

Informal document No. 1
Provisional agenda item on
Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention:
Good practices to strengthen the implementation
of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures

Background information and Template for the submission of

Examples/Good practices of air pollution related policies, strategies and measures

- Prepared by the CLRTAP secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair of WGSR -

I. Background

1. The Executive Body, at its thirty-second session, adopted **decision 2013/2** on Reporting on strategies, policies, and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols. This decision stipulates that *“the Working Group on Strategies and Review shall continue to devote time each year for policy discussions related to the design and implementation of different regulatory, voluntary, economic or other measures relating to air pollution”*. It *“shall, annually in advance of a session, invite Parties to report at the session on strategies, policies, and measures employed to implement obligations under any of the Protocols to the Convention”*.

2. In line with that decision, the Working Group held a session on information sharing during its fifty-second session (Geneva, 30 June–3 July 2014). For that session, twenty-four Parties to the Convention shared their experiences either by making a presentation¹ and/or by submitting a completed template with examples and good practices of air pollution-related policies. A Chair’s summary of the session on information sharing was prepared as part of the report of the fifty-second session of WGSR (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/112, annex II).

3. The present document provides background information on the obligations to report on strategies, policies and measures for the respective Protocols. The enclosed template has been developed to facilitate the submission by Parties of examples/good practices of different regulatory, voluntary, economic and other measures relating to air pollution in advance of WGSR’s fifty-third session to be held in Geneva from 15 to 17 December 2015.

4. Heads of Delegations and other participants in the fifty-third session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review are invited to submit to the secretariat case studies/examples which could be of interest to other countries and thus to the policy discussion at the WGSR session. **In order to facilitate the preparation of the policy discussion on the basis of the examples submitted, please send your examples to air_meetings@unece.org by 13 November 2015.**

5. At its fifty-second session, the Working Group on Strategies and Review invited all Parties to participate actively in future sessions on exchanges of experience, **and in particular those Parties that had not yet shared such information at the previous sessions of the Working Group**. The importance of the timely submission of templates and presentations to the secretariat was also underscored.

¹Presentations from the session are available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=33280#/>

6. Examples could comprise, amongst others, economic measures such as financial incentives or disincentives (such as taxes, subsidies, set prices or caps/ceilings, payments, rebates), voluntary measures (such as voluntary agreements, programmes or contracts), regulatory or legislative measures or other measures (such as educational or informational measures). They can include policies, strategies and measures emanating from different sectors with positive effects on air pollution abatement (such as acts/laws on sustainable transport, sustainable agriculture/farming, energy, green building, biodiversity conservation and enhancement). A more detailed description of the implementation of your chosen policy, strategy or measure and related challenges and problems as well as solutions would be more useful than the presentation of many different examples. Furthermore, your examples could also be useful to other Parties even if they have not been successful by indicating why this was the case. You are thus also invited to submit experiences that cover such items as:

- a) A measure that was less effective than you anticipated and why;
- b) A measure that was actually more effective than you predicted;
- c) A measure that had particular implementation challenges – what were they and how did you address them;
- d) A measure that was either less expensive or more expensive than you had estimated. What caused the increased or decreased costs?
- e) Goals that were set and were met by innovative strategies.

II. Obligations under the Protocols to the CLRTAP Convention to report on strategies, policies and measures

II.1 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures under the 1994 Sulphur, Heavy Metals, POPs and Gothenburg Protocols

7. In accordance with **Decision 2013/2** adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-second session, *“the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review shall be considered the format for reporting on strategies, policies, and measures referenced in Article 5.1 of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol, Article 7.2 of the Heavy Metals Protocol, Article 7.2 of the POPs Protocol, and Article 7.2 of the Gothenburg Protocol”*.

II.1.1 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures under the 1994 Sulphur and the Gothenburg Protocol

8. Article 4 of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol requires that *“[each] Party shall, in order to implement its obligations under article 2: (a) adopt national strategies, policies and programmes, no later than six months after the present Protocol enters into force for it; and (b) take and apply national measures to control and reduce its sulphur emissions”*. Article 5 of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol on “Reporting” stipulates that *“each Party shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to the Executive Body, on a periodic basis as determined by the Executive Body, information on: (a) the implementation of national strategies, policies, programmes and measures referred to in article 4, paragraph 1; [...] (c) the implementation of other obligations that it has entered into under the present Protocol, in conformity with a decision regarding format and content to be adopted by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body. The terms of this decision shall be reviewed as necessary to identify any additional elements regarding the format and/or content of the information that are to be included in the reports”*.

