

## Submission by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*Proposed edits to draft decision text included in Part V, ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4 - Draft decisions of the Executive Body at its 43<sup>rd</sup> session (edits in track changes). Proposed edits are for clarity, accuracy, and reflect potential areas not currently identified in the current draft decision, for consideration by Parties.*

### **V. Launching negotiations on a revision to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, and other action to address the conclusions of the review of the Protocol**

#### *The Executive Body*

*Recalling* its decision 2022/4, in particular paragraphs 1–5 thereof, on the conclusion of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012, and the path forward (~~Gothenburg Protocol~~) pursuant to ~~article 10 of the Protocol~~,

*Recalling* also the ~~objectives-fundamental principles~~ of the Convention, ~~as specified in its article 2, the objectives of~~ the Gothenburg Protocol, ~~as specified in its article 2,~~ and ~~of~~ the long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex),

*Recognizing* the Convention’s contribution towards addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution

*Recognizing* also the importance of acting now to ensure further progress on addressing the conclusions of the report on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012<sup>1</sup> and the objectives of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012,

*Noting* that the current Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, is overly complex and that, without substantial changes, progress towards ratification and implementation will continue at the same slow pace, as current flexibilities and approaches are inadequate to address the many barriers for non-Parties,

*Recognizing* the importance of an integrated multi-pollutant/multi-effect approach to reduce air pollution, including the consideration of other environmental policy concerns such as climate change and biodiversity,

*Acknowledging* that global methane reduction (in addition to methane, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compound control in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region) will be needed to reduce ground-level ozone in the ECE region,

*Noting* the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixty-first session (Geneva, 4–6 September 2023) (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/130, ~~forthcoming~~)

*Taking into consideration* the document entitled Options to address the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/9), including the summary tables in the informal document accompanying ~~the~~that policy options document, prepared by the expert

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<sup>1</sup> [footnote 5: ECE/EB.AIR/150/Add.2, paras. 90–91.]

group on policy options development, and, in particular, the recommendations contained in the ~~present policy options~~ document,

1. *Decides* to commence negotiations to revise the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, in order to address the conclusions of the report on the review of the Protocol;
2. *Also decides* that the revision process could include consideration of, inter alia:
  - (a) New emission reduction commitments for the pollutants currently covered by the Gothenburg Protocol;
  - (b) Updates of the technical annexes to the Gothenburg Protocol that are currently out-of-date for level of ambition and scope;
  - (c) How to deliver further reductions of black carbon emissions;
  - (d) How to address methane emissions;
  - (e) How to achieve additional ammonia emission reductions needed to further address eutrophication and its contribution to PM2.5 health effects;
  - (f) New flexibilities, and other approaches for non-Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, to be able to ratify and implement the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended, including consideration of, inter alia, a stepwise approach, a sector-based approach, a focus on key sectors, a restructuring of the technical annexes, replacement of the annexes with guidance documents, or combinations thereof;
  - (g) Overarching, collective risk-based target(s) to reduce risk to health and ecosystems in the ECE region;
  - (h) How to achieve synergies with climate and energy policies
3. Urges Parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, to actively participate in the negotiations to revise the Gothenburg Protocol, with the aim of ensuring that any revisions take into account the different circumstances of non-Parties to the protocol, and facilitate ratification by those Parties;
4. *Further decides* to take action to enhance capacity-building, awareness-raising and cooperation within and outside of the ECE region considering the efficient use of resources by:
  - (a) Calling on Parties to the Convention to provide voluntary contributions and bilateral technical assistance, such as for emission inventory improvements, air quality monitoring networks and support for action plans, to build capacity in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as countries of the Western Balkans, and other non-Parties to the Protocol, towards implementation of measures to implement and ratify the Protocols to the Convention;
  - (b) Requesting the secretariat, in consultation with non-Parties and the Working Group on Strategy and Review Bureau, and depending on financial contributions from Parties to the Convention, to develop a programme of action, taking into account the work of the Gothenburg Protocol Review Group and the expert group on policy options, that identifies needs for resources and gaps in capacity, and report to the Executive Body at its forty-fourth session;
  - (c) Requesting the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution, subject to available resources, in cooperation with the Secretariat where appropriate, to facilitate~~provide support~~ ~~on~~ capacity-building within the ECE region, and to cooperate with international partners for further action on air pollution outside the ECE region;

5. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to begin work to revise the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, at its sixty-second session (Geneva, 27–31 May 2024) and to report on its progress to the Executive Body at its forty-fourth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2024);
6. *Also requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue work to address barriers to ratification and implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol, continue discussions with non-Parties, and to report on its progress to the Executive Body at its forty-fourth session;
7. *Requests* the subsidiary bodies to ensure that activities in their workplans include relevant work for continued progress on meeting the objectives of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012;
8. *Decides* that the negotiations to revise the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, should begin at the sixty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, with a view to concluding them by the forty-fifth session of the Executive Body unless otherwise decided by the Executive Body.