

Submission by Canada

The following are proposed edits to:

- 1. draft decision text that was included in document ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4 - Draft decisions of the Executive Body; and*
- 2. the draft 2024-2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention*

The edits proposed by Canada have been made in an effort to ensure accuracy and consistency with the issues under consideration, in particular related to content referenced in other documents or materials. The proposals by Canada also aim to streamline some of the decision text for a more succinct and clear result.

Note that this does not preclude Canada from making further edit proposals during discussions.

*Additions are reflected in **bold and underlined**. Deletions are presented in ~~strikeout~~.*

1. Draft decisions text:

I. Adoption of the Guidance document on technical measures for reduction of methane emissions from landfill, the natural gas grid and biogas facilities

The Executive Body,

Recalling the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond,

~~Referring to~~ **Acknowledging** the conclusions of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012,

Noting the significant contribution of methane to transboundary ozone pollution, and recognizing the importance of reducing emissions of methane as an ozone precursor and a greenhouse gas from key sources throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and beyond,

- 1. Adopts* the guidance document on technical measures for reduction of methane emissions from landfill, the natural gas grid and biogas facilities, as contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2023/6;
- 2. Encourages* Parties to the Convention, as well as countries from both within and beyond the ECE region, to use the document in order to reduce their methane emissions from landfill, the natural gas grid and biogas facilities.

II. Adoption of the Guidance document on technical measures for reduction of air pollutant emissions from shipping

The Executive Body,

Recalling the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond,

~~Referring to Acknowledging the outcomes~~ **conclusions** of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012,

Recognizing the potential for further reduction of air pollutant emissions from shipping for the benefit of human health and the environment,

1. *Adopts* the Guidance document on technical measures for reduction of air pollutant emissions from shipping, as contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2023/7;
2. *Encourages* Parties to the Convention, as well as countries from both within and beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, to use the document in order to reduce their air pollutant emissions from shipping.

III. Adoption of the document on co-mitigation of methane and ammonia emissions from agricultural sources

The Executive Body,

Recalling the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond,

Acknowledging the conclusions of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012,

~~Referring to item 2.2.1 of the 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/148/Add.1),~~

Noting the importance for policymakers to take into account the interactions between measures aimed at reducing ammonia and methane emissions from agricultural sources,

1. *Adopts* the document on co-mitigation of methane and ammonia emissions from agricultural sources (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/5);
2. *Encourages* Parties to the Convention, as well as countries within and beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, to use the document in order to reduce their methane and ammonia emissions from agricultural sources.

~~V. Launching negotiations on a revision to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, and other action to a~~ **Addressing** the conclusions of the review of the Protocol **to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012**

NOTE: Given the decision text includes more than just the launching of the revisions process, Canada suggests making the title broader to reflect all the content of the decision.

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision 2022/4, ~~in particular paragraphs 1–5 thereof,~~ on the conclusion of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level

Ozone, as amended in 2012, and the path forward (Gothenburg Protocol) pursuant to article 10 of the Protocol,

*Recalling also the objectives **fundamental principles** of the Convention, the **objectives of the** Gothenburg Protocol, as specified in its article 2, and **the strategic priorities** of the long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex),*

NOTE: Neither the Convention nor the Long-term strategy have explicit mention of objectives therefore Canada recommends referring to the principles, objectives, priorities etc. called for in the respective documents.

~~*Recognizing the Convention's contribution towards addressing the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution,*~~

Note: Canada recognizes that this is an important issue. However, the link between climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is already made below, and in an effort to streamline this decision to ensure it remains focused on how to address the conclusions of the review the Gothenburg Protocol, Canada suggests removing this text.

~~*Recognizing also the importance of acting now **maintaining momentum** to ensure further progress on addressing the conclusions of the report on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 and the objectives of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012,*~~

~~*Noting that **ratifications by non-Parties to the current Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, would be likely to increase if additional flexibilities to address current barriers to ratification were to be put in place** is overly complex and that, without substantial changes, progress towards ratification and implementation will continue at the same slow pace, as current flexibilities and approaches are inadequate to address the many barriers for non-Parties,*~~

*Recognizing the importance of an integrated multi-pollutant/multi-effect approach to reduce air pollution, including the consideration of other **linked** environmental policy concerns such as climate change and biodiversity,*

Acknowledging that global methane reductions (in addition to methane, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compound control in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region) will be needed to reduce ground-level ozone in the ECE region,

Noting the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixty-first session (Geneva, 4–6 September 2023) (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/130, forthcoming),

~~Taking into consideration~~ **Having considered** the document entitled Options to address the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/9), **and the recommendations contained therein**, including the summary tables in the informal document (4) accompanying ~~it~~ **the policy options document, prepared by the expert group on policy options development, and, in particular, the recommendations contained in the present document,**

1. ~~Decides~~ to commence negotiations to revise the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, in order to address the conclusions of the report on the review of the Protocol;

2. ~~Also decides~~ that the revision process ~~could~~ **will** include consideration of, inter alia:

(a) New emission reduction commitments for the pollutants currently covered by the Gothenburg Protocol;

(b) **Potential u**Updates of the technical annexes to the Gothenburg Protocol that are currently out-of-date for level of ambition and scope;

(c) How to deliver further reductions of black carbon emissions;

(d) **Whether and h**How to address methane emissions;

(e) How to achieve additional ammonia emission reductions ~~needed to further address eutrophication and its contribution to PM2.5 health effects;~~

(f) New flexibilities, and other approaches for **to better facilitate ratification and implementation by current** non-Parties to ~~be able to ratify and implement the Gothenburg Protocol, including consideration of a stepwise approach, a sector-based approach, a focus on key sectors, a restructuring of the technical annexes, replacement of the annexes with guidance documents, or combinations thereof;~~

NOTE: Canada proposes to delete the additional content in (e) and (f) to ensure consistency with the other priority areas listed.