9. The 1994 Sulphur Protocol sets emission ceilings for 2005 and 2010 for some Parties. With the exception of Austria, Canada, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein and

Monaco, all Parties to the 1994 Sulphur Protocol have also ratified or acceded to the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol which sets ceilings for 2010.

10. Article 6 of the Gothenburg Protocol stipulates that *“each Party shall, as necessary and on the basis of sound scientific and economic criteria, in order to facilitate the implementation of its obligations under article 3: (a) adopt supporting strategies, policies and programmes without undue delay after the present Protocol enters into force for it;[...]*” Paragraph 1 of Article 7 on “Reporting” stipulates that *“subject to its laws and regulations and in accordance with its obligations under the present Protocol: (a) each Party shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to the Executive Body, on a periodic basis as determined by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body, information on the measures that it has taken to implement the present Protocol”*. Paragraph 2 stipulates that *“the information to be reported in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) shall be in conformity with a decision regarding format and content to be adopted by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body. The terms of this decision shall be reviewed as necessary to identify any additional elements regarding the format or the content of the information that is to be included in the reports.”*

11. In 2012, amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol and its annexes were adopted by decisions 2012/1, 2012/2 and 2012/3. In addition, Parties adopted decision 2012/4 on the Provisional application of the amendments to the Protocol, which enables Parties to make use of the adjustment procedure under decision 2012/3 immediately.

12. Sulphur as a pollutant is covered by both the Gothenburg Protocol and the 1994 Sulphur Protocol. Moreover, the following pollutions are covered by the Gothenburg Protocol: nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ammonia (NH₃) and volatile organic compounds (VOC).

13. In accordance with Decision 2013/2, Parties to the 1994 Sulphur and Gothenburg Protocol are thus invited to report on the design and implementation of strategies, policies and measures to implement obligations under the 1994 Sulphur Protocol and the Gothenburg Protocol, notably to abate pollution of sulphur, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and volatile organic compounds.

II.1.1 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures under the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs)

14. Article 7 of the Protocol on POPs requires that each Party shall, no later than six months after the date on which this Protocol enters into force for it, develop strategies, policies and programmes in order to discharge its obligations under the present Protocol. Article 9, paragraph 1 of the Protocol on POPs on “Reporting” stipulates that *“subject to its laws governing the confidentiality of commercial information: (a) each Party shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to the Executive Body, on a periodic basis as determined by the Parties meeting within the Executive Body, information on the measures that it has taken to implement the present Protocol”*. Furthermore, paragraph 2 of article 9 stipulates that *“the information to be reported in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) above shall be in conformity with a decision regarding format and content to be adopted by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body. The terms of this decision shall be reviewed as necessary to identify any additional elements*

regarding the format or the content of the information that is to be included in the reports.”

15. In 2009, amendments to the Protocol on POPs were adopted through decisions 2009/1, 2009/2 and 2009.

16. The pollutants covered by the Protocol on POPs are the following: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), hexachlorobenzene (HCB), and dioxins/furans.

17. In accordance with Decision 2013/2, Parties to the Protocol on POPs are thus invited to report at the WGSR session on the design and implementation of strategies, policies, and measures employed to implement obligations under the Protocol on POPs, notably to reduce emissions of PAH, HCB and dioxins/furans.

