

Submission by the United States of America

*Proposed edits to draft decision text included in ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4 - Draft decisions of the Executive Body. These edits are proposed to improve consistency, clarity, and completeness of some of the decisions that may be considered by the Executive Body at its 43rd session. Deletions are reflected in ~~strikeout~~, and additions are reflected in **bold**.*

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~~ **Recalling also** 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 **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** 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~~ **Recalling also** the outcomes of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012,³

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,

Recalling also 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 address the conclusions of the review of the Protocol

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, **(Gothenburg Protocol)** and the path forward ~~(Gothenburg Protocol)~~ pursuant to article 10 of the Protocol,

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

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

Recognizing ~~also~~ the importance of acting now 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 the current Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, is ~~overly~~ complex and that, without substantial changes, progress towards ratification and implementation **will risks** ~~continuing~~ **at the same** ~~too~~ slow a 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 environmental policy concerns such as climate change and biodiversity,

Acknowledging that global methane reduction (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 the document entitled Options to address the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/9), including the summary tables in the informal document accompanying the policy options document, prepared by the expert group on policy options development, and, in particular, the recommendations contained in ~~the present~~ **that** 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~~ **should** include consideration of, inter alia:
 - (a) New emission reduction commitments for the pollutants currently covered by the Gothenburg Protocol;
 - (b) Updates of the technical annexes to the Gothenburg Protocol ~~that are currently out of date for~~ **to increase their** level of ambition and scope;
 - (c) How to deliver further reductions of black carbon emissions;
 - (d) 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 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~~ **at least certain** annexes with guidance documents, or combinations thereof;
 - (g) Overarching, collective risk-based target(s) to reduce risk to health and ecosystems in the ECE region.
4. 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;
- 4bis. Decides that 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.**
5. 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);
- 5bis. Encourages parties in a position to do so to consider hosting an informal meeting between the sixty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the forty-fourth meeting of the Executive Body, to make progress on the negotiations to revise the Gothenburg Protocol.**
6. Also requests the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue work to address barriers to ratification and implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol, continue discussions with non-Parties, and to report on its progress to the Executive Body at its forty-fourth session;

7. Requests the subsidiary bodies to ensure that activities in their workplans include relevant work for continued progress on meeting the objectives of the Gothenburg Protocol;

~~8. Decides that 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.~~

9. Also *decides* that the Working Group on Strategies and Review should meet twice in 2025, and each year thereafter until negotiations conclude, subject to the availability of resources, to make progress on the negotiations to revise the Gothenburg Protocol.