

Summary Report of the First Meeting of the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Atmosphere/Air Pollution (26 May 2005- Geneva)

The IMG on Atmosphere/Air Pollution held its first meeting in the form of a teleconference to discuss the preparation of the EMG's input in the above areas to the 14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (May 2006). The list of participants in the teleconference is attached to this report.

The Head of the EMG Secretariat, Ms Monika Linn, opened the meeting and explained that the objectives of the teleconference were to review the outline proposed by the chair of the IMG (Dr. Leonard Barrie - WMO) for preparation of the Group's input, to identify the contribution and input of each agency and to agree upon the suggested timetable for preparation of the suggested input.

The Chair of the IMG introduced the outline and went through the suggested elements and issues therein. He emphasized that the aim was not to produce a catalogue of individual UN environmental agency activities but rather to identify those programmes that are cooperative, involving at least two UN organizations, and linked to a major international cooperative effort driven by a common goal. The paper would be a maximum of 40 pages.

The chair then listed the following suggested areas under which information from the IMG members would be solicited and gathered with the help of a consultant:

- 1) Indoor Air Pollution
- 2) Urban Air Pollution (Ozone Smog, Particulate matter and Human Health, Air Quality modeling and forecasting)
- 3) Regional Air Pollution (such as UN-ECE LRTAP,EMEP, EANET and ABC in Asia)
- 4) Hemispheric Air Pollution (Such as the new UN ECE LRTAP Convention Task Force on Hemispheric Air Pollution Transport)
- 5) Global Air Pollution (e.g. Ozone Depletion & Vienna Convention; Global Greenhouse Gas and Aerosol Monitoring; UNFCCC; Global POPs Air Monitoring and the Stockholm Convention; a prospective Mercury Convention)

In supplementing the above areas, the report would also include some cross-cutting issues and tools related to air pollution/atmosphere.

The chair underlined that the report would consist of a background and context section, an overview of cooperative efforts of UN members with best practices, experiences and lessons learned in the areas of atmosphere/air pollution, a collection of case studies and some indication of future challenges and how cooperation can help solve them.

The chair then invited the participants to comment on the suggested outline and propose areas under which the respective organizations could provide information.

A number of participants provided comments and suggested additional elements for inclusion into the outline. The representatives of WHO, IAEA, ILO and UNECE provided specific suggestions and additional elements for inclusion in the outline. On the overall direction and content of the paper, some members underlined that due to the political nature of the CSD's discussions, the report should not be merely scientific but rather provide examples of the UN system's cooperative activities on environmental aspects of atmosphere and air pollution, highlighting the success stories as well as challenges and gaps.

As suggested by the members, the chair requested the participants to provide their comments and additional suggestions on the proposed outline via e-mail to the EMG Secretariat in a week's time (latest by 3rd of June).

The Group agreed as well on the proposed timetable for preparation of the paper contained in the draft outline.

The Head of the EMG Secretariat, while thanking the participants for attending the teleconference, informed the meeting that she would be leaving her position as Head of the EMG Secretariat by mid-June to take on new responsibilities in the UNECE. She therefore requested the members to send their inputs and other future communications on EMG to Mr. Hossein Fadaei with copies to Ms Debbi Varidel and Mr. Leonard Barrie.

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

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