II.1.1 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures under the Protocol on Heavy Metals

18. Article 5 of the Protocol on Heavy Metals stipulates *“each Party shall develop, without undue delay, strategies, policies and programmes to discharge its obligations under the present Protocol.”* Paragraph 1 of Article 7 on “Reporting” requires that *“subject to its laws governing the confidentiality of commercial information: (a) each Party shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to the Executive Body, on a periodic basis as determined by the Parties meeting within the Executive Body, information on the measures that it has taken to implement the present Protocol”.* Paragraph 2 stipulates that *“the information to be reported in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) above shall be in conformity with a decision regarding format and content to be adopted by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body. The terms of this decision shall be reviewed as necessary to identify any additional elements regarding the format or the content of the information that is to be included in the reports.”*

19. In 2012, amendments to the Protocol and its annexes were adopted by decisions 2012/5 and 2012/6.

20. The pollutants covered by the Protocol on Heavy Metals are cadmium, lead and mercury.

21. In accordance with Decision 2013/2, Parties to the Protocol on Heavy Metals are invited to report at the WGSR session on the design and implementation of strategies, policies, and measures employed to implement obligations under the Protocol on Heavy Metals, notably to reduce emission of mercury, lead and cadmium.

II.2 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures by Parties to the Protocol concerning the control of Nitrogen Oxides or their transboundary fluxes (Protocol on NO_x) and the Protocol concerning the control of emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds and their transboundary fluxes (Protocol on VOC)

22. In accordance with Decision 2013/2, *“Parties to the Protocol on NO_x and the Protocol on VOC may utilize the time set aside during the annual session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to report on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies, and measures to implement obligations under the respective Protocols in*

satisfaction of their obligations under Article 8.1 of the Protocol on NO_x and Article 8.2 of the Protocol on VOC”.

23. Article 7 of the 1988 Protocol on NO_x stipulates that *“Parties shall develop without undue delay national programmes, policies and strategies to implement the obligations under the present Protocol that shall serve as a means of controlling and reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes.”* Article 8 requires that *“Parties shall exchange information by notifying the Executive Body of the national programmes, policies and strategies that they develop in accordance with article 7 and by reporting to it annually on progress achieved under, and any changes to, those programmes, policies and strategies, [...]”* Paragraph 2 of article 8 stipulates that *“such information shall, as far as possible, be submitted in accordance with a uniform reporting framework.”*

24. Article 7 of the 1991 Protocol on VOC stipulates that *“Parties shall develop without undue delay national programmes, policies and strategies to implement the obligations under the present Protocol that shall serve as a means of controlling and reducing emissions of VOCs or their transboundary fluxes.”* Article 8 on “Information exchange and annual reporting” provides that *“Parties shall exchange information by notifying the Executive Body of the national programmes, policies and strategies that they develop in accordance with article 7, and by reporting to it progress achieved under, and any changes to, those programmes, policies and strategies [...]”* Paragraph 4 of article 8 stipulates that *“such information shall, as far as possible, be submitted in accordance with a uniform reporting framework”*.

25. The majority of the Parties to the NO_x and VOC Protocols are also Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol which covers the pollutants covered by the NO_x and VOC Protocols. Parties to the NO_x Protocol not Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol are the following: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Russian Federation, Ukraine. Parties to the VOC Protocol not Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol are the following: Austria, Estonia, Italy, Monaco, Liechtenstein. In accordance with Decision 2013/2, the Parties listed above may wish to consider reporting on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies, and measures to implement obligations under the respective NO_x or VOC Protocols.

26. As it is not possible to cover all of the above issues in one meeting, **Parties are invited to inform the secretariat of the information they may wish to provide on a particular measure or two at the WSGR session, by submitting the enclosed template by 13 November 2015 by writing to air_meetings@unece.org. The priority for presentations would be given to Parties that have not yet shared their experience during previous WSGR sessions and to Parties that would submit their inputs by the indicated deadline.**

III. Template to facilitate the submission of examples/good practices of strategies, policies and measures employed to implement obligations under any of the Protocols to the Convention