(g) Overarching, collective risk-based target(s) to reduce risk to health and ecosystems in the ECE region.

1. ~~Further decides~~ to take action to enhance capacity building, awareness raising and cooperation within the ECE region considering the efficient use of resources by:

(a) ~~Calling on Parties to the Convention to provide voluntary contributions and bilateral technical assistance, such as for emission inventory improvements, air quality monitoring~~

networks and support for action plans, to build capacity in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as countries of the Western Balkans, and other non Parties;

~~(b) Requesting the secretariat, in consultation with non Parties and the Working Group on Strategy and Review Bureau, and depending on financial contributions from Parties to the Convention, to develop a programme of action, taking into account the work of the Gothenburg Protocol Review Group and the expert group on policy options, that identifies needs for resources and gaps in capacity, and report to the Executive Body at its forty fourth session;~~

~~(c) Requesting the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution to provide support on capacity building within the ECE region, and to cooperate with international partners for further action on air pollution outside the ECE region;~~

~~2. Requests the Working Group on Strategies and Review to begin work to revise the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, at its sixty second session (Geneva, 27–31 May 2024) and to report on its progress to the Executive Body at its forty fourth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2024);~~

NOTE: Canada proposes to restructure some of the content of the decision to keep all the text related to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol together. Since this paragraph is about other actions that can be taken to address the conclusions of the review, Canada proposes to move this paragraph to the end of the decision.

3. ~~Requests~~ **Tasks** the Working Group on Strategies and Review ~~to~~ **with beginning** work to revise the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, at its sixty-second session ~~(Geneva, 27–31 May 2024)~~ and to report on its progress to the Executive Body at its forty-fourth session ~~(Geneva, 9–13 December 2024)~~;

3 bis. Decides to include two meetings of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to the calendar of meetings starting in 2024 to accommodate for the revisions process, and that the two-meeting schedule continue every year until the end of the negotiations;

4. ~~Also~~ **Requests** the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue work to address barriers to ratification and implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol **including consideration of a stepwise approach, a sector-based approach, a focus on key sectors, a restructuring of the technical annexes, replacement of the annexes with guidance documents, or combinations thereof and to**, continue discussions with non-Parties, and to report on its progress to the Executive Body at its forty fourth session;

5. ~~Requests~~ **Calls on** the subsidiary bodies to ensure that activities in their workplans

include relevant work for continued progress on meeting the objectives of the Gothenburg Protocol;

6. *Decides* that **Parties should aim to conclude** the negotiations to revise the Gothenburg Protocol ~~should begin at the sixty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, with a view to concluding them by the forty-fifth session of the Executive Body,~~ **unless it decides otherwise.**

6 bis. ~~Further~~ **Also** *decides* to take action to enhance capacity-building, awareness-raising and cooperation within ~~the ECE region~~ **Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as countries of the Western Balkans, and other non-Parties** considering the efficient use of resources by:

(a) Calling on Parties to the Convention to provide voluntary contributions and bilateral technical assistance, such as for emission inventory improvements, air quality monitoring networks and support for action plans, ~~to build capacity in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as countries of the Western Balkans, and other non-Parties;~~

(b) Requesting the secretariat, in consultation with non-Parties and the Working Group on Strategy and Review Bureau, and depending on financial contributions from Parties to the Convention, to develop a programme of action, ~~taking into account the work of the Gothenburg Protocol Review Group and the expert group on policy options,~~ that identifies needs for resources and gaps in capacity, and report to the Executive Body at its forty-fourth session;

(c) ~~Requesting the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution to provide support on capacity building within the ECE region, and to cooperate with international partners for further action on air pollution outside the ECE region;~~

NOTE: The work identified in paragraph (c) appears to be related to work that would have been identified in the mandate of TFICAP already. Canada proposes this paragraph be deleted.

2. Draft 2024-2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

Canada proposes one change to the draft 2024-2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention. Canada proposes to delete workplan item 1.1.2.1. to investigate practicalities and processes required for including methane in annual emissions inventory reporting, under the science section of the draft workplan(requires funding).

Given that Parties have not yet discussed what option to pursue under the Gothenburg Protocol to address methane (if any), this item pre-judges the outcomes of that discussion. It also appears duplicative in nature given that methane is already reported under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

1.1.2.1	Investigate practicalities and processes required for including CH4 in annual emissions inventory reporting	Status report (2024)	TFEIP, CEIP	Additional resources required
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