



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
19 June 2023

Original: English

---

## Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range  
Transboundary Air Pollution

### Working Group on Strategies and Review

#### Sixty-first session

Geneva, 4–6 September 2022

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention: policy-related aspects and elements**

## **Draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention: policy-related aspects and elements**

### *Summary*

The present document sets out activities proposed for inclusion in the policy and communication, outreach and cooperation sections of the draft 2024–2025 workplan based on the vision and strategic priorities outlined in the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex) and the conclusions of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, and the path forward (ECE/EB.AIR/150, annex I, decision 2022/4). The document was compiled by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the secretariat, with input from the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution, the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution. The workplan, including these and other sections and elements, will be considered and adopted by the Executive Body at its forty-third session (Geneva, 11–14 December 2023).



## I. Introduction

1. The biennial workplan for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution translates the vision and strategic priorities set out in the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex)<sup>1</sup> into a list of activities to be implemented by respective bodies under the Convention during the period 2024–2025. It is structured around five main areas of work: science; policy; compliance; capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation; and communication, outreach and cooperation. The tasks are assigned to the subsidiary bodies under the Convention, task forces and scientific centres, the Bureau of the Executive Body and the secretariat. The task forces and centres under the Convention carry out the activities in accordance with their mandates. The workplan contains additional activities of the task forces and centres under the Convention not mentioned in their mandates.

2. The present document sets out activities proposed for inclusion in the policy and communication, outreach and cooperation sections of the draft 2024–2025 workplan for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR) at its sixty-first session. The draft input to the 2024–2025 workplan, presented herein, takes into account the conclusions and the next steps itemized in the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012,<sup>2</sup> following a request by the Executive Body.<sup>3</sup> The document was compiled by the Chair of WGSR and the secretariat, with input from the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (TFTEI), the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN), the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (TFICAP), the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (TFIAM) and the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP).

3. The workplan, including these and other sections and elements, will be considered and adopted by the Executive Body at its forty-third session (Geneva, 11–14 December 2023).

## II. Aspects and elements of the draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, section II (policy)

4. In line with the priorities set out in the long-term strategy for the Convention, the policy-related work in the period 2024–2025 will, inter alia, aim to support increased ratification and implementation of the three most recent protocols as amended (i.e. the Gothenburg Protocol, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants) throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. It will also continue to focus on the pollutants best controlled at the regional level and/or requiring control in order to solve regional air pollution problems, and consider the need for further action to address emerging issues, including particulate matter (PM) and its precursors, black carbon (BC) as a component of PM, tropospheric ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and its precursors, eutrophying pollution with a focus on ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and, where still needed, acidifying pollution. An integrated approach for environmental policymaking will be sought that includes interaction between ground level (O<sub>3</sub>), nitrogen (N), climate change and ecosystems; integrated N management; and co-benefits and interactions between air pollution and climate change policies. The policy work will also address the conclusions and recommendations of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended (decision 2022/4 and ECE/EB.AIR/150/Add.2). Cooperation with other stakeholders will be sought to ensure the uptake of analytical work and guidance developed under the Convention. Specific policy-related activities in the period 2024–2025 are presented in table 1 below.

---

<sup>1</sup> All Executive Body decisions referred to in the present document are available at <https://unece.org/decisions>.

<sup>2</sup> ECE/EB.AIR/150/Add.2 (advance version), paras. 90–91.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 2022/4, para. 7.

Table 1  
Policy

<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Analysis of policy-relevant information and follow-up to the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended</b>			
2.1.1	Exchange of information on national, subregional and regional policies and strategies for control of major air pollutants, in accordance with art. 8 of Convention and protocols thereto	Information on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement throughout ECE region, including information on measures shared at WGSR sessions, following decision 2016/3	Secretariat, WGSR	
2.1.2	Follow-up on policy options chosen to respond to review of Gothenburg Protocol, as amended	Recommendations provided to Executive Body	WGSR	
2.1.3	Provide technical support on options to inform preparations for possible future updating of annex IX to Gothenburg Protocol	Extent dependent on availability of additional resources and according to guidance from WGSR	TFRN	Subject to availability of resources
2.1.4	Promotion of multiscale modelling for formulating effective measures and policies	Policy brief on multilevel governance	TFIAM	
2.1.5	Policy discussions on reporting of condensable part in PM emissions	Recommendations provided to Executive Body	WGSR	
2.1.6	O <sub>3</sub> modelling of future scenarios	Organize new global model simulations of future scenarios developed by CIAM, including examination of role of CH <sub>4</sub> , source attribution methods, link to regional scale and impacts	TFHTAP TFIAM, CIAM, TFMM, MSC- W, ICP Vegetation	
2.1.7	Publication and dissemination of International Nitrogen Assessment, including preparation of specific summary for Convention's policymakers	Workshops with further analysis, including follow-up to INMS Global Nitrogen Assessment report recommendations relevant for Convention, and identification of most effective nitrogen measures. Summary for policymakers shared with WGSR and chapters available with open-access	TFRN	With funding assistance of GEF/UNEP through INMS
2.1.8	Analyse implications of NH <sub>3</sub> as energy carrier as part of decarbonization strategies,	Information note submitted to WGSR	TFRN in cooperation with	Subject to availability of resources