<p>Country: Republic of Azerbaijan</p>	<p>Sector: <i>Environment</i></p>
<p>Type of strategy, policy or measure: <i>State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015(SPPRSD)</i></p>	<p>Level: <i>National</i></p>
<p>What is the main objective of the strategy, policy or measure? When has it been implemented/or will be implemented?</p> <p>In order to tackle poverty on a global level, the heads of 147 world countries joined together at the United Nations (UN) Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000 to sign the Millennium Declaration reflecting Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and committed themselves to achieving poverty reduction by 2015. In order to meet the challenges set out in the Declaration, a set of 8 global goals were formulated, with 18 targets and 48 indicators. The one of these goals is to <i>improving environmental situation and ensuring sustainable management of environment.</i></p> <p>In order to honour this commitment in line with the local conditions in the Republic of Azerbaijan which is signatory to the Millennium Declaration, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved by his Decree #854 of February 20, 2003 the State Program on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development (SPPRED) in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2003-2005. Implementation of that State Program in 2003-2005 resulted in maintaining overall macroeconomic stability, ensuring dynamic economic growth and upholding inflation and national exchange rates at appropriate levels. In order to continue the positive process in improving the population's welfare the State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development (SPPRSD) in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015 was prepared.</p>	
<p>Background and driving forces:</p> <p><i>Link to Poverty.</i> The condition of the environment can have direct and indirect impacts on the welfare of the people. Air and water pollution have direct impacts on the health status of the people. Lack of access to safe drinking water contributes to infant and child morbidity and mortality rates. Air pollution also leads to an increase in respiratory diseases among children. Indirect impacts include those caused by deforestation, erosion of the land or salinization, as this affects the land available for cultivation and income-generating activities for the rural population, and thus contributes to income poverty. Sustainable management of the country's natural resources is vital for this and future generations.</p> <p><i>Current Situation and Main Challenges.</i> Most of the environmental problems facing the country are the result of previous industrial and agricultural development, which was carried out without consideration of environmental sustainability. The occupations of a large part of the country and the displacement of people from their permanent place of residence have further aggravated the environmental protection problems, due to increased pressure on available arable land, irrigation systems, and waste management. Meantime due to its importance sustainable management of environment will remain in the top agenda of the government as a priority.</p>	
<p>Description of the strategy, policy or measure:</p> <p>One of the important features of the SPPRSD is its participatory process, which brings together government, civil society and the international organizations in the effort to combat poverty. The main objectives of the participatory process can be summarized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring close coordination of the work of government representatives, civil society and international organizations in combating poverty; • Improving the constructive dialogue between government and civil society; • Raising public awareness of the government's poverty reduction strategy and implementation status of the relevant current state programs; 	

- Facilitating discussions on the impact of policy measures on the living standards of the population in order to better define priorities;
 - Increasing public involvement in the implementation of the SPPRSD.
- While the implementation process will be monitored through public monitoring, work will also continue on improving data collection methods and standards over the period of the SPPRSD, in order to improve ability to monitor the final outcomes of the State Program.

Costs, Funding and Revenue allocation:

The main sources for financing the State Program are funds to be allocated for these purposes from the State Budget, the State Oil Fund (SOFAR) and the State Social Protection Fund (SSPF) as well as other sources not conflicting with legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Effect and impacts on air pollution abatement:

Please explain briefly the effect of the policy, strategy or measure and how it has impacted the abatement of air pollution. If impacts are known, please quantify, if possible. Please highlight also other effects of the implementation of the measure e.g. with regard to compliance, the acceptance of the measure or its transposition (e.g. from a voluntary to a regulatory or another type of measure). [150 words max]

In order to reduce greenhouse effect gases in the atmosphere air started using natural gas instead of black oil in electric energy production. Experts of the Ministry through media enlighten society about climate change, global warming and its impacts. In Absheron and Guba-Khachmaz regions established pilot energy station in order to survey Solar and wind energy potential. Emissions were reduced through the installation of modern equipment. Moving plants and factories especially with obsolete equipment to suburbs, full running of gas and dust traps at industrial enterprises, installing gas neutralizers in engines of 35 motor transports, using clean fuel may contribute significantly to reduction of hazardous pollutants emitted into atmosphere. The thermal power plants are largely fuelled by oil and emit mainly NOx and SO2. For this reason a goal was set for the energy sector to switch eventually all thermal power plants to natural gas fuel. In order to tackle air pollution, it will be important that capacity in regulatory bodies is built up to ensure that environmental sustainability principles are incorporated and prioritized in all economic development planning programmes and activities.

References/Further

information: http://www.economy.gov.az/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=249:state-programme-on-poverty-reduction&catid=29&Itemid=263&lang=en

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Additional comments: *Please include any additional information you may wish to provide here.*