorra	0	Denmark	0	Kazakhstan	0	Portugal	1/0	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0
Armenia	1/0	Estonia	4/4	Kyrgyzstan	0	Republic of Moldova	3/3	Turkey	0
Austria	2/2	Finland	0	Latvia	2/2	Romania	3/3	Turkmenistan	0
Azerbaijan	1/1	France	5/5	Liechtenstein	0	Russian Federation	0	Ukraine	0
Belarus	5/0	Georgia	7/7	Lithuania	2/2	San Marino	0	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	0
Belgium	5/0	Germany	1/1	Luxembourg	0	Serbia	0	United States of America	6/6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	Greece	0	Malta	0	Slovakia	0	Uzbekistan	4/4
Bulgaria	0	Hungary	4/4	Monaco	0	Slovenia	3/0	Nordic Council of Ministers	1/1
Canada	17/17	Iceland	0	Montenegro	0	Spain	1/1	REC CEE	4/0
Croatia	5/5	Ireland	0	Netherlands	2/2	Sweden	4/4	UNECE	2/2
Cyprus	0	Israel	0	Norway	0	Switzerland	5/5	WHO	3/0

Voluntary commitments made by countries and organizations are available on the ECE website: <https://unece.org/baca>

BACA COMMITMENTS BY SECTIONS



ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEMATIC, COMPARABLE AND TRANSPARENT MONITORING ACTIVITIES AND EMISSIONS INVENTORIES

Monitoring activities:

- The National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) system is operational in every province and territory of Canada; France established national platform for forecasting air quality (3 days forecasts);
- Georgia switched to EU air quality standards from 1 August 2018 and increased the number of automatic monitoring stations from one to 8 and establishing passive sampling in 25 municipalities; The Hungarian Meteorological Service developed air quality modeling and forecasting system;
- Latvia finalized the modernization of national air pollution monitoring network and improved its pollutant measurement programs; Romania extended its air quality monitoring network by 18 new sampling points for continuous measurement.

Emissions inventories:

- The latest air pollutants emission inventory of Canada developed and published at the national, provincial and territorial level; Georgia established an electronic reporting system for the annual inventory of emissions from stationary sources, improved its emission inventory covering full time series and developed emission projection;
- Lithuania developed a plan for improvement of the national air pollutant emission inventory for 2015-2022. The quality of emission inventory was improved based on more detailed activity data; In 2017, Republic of Moldova established the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register; Romania improved national emissions inventory based on modern methodology and provided recommendations.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES THAT REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

Multisectoral strategies and policies:

- Czech Republic reported about reached specific emission ceilings for 2020 scheduled by Gothenburg protocol;
- Croatia, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Switzerland and The United States of America adopted the national plans, programmes and strategies for the reduction of air pollution, which includes measures to reduce emissions in several key sectors such as transport, agriculture, energy, heating etc.
- Georgia established limits of sulphur in certain liquid fuels based on Directive 2016/802/EU, which regulates fuels used in transport, industry, households, energy and other sectors.

Transport sector:

- Croatia, Georgia and Hungary developed new taxation system to support process of car fleet renovation and promotion of cleaner, as well as electric/hybrid vehicles; France and Hungary introduced "air quality certificates" or "green license plates" that can be used by local authorities to modulate their policies in terms of vehicle traffic and parking;
- Hungary, Georgia, and Poland reported about continuation of the bus change program; Improvement of fuel quality standards was highlighted by Canada, Georgia and The United States of America;
- Lithuania and Georgia emphasized progress in road infrastructure for public transport; Hungary and Lithuania reported about development of walking and cycling infrastructure and building of by roads; Georgia reestablished mandatory periodic technical inspection; Lithuania introduced an electronic taxation system for commercial vehicles and a new parking scheme.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES THAT REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

Industry and residential heating:

- Republic of Moldova adopted legal acts regulation content of (VOC) in paints, varnishes and vehicle refinishing materials, as well as regulations on reductions of VOC emissions from storage and distribution of petrol;
- Canada took measures to reduce VOC emissions from petroleum refineries, asphalt and vehicle refinishing products;
- Canada and the United States established the requirements addressing fugitive emissions from leaking equipment in the Oil and Natural Gas Sector;
- Canada updated regulations on Emission Regulations for off-road and stationary diesel engines;
- Code of Practice to Reduce Emissions of Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) from the aluminium sector has been developed in Canada;
- Hungary launched the Building Energy Efficiency Program;
- The United States and Canada took steps to improve quality of residential wood-burning appliances.

IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Hungary and Switzerland reported on awareness raising campaign that were dedicated to increase awareness air quality issues; Switzerland implemented national communication efforts and prepared and disseminated a video on the nitrogen cycle;
- Georgia, Poland and Spain have developed ambient air quality portals that provide up-to-date and historic air quality data, emission inventories, air quality plans, ongoing emission reduction measures, health recommendations for each air quality index and recommendations on air protection for general public;
- UNECE conducted awareness raising activities on air pollution issues and work going under the Air Convention all over the region.

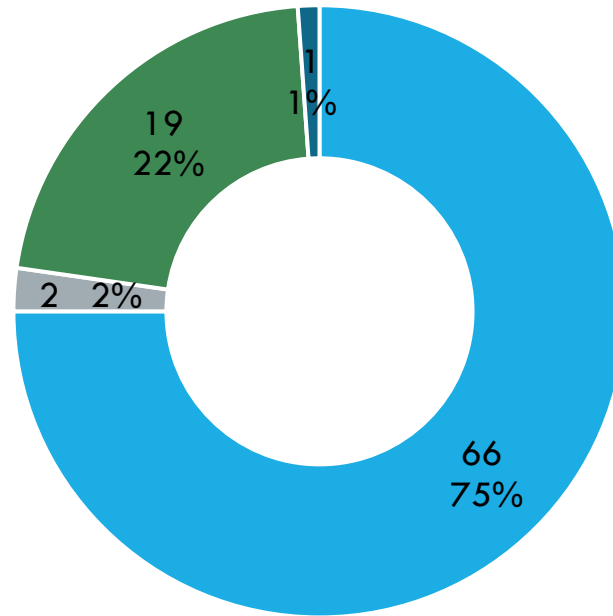
CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Austria reached progress in strengthen the administrative capacity of national authorities in charge with Air Pollutants Emission and Green House Gas (GHG) inventories; Germany, Switzerland and UNECE conducted capacity-building and technical assistance activities in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) region aimed at the ratification and implementation of the Air Convention protocols;
- Sweden has been supporting countries in the south-east of Europe in various directions of air quality assessment and management; The United States had close cooperation with UNEP to provide technical and policy advice as UNEP expands its air quality program;
- The Nordic Council of Ministers provided support to Belarus and Russia in the fields of emission inventory, gridded emissions, modelling and projection, mostly oriented on PM_{2.5} and black carbon.

POLICY

- Canada reviewed its air quality standards for the main pollutants and established more stringent norms and targets;
- Croatia, Estonia and Switzerland reported on ratification of all or some of the latest three protocols of the Air Convention;
- Sweden organized and hosted an international science-policy workshop entitled “Clean Air for a Sustainable Future – Goals and Challenges”.