<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
	including possible emissions of NH <sub>3</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O and NO <sub>x</sub> , and possible interactions with international N market prices		TFIAM and TFTEI	
2.1.9	Examination of benefits and barriers to dietary change to reduce N air pollution, including co-benefits, possible scenarios and opportunities to overcome barriers	(a) Information document on benefits, including co-benefits, and barriers of dietary change, possible scenarios and opportunities to overcome barriers  (b) Information document on opportunities for bioeconomy technologies and measures  (c) Thematic session as part of WGSR session on use of non-technical (dietary) measures to reduce NH <sub>3</sub> and other pollutants emissions.	TFRN in cooperation with TFIAM  TFRN  TFRN	Subject to availability of resources   Subject to availability of resources
2.1.10	Assessment of opportunities for mobilizing N recovery and reuse (white ammonia and white nitrogen) leading to extension of existing guidance through INMS Nitrogen Measures Database	Short information document	TFRN	Scale of effort subject to additional resources
2.1.11	Assessment of risks associated with “alkaline air” and analysis of policy implications	Short information document	TFRN in cooperation with WGE	Scale of effort subject to additional resources
2.1.12	Assessment of technical and non-technical options for meeting Global Biodiversity Framework target 7, with special reference to N air pollution, including benefits of such action	Short information document	TFRN in cooperation with WGE	Scale of effort subject to additional resources
2.1.13	Assessment of opportunities from organic farming and agroecological approaches to reduce NH <sub>3</sub> and CH <sub>4</sub> emissions to air and other forms of N pollution	Scale of effort subject to additional resources	TFRN in cooperation with WGE	Scale of effort subject to additional resources
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Development and promotion of guidance documents</b>			
2.2.1	Promotion of guidance documents, including those recently adopted	Explore opportunities to promote guidance documents, including those recently adopted within and beyond ECE region	TFRN, TFIAM, TFTEI	



<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
	their co-mitigation from agricultural sources	mandate to include agricultural CH <sub>4</sub> emissions		

*Abbreviations:* CH<sub>4</sub>, methane; CIAM, Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling; GEF, Global Environment Facility; ICP Vegetation, International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops; INMS, International Nitrogen Management System; MSC-W, Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West; N<sub>2</sub>O, nitrous oxide; NO<sub>x</sub>, nitrogen oxides; TFMM, Task Force on Measurements and Modelling; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; WGE, Working Group on Effects.

### **III. Aspects and elements of the draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, section V (communication, outreach and cooperation)**

5. In accordance with the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond, there is a need for improved communication on work under the Convention, achievements and remaining challenges in order to raise awareness among policymakers and the public. The strategy states that: “The strong available scientific evidence of the negative impact of air pollution on health, materials and ecosystems highlights the need for further action in order to improve air quality and public health, including by increasing cooperation with non-ECE regions.”<sup>4</sup> The strategy also states that: “The bodies under the Convention should also enhance efforts in their communication activities to raise awareness of the compelling environmental, health and economic rationale for action on air pollution and to increase the visibility of the Convention, building on the successes of multilateral cooperation within the Convention system in dealing with increasingly complex science-policy issues.”<sup>5</sup> Communication, outreach and awareness-raising activities will be undertaken to maintain the Convention’s visibility within and beyond the ECE region, to foster cooperation between regional agreements around the world, and to share the Convention’s experience, with a view to advancing a shared response to addressing air pollution globally, in accordance with United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.<sup>6</sup> Cooperation with other regions and forums on intercontinental air pollution issues will be pursued. The “Convention will share experience and scientific expertise”<sup>7</sup> with other regions, specifically in the context of the forum for international cooperation on air pollution.

6. Table 2 below outlines specific communication and outreach tasks in addition to those assigned to the technical or subsidiary bodies and, as such, incorporated as items under the science and policy sections in the workplan. Communications and outreach activities in 2024 will be used to mark the forty-fifth anniversary of the Convention.

<sup>4</sup> Decision 2018/5, annex, para. 43.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*, para. 71.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/EA.3/Res.8, para. 7 (i).

<sup>7</sup> Decision 2018/5, annex, para. 76.



<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source (in US dollars)</i>
5.2.3	Work with other regional organizations to understand regions' needs and interests	Better understanding of where further collaboration and cooperation could be developed	TFICAP	
5.2.4	Development of two self-paced e-learning courses on: BATs; and, health and environmental effects of air pollution	Enhanced understanding of provisions of Convention's key protocols, scientific work, and technical guidance documents to reduce air pollution	Secretariat, in cooperation with relevant task forces	246 000 <sup>a</sup>
5.2.5	Adapt e-learning courses on Convention and its protocols and on how to report emissions under Convention and disseminate tools and information under Convention to countries beyond ECE region	Availability of e-learning courses in other United Nations official languages (e.g., French, Spanish)	Secretariat in cooperation with TFICAP	91 250 <sup>a b</sup>
5.2.6	Develop FAQs on air quality management and Convention	FAQs developed to answer most common questions on air quality management and Convention (English, French, Russian, Spanish)	Secretariat, in cooperation with relevant task forces	76 075 <sup>a c</sup>
5.2.7	Engage in key regional and international events and processes and organization of events (e.g., Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, CoP UNFCCC) to raise awareness of Convention, its 45 <sup>th</sup> anniversary, and its work on effects of and measures to reduce air pollution and to foster cooperation	Events (e.g., webinars) on air quality management topics, policy guidance developed under Convention and on exchange of best practices and policies with other regions  Strengthened cooperation with other ECE programmes and international organizations, leading to improved understanding of Convention and its work on effects of and measures to reduce air pollution, and information exchange	Secretariat, in cooperation with Bureau, relevant task forces, United Nations regional commissions and other organizations	177 000 <sup>a</sup>
5.2.8	Promote participation of ECE and non-ECE experts in technical meetings and meetings of task forces and make use of web-based meeting tools as far as possible	Improved participation and outreach	Task forces and technical bodies under Convention	

<sup>a</sup> Subject to availability of funding.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate per language version.

<sup>c</sup> Estimate for frequently asked questions in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

*Abbreviations:* BATs, best available techniques; CoP UNFCCC, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; FAQs, frequently asked questions.