

Decision 2021/5

Mandate of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution

The Executive Body,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region,

Recalling the Long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex),¹

Recalling also its decision 2019/5 on the establishment of the forum for international cooperation on air pollution,

1. *Decides* to establish a Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution;
2. *Adopts* the mandate of the Task Force as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Task Force to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks that are to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;
3. *Decides* that:
 - (a) The lead country or countries is/are responsible for leading and coordinating the ongoing work and tasks of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for communicating with participating experts, for maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the activities, work, meetings and participants of the Task Force, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these tasks subject to availability of resources;
 - (b) The Task Force is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, and for reporting thereon, as well as for keeping other relevant bodies apprised of its work;
 - (c) The Task Force will be comprised of experts from the Parties and other interested countries and international organizations;
 - (d) Meetings will be open to representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations, researchers, industry associations and other relevant organizations;
 - (e) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. In that event, the withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership group, by ensuring that all information required for the operations of the Task Force is provided to the appropriate country or person(s).
4. *Welcomes* the offer of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to lead the Task Force;²
5. *Invites* Parties, centres and task forces, as well as interested States and organizations working in the field of air quality, to engage actively with the Task Force;

¹ All Executive Body decisions referred to in the present decision are available at <https://unece.org/decisions>.

² ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/126, para. 38. Available at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-strategies-and-review-fifty-ninth-session>.

6. *Requests* Parties, centres and task forces, and invites interested States and organizations outside the ECE region, to nominate focal points to participate in the activities of the Task Force;
7. *Invites* Parties and other participants to make voluntary in-kind or cash contributions to support the work of the Task Force.

Annex

Mandate of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution

1. The Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution will promote international collaboration towards preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally. It will be a forum for the international exchange of information and mutual learning on both the scientific/technical and policy levels. It is intended to be a repository for technical information and a convener of countries and organizations, with the goal of increasing international cooperation on addressing air pollution.
2. The Task Force will report on the progress in its work to the Working Group on Strategies and Review and, as needed, to the Executive Body.
3. The functions of the Task Force are to:
 - (a) Act as an international platform to facilitate mutual learning and collaboration on air pollution;
 - (b) Foster emissions reductions of air pollutants through exchange of information on best practices and policy approaches;
 - (c) Facilitate the sharing of information on funding opportunities and technical capacity-building;
 - (d) Promote an evidence-based approach to air quality management;
 - (e) Work towards raising global public awareness of the health and environmental impacts of air pollution;
 - (f) Organize international forum events to foster information-sharing and stimulate the engagement of non-Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;
 - (g) Deliver a web page and communications package to raise awareness of the Task Force and its work;³
 - (h) Conduct the work identified above through coordination, cooperation and collaboration with:
 - (i) Other subsidiary bodies under the Convention;
 - (ii) Related international organizations and scientific efforts, including, but not limited to, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants;
 - (iii) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the Executive Body.

³ Subject to availability of resources.