Decision 2019/19

Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments

Recalling the relevant provisions of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Recalling also its decision 1999/2 concerning the structure and organization of work,

Recalling further the terms of reference for the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4, annex IV), noted at its eighteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/71, para. 58 (c)),

Recalling its decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities, as amended by decision 2018/8,

Acknowledging the achievements of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments, including,

(a) Maintenance of a regionally extensive database on pollution, climate, corrosion and soiling in a network of urban, rural and industrial test sites in Europe and North America;

(b) Developing and maintaining high quality standards in data collection by adhering to relevant International Organization for Standardization standards within ISO TC 156 for exposure and evaluation of corrosion attack on materials;

(c) Development of corrosion dose-response functions for the sulphur dioxide dominating situation, corrosion dose-response functions for the multi-pollutant situation and soiling dose-response functions for a variety of materials;

(d) Regular exposure of indicator materials for periodic trend assessments (every third year) enabling quantification of trends in pollution, corrosion and soiling;

(e) Several case studies on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization cultural heritage sites as policy relevant indicators for verification of air pollution effects on real objects of cultural heritage, including economic assessment.

Recognizing the need to update the mandate of the Programme to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention and its strategic priorities, as set out in the following documents:

(a) The revised long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2);

(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;[1]

(c) The policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4).

Noting with appreciation the hosting of the Programme Centre by Research Institutes of Sweden/Corrosion and Metals Research Institute in Stockholm and the ongoing leadership of the Task Force by Italy and Sweden,

1. *Adopts* the Programme's revised mandate as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Programme Task Force and the Programme Centre to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities

[1] See Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds., *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (Oslo, 2016) and United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 – North America* (2016).

and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Decides* that:

(a) The Programme Centre, in cooperation with the Chair of the Programme Task Force, is responsible for the detailed planning, coordination and evaluation of the Programme;

(b) The lead country or countries are responsible for leading and coordinating the Task Force's ongoing work and tasks, organizing its meetings, communicating with participating experts and 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;

(c) 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. The withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for Task Force operations are provided to the appropriate country or person(s);

(d) The Programme Centre is responsible for the production and provision of quantitative policy-relevant information on monitored and modelled air pollution effects on materials necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols by the Parties;

(e) The Programme Centre is responsible for coordinating the relevant activities under the Programme, including development of technical projects, provision of deliverables according to the workplan (including annual reports and access to all relevant information and data), participation in the relevant Task Force meetings, organizing technical workshops and training workshops, communicating with national experts, providing direct support to Parties, maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the Programme and other organizational arrangements, in accordance with the biennial workplan;

(f) The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force are responsible for carrying out the work assigned to them in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, reporting thereon and keeping other relevant bodies apprised of their work.

Annex

Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments

1. The International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments will continue to evaluate the effects of air pollutants on the atmospheric corrosion and soiling of important materials, and to assess long-term corrosion and soiling trends attributable to atmospheric pollution, including the further development of dose-response functions quantifying the corrosion effects under different environmental conditions to support the economic evaluation of air pollution damage.

2. The Programme Centre and the Chair of the Task Force report on their activities and deliverables to the Working Group on Effects.

3. The functions of the Programme Centre and the Task Force are to:

(a) Monitor and assess the impact of the environment on corrosion and soiling effects on materials and their trends by:

(i) Maintaining and developing an international network of atmospheric corrosion test sites;

(ii) Conducting regular short-term (one-year) and long-term (four-year) exposure assessments of corrosion and soiling specimens;

(iii) Collecting and measuring environmental data at test sites, in collaboration with

the national focal points for test sites, the sub-centres for materials and the sub-centre for environmental data.

(b) Derive exposure-response functions for corrosion and soiling effects of air pollutants, in combination with other stresses such as climate change and chloride deposition;

(c) Gather information on policy-relevant user-friendly indicators to evaluate air pollution effects on materials by conducting case studies on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization cultural heritage sites, including:

(i) Assessment of the environment and condition;

(ii) Risk assessment;

(iii) Economic assessment of damages of corrosion and soiling, collaboration with the sub-centre for cultural heritage in Italy.

(d) Investigate the relevance of short-lived climate forcers, particularly black carbon, from the viewpoint of soiling of materials;

(e) Further develop modelling and mapping procedures by supporting regular updates of chapter IV of the *Manual on Methodologies and Criteria for Modelling and Mapping Critical Loads and Levels and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends*[2] regarding procedures for mapping corrosion and soiling effects on materials, in collaboration with the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends;

(f) Further develop and improve methodologies for measuring air pollution effects of materials through cooperation with relevant non-Convention standardization bodies, such as the International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee 156 Corrosion of metals and alloys;

(g) Carry out other tasks assigned to them by the Working Group on Effects and the Executive Body.

[2] Most recent version available at http://icpmapping.org/Latest_update_Mapping_Manual.