

## Decision 2019/9

### Revised mandate of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution

*The Executive Body,*

*Recalling* its decision 2004/4 on the establishment of the Task Force on the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and its decision 2010/1 on the revised mandate for the Task Force on the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution,

*Acknowledging* key accomplishments of the Task Force on the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution that include:

(a) Analysis of the responses, in terms of ozone and particulate matter concentrations, to a large set of emission reduction scenarios applied in large regions of the Northern hemisphere;

(b) Fostering the development of global models and their evaluation against a set of observations gathered from several networks implemented in the world and building up partnership with those networks;

(c) Assessment of synergies between regional and global modelling for integrated assessment modelling and policy support purposes;

(d) Assessment of the impact of short-lived climate pollutants on air pollution inside and outside the ECE region and conception and evaluation of mitigation options to target those pollutants.

*Recognizing* the need to update the mandate of the Task Force on the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention, as well as its strategic priorities as set out in the following documents:

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

(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;<sup>1</sup>

(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).

*Welcoming* the ongoing leadership of the Task Force by Canada and the United States of America,

1. *Adopts* the revised 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 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 lead country or countries have the responsibility 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 responsibilities;

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

(b) The Task Force is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, and reporting thereon, as well as for keeping other relevant bodies apprised of its work;

(c) The Task Force will be comprised of subject matter experts from the Parties to the Convention, acting in their personal capacity;

(d) Meetings will be open to representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations, researchers, industry associations and other relevant organizations. Co-Chairs are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force. Meeting reports will reflect the views of all participants to the extent practicable;

(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 model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for the operations of the Task Force are provided to the appropriate country or person(s).

## **Annex**

### **Revised mandate for the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution**

1. The Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution will continue to examine the transport of air pollution across the Northern hemisphere and its regional impacts, considering air quality, health, ecosystem and near-term climate effects.

2. The Task Force will report on its activities and deliverables to the Steering Body to EMEP.

3. The functions of the Task Force are to:

(a) Plan and conduct the technical work necessary to develop a fuller understanding of:

(i) The impact of air pollutant emissions from the Parties on human health, ecosystems and climate change outside the ECE (i.e. extraregional impacts);

(ii) The impact of air pollutant emissions sources outside the ECE on the achievement of the environmental objectives of the Convention and its Protocols (i.e. extraregional influences);

(iii) The impacts of emission-reduction opportunities in the ECE region on regional and intercontinental transport of air pollution and the associated air quality, health, ecosystem and near-term climate effects of such impacts and the impacts of complementary measures that might be taken in other regions where mitigation may prove cost-effective.

(b) Conduct the work specified in paragraph 3 (a) above as it pertains to all of the pollutants and precursors addressed by the Convention, particularly those with important transboundary influence at the global level, including persistent organic pollutants and mercury, with priority given to tropospheric ozone and aerosols;

(c) Conduct the technical work identified above through coordination, cooperation and collaboration with:

(i) Other technical bodies under the Convention, including the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues and the international cooperative programmes of the Working Group on Effects;

(ii) Related international organizations and scientific efforts, including the Arctic Council, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the United Nations

Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and other regional agreements and networks.

(d) Facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and methodologies developed within the Convention to other regions of the world, through cooperation with bodies inside and outside the Convention, to help build a common understanding of shared air pollution problems and improve technical capacity to evaluate emission reduction opportunities;

(e) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by the EMEP Steering Body and the Executive Body.