

## **Report of Working Group 6: Which international platform? Linking air pollution control to climate change policies.**

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### **Introductory Presentations**

The working group began with a series of short presentations discussing the lessons that can be learned from some past, current, and proposed efforts. The presentations addressed:

- Perspectives from the Global Air Pollution Forum
- Arctic Short-Lived Forcer Effort
- Addressing Short Lived Climate Forcers (SLCFs) in UNFCCC
- Lessons from the European Nitrogen Assessment

### **Questions for Discussion**

The co-chairs posed a series of questions for discussion that had been posted for consideration before the meeting. The questions were as follows:

- What is the likelihood of addressing the short lived climate forcing impacts of air pollution in the IPCC and UNFCCC?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing so?
  - What is coming from UNFCCC in form of air pollution abatement (e.g. ground-level ozone precursors such as methane emission reduction)?
  - What are the bottlenecks to make air pollution abatement a contribution to climate change policy more systematically?

- What other cooperative frameworks are available for addressing these issues?

| <b>Examples</b> | <b>Binding Agreements</b>                       | <b>Voluntary Cooperation</b>              |
|-----------------|---|---|
| <b>Global</b>   | Vienna/Montreal,<br>Stockholm, UNEP Mercury     | GAPF, IGBP/IGAC,<br>Methane to Markets    |
| <b>Regional</b> | LRTAP Convention<br>(EMEP),<br>Male Declaration | Arctic Council (AMAP),<br>CAI-Asia, EANET |

- What frameworks may be successful in engaging China, India, Russia, and developing countries?
  - What frameworks have been successful in changing perceptions of national self-interests and, ultimately, national policies?
- What role may existing regional institutions addressing air pollution (LRTAP Convention, Male Declaration, EANET, ...) play in the future at the scientific / policy level?
  - Is there a role for linking existing efforts under a global umbrella?
  - What would such a global umbrella look like?
  - What is the role of UNEP, WMO, WHO?
  - Is there a need for an “Intergovernmental Panel on Air Quality (IPAQ)”?
- What is the role of international financing mechanisms (e.g., GEF, World Bank, regional development banks, ...) in addressing these issues?
- What have we learned about these issues from the Global Air Pollution Forum?
- How to use and optimize the synergies with avoiding the trade offs by abatement strategies?

## **Conclusions from the Discussion**

- Over the next two years (2010-2011), a number of international scientific assessment processes are expecting to produce conclusions and a number of relevant intergovernmental forums are scheduled to meet (including the UNEP Governing Council, the Arctic Council, the Executive Body of the LRTAP Convention, the Intergovernmental Body of the Malé Declaration, and others). This creates a window of opportunity to make significant progress in addressing the role of air pollution in near term climate forcing.
- No one international forum will be able to handle all aspects of the air pollution – climate linkage. UNFCCC and IPCC should address SLCFs, but can not be the only forums to address these issues. UNEP is a key forum for connecting to national environment ministries. WMO (GAW, WCRP) can be useful in connecting to the global science community. At the current time, we are not ready to launch a new global intergovernmental panel to address these issues.
- There is a clear need for funding specifically for developing countries for air pollution capacity building and mitigation efforts.
- Similar to the evolution of the POPs issue, the Arctic Council has begun to address the issue of SLCFs. The LRTAP Convention could take the next step in incorporating some SLCF mitigation into a binding agreement in the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol. Later, the issue may be addressed at the global level or in other regions.
- Currently, a network of regional initiatives may be more useful than a binding global agreement to address air pollution and climate change.
- As a first step, UNEP has begun the development of an assessment report addressing black carbon and tropospheric ozone to be completed by the end of 2010. This assessment provides an opportunity to coordinate existing air pollution efforts in different regions and to identify abatement measures that have benefits for air quality and climate change mitigation.

## **Consensus Recommendations**

### *UNFCCC / IPCC*

- The IPCC Plenary is meeting next week to discuss the content of Assessment Report 5 (AR5). National representatives should request that IPCC AR5 address air pollution – climate change linkages (especially in WG3) and the air quality community should take an active role (as authors) in the IPCC process to address these issues.
- National representatives to the UNFCCC should explore the concept of “a work programme” to address SLCFs (as proposed by Micronesia), including efforts that address the linkage between air quality and climate change.
- National representatives to the UNFCCC should support efforts to give greater weight to CDM projects that have co-benefits for reducing air pollution and allow

inclusion of SLCF mitigation as appropriate National Appropriate Mitigation Actions.

#### *Arctic Council*

- Arctic Council member and observer states should support the efforts on SLCF, including the work of the SLF Task Force and AMAP, and should consider implementing mitigation actions at the national level.

#### *UNEP / WMO*

- The air quality and climate change expert communities should actively participate in the writing and review of the UNEP Black Carbon/Tropospheric Ozone Assessment. The authors should focus the assessment on identifying available solutions or mitigation options. WMO is encouraged to formally co-sponsor the Assessment. The UNEP Governing Council is requested to take note of the Assessment at its next regular session in Feb 2011 and identify future action. Countries should consider possible responses.
- National governments should support engagement of WMO and the science community to address SLCF, building upon existing global scientific frameworks.

#### *LRTAP*

- In the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, the LRTAP Convention should consider the adoption of measures that address short-lived climate forcers and the co-benefits of air pollution control and climate change mitigation, including Black Carbon, CO, and methane. EGTEI (working with AC/SLFTF) should identify the emission reductions for soot from proposed measures to reduce fine particles. TFIAM should explore the potential benefits of simultaneously addressing Air Pollution and Climate Change using the full mode of GAINS.
- LRTAP EB should consider creating an adhoc expert group (work with EGTEI, TFIAM, TFHTAP, AC/SLFTF) to help communicate to policy makers the rationale for taking action on these issues within the LRTAP Convention to report back by Dec 2010. This expert group should be open to participation from experts outside the UNECE and should link with the UNEP Assessment process.

#### *Other Regional Initiatives*

- Other existing and emerging regional initiatives should consider appropriate mitigation actions and capacity building activities that directly address SLCFs.

#### *National Governments*

- National governments should support collaboration and communication between existing regional networks and intergovernmental agreements (in North America, Europe, and Asia), including financial support for Global Air Pollution Forum and new emerging regional networks (in Latin America and Africa). LRTAP Parties are encouraged to provide greater support for outreach efforts (capacity building, awareness), including disseminating information on SLCFs and identifying mitigation strategies appropriate for developing countries' networks.

- Given the lack of adequate funding from existing mechanisms, countries are encouraged to establish targeted funds to address SLCFs (e.g. Global Methane Fund, Global Clean Cooking Fund) and to support regional air pollution cooperation and networks (e.g., emerging networks in Latin America and Africa).