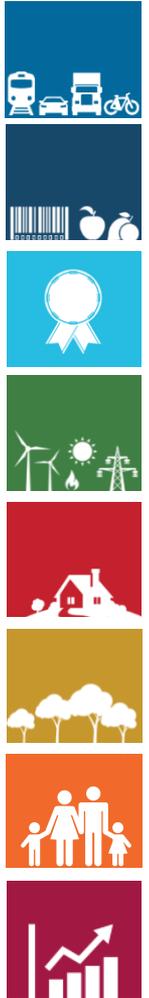




Policy-relevant questions from the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution

Annual meeting of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution
April 22, 2020



Recent Work of the Air Convention

ENVIRONMENT



- 2016 Scientific Assessment Report (SAR)
 - Describes effectiveness of the Air Convention and identifies remaining challenges and ways to address them
- The Policy Review Group (PRG) drafted recommendations to the Parties on how to address the SAR
- The Long-term Strategy (LTS) for the Convention was revised/updated based on the work of the PRG, and adopted in 2018
- Future policy priorities focused on implementation of the LTS and the review of the Gothenburg Protocol

Policy Review Group (PRG)

ENVIRONMENT



- Ad hoc group of experts established by the Executive Body (EB)
- Tasked with:
 - Making proposals regarding the SAR and recommendations for action
 - Reviewing priorities for work and action to be taken in an updated LTS; and
 - Proposing updates and revisions to the LTS
- Recommendations based on 4 key themes:
 - Enabling sound policy decisions
 - Maximizing the impacts of the Convention and its protocols
 - Improving the technical and scientific basis
 - Improving communications, outreach and cooperation

Improving the technical and scientific basis



ENVIRONMENT

- Outlines priority work areas for EMEP and WGE bodies
- Includes specific recommendations related to hemispheric air pollution
- TFHTAP to provide information to WGSR to undertake broader policy discussions on the hemispheric transport of ozone (and its precursors) and particulate matter

PRG recommendations for HTAP

ENVIRONMENT



- Report on relative contributions within and outside the ECE region to air pollution within the region
- Long-term relative contributions of each pollutant, including precursor pollutants, from each country/region to the hemispheric pollution problem in the ECE region
- Control strategies for modelling future scenarios
- Impact of climate change on the contribution of sources of air pollution from within and outside the ECE region (2030, 2050)

PRG recommendations for HTAP...cont'd



ENVIRONMENT

- Report on appropriate next steps to improve regional and global models for international shipping emissions
- Find opportunities to collaborate with other organizations in Asian countries
- Identify highest health and ecosystem risks and exposures, using estimates of current and future air quality and contributions from other regions
- Determine health and ecosystem improvements that would result from future control options
- Coordinate work on heavy metals and POPs with MSC-East; support policy discussions at WGSR on hemispheric transport of POPs and HMs in the longer term, as appropriate



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Long-Term Strategy for 2020-2030 and beyond



ENVIRONMENT

- Adopted by EB in December 2018
- Key priorities:
 - Maintain science-policy interface developed over time and strong expert network
 - Continuing to use the best available science and to further develop the multi-pollutant, multi-effect approach
 - Advancing efforts to address air pollution on a broader geographic scale
 - Promoting the exchange of experience on effectiveness of measures
 - Striving for an integrated approach to environmental policymaking



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TFHTAP in the Long-Term Strategy



ENVIRONMENT

- Provide analyses and reports that support policy conversations on the need to address ozone and its precursors, PM, HM and POPs beyond the ECE region
- Reports should include the detailed information outlined in the PRG recommendations
- Further assess impact of air pollution on a hemispheric scale taking into account actions at the local, national, transboundary and regional scales

2020-2021 workplan: Policy activities with impacts on TFHTAP



ENVIRONMENT

- 2.1.3 - WGSR to develop policy questions on control strategies to recommend for use by TFHTAP/TFIAM in future scenarios; recommendations on priority sectors for analysis
- 2.1.4 – WGSR to have policy discussions on hemispheric transport to further inform the review of the Gothenburg Protocol; recommendations will be made to EB
- Timing issue – further direction will come from WGSR after the December meeting so TFHTAP will need to respond/revise work accordingly

Examples of policy-relevant questions that could be recommended by the WGSR

ENVIRONMENT



- What is the transboundary component of air pollution?
- Are the patterns still the same as they were in the previous run?
- What should be done to reduce ozone?
- What are the key sources and where are they coming from?
- How far can we get with certain measures in the ECE region, and how much reduction is needed to eliminate the problem?
- When is transboundary transport not a problem anymore – at what levels?
- What is preventing WHO guidelines from being met?
- Others?



Review of the Gothenburg Protocol



ENVIRONMENT

- Now that the amended Protocol is in force, it will be reviewed for its effectiveness and adequacy (Article 10)
 - A non-exhaustive list of possible elements that could be considered in the review was developed, based on LTS and PRG's recommendations
- Review will be a multi-year iterative process - what can TFHTAP offer for the review? An updated inventory; trend analyses, etc...
- WGSR58 is tasked with:
 - Defining the scope and content of the review; developing a detailed work schedule; and bringing this forward for decision at EB40
- TFHTAP should be prepared to provide further views on inputs into the review
- The review is expected to be completed by December 2022, unless otherwise decided by the EB

Next steps

ENVIRONMENT



- Consider submitting initial views on inputs to the Gothenburg Protocol review for WGSR58
- Work on developing/updating global inventory
- Global modelling teams to use inventories to run base case and provide to WGSR
- After WGSR58 – provide further views on inputs to Gothenburg Protocol review; prepare scenarios based on policy advice from WGSR (e.g. % reductions; turn down emissions in specific sectors, etc.); and prepare inventory for further modelling