

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution



Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN)

1st Task Force meeting

21–23 May 2008, Wageningen, the Netherlands

Matti Johansson

secretary to the Working Group on Effects, Task Forces on Integrated Assessment Modelling and on Reactive Nitrogen