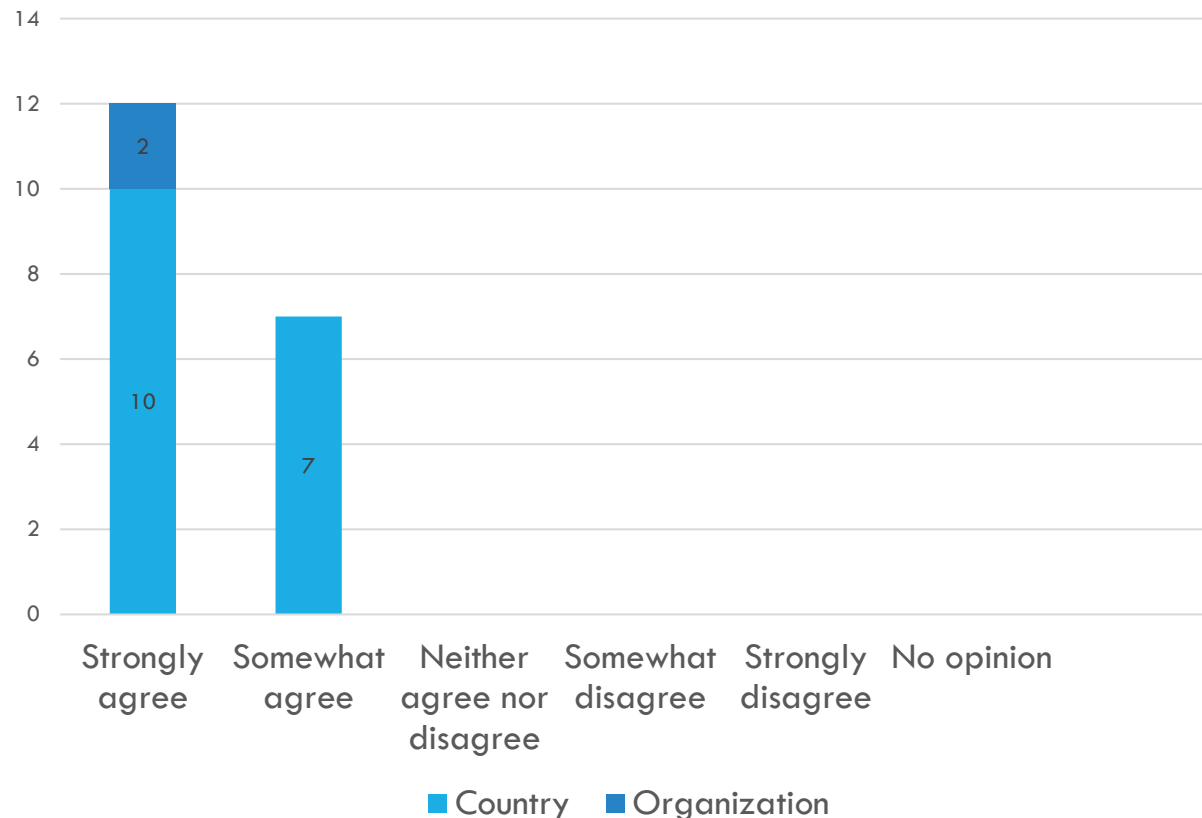
PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF BACA COMMITMENTS



■ Yes ■ Yes+In progress ■ In progress ■ No

USEFULNESS OF THE BATUMI ACTION FOR CLEANER AIR

BACA is useful to strengthen political support related to improving air quality and protecting public health and ecosystems



- Very valuable tool for the adoption and implementation of activities aimed to improvement of ambient air quality
- Good instrument for sharing best practices and example of successful projects.
- Useful tool to raise awareness about air quality issues in different levels and target groups.
- Can be used for introduction of BAT that will be useful for the implementation of requirements under various MEAs.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- The difficulties associated with the promotion of electric vehicles;
- High cost and insufficient financial resources to implement emission reduction measures and ensure compliance with regulations;
- Lack of activity data (especially historic data), changes and gaps in inventory methodologies, absence of country specific emission factors;
- High investment and operational cost of modern air quality monitoring network;
- Lack of human resources in general and skilled professionals in particular;
- Poor coordination between stakeholders;
- The COVID-19 pandemic, languages barriers, challenges of ammonia emission reduction from agriculture sector and lack of mitigation techniques.

FUTURE STEPS AND FOLLOW UP

- Canada, Georgia, Hungary, Italy and Lithuania plan to continue their efforts to reduce emissions in the transport sector;
- Switzerland, Hungary and Italy will continue to implement further emission mitigation measures in agriculture sector;
- Future steps will be taken by Poland, Italy and Hungary to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce emissions from the household sector;
- Georgia, Romania and Hungary have concrete plans to further extension of ambient air quality monitoring and assessment system;
- Latvia, Romania and Georgia will take additional steps to improve the accuracy of emission inventories and projections;
- Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland and UNECE will continue awareness raising activities;
- Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and UNECE will take additional steps towards capacity building;
- Moldova plan to coordinate air quality management and climate change adaptation activities
- Romania will continue work on approval of the national programme to control air pollution.

Thank You For Your Attention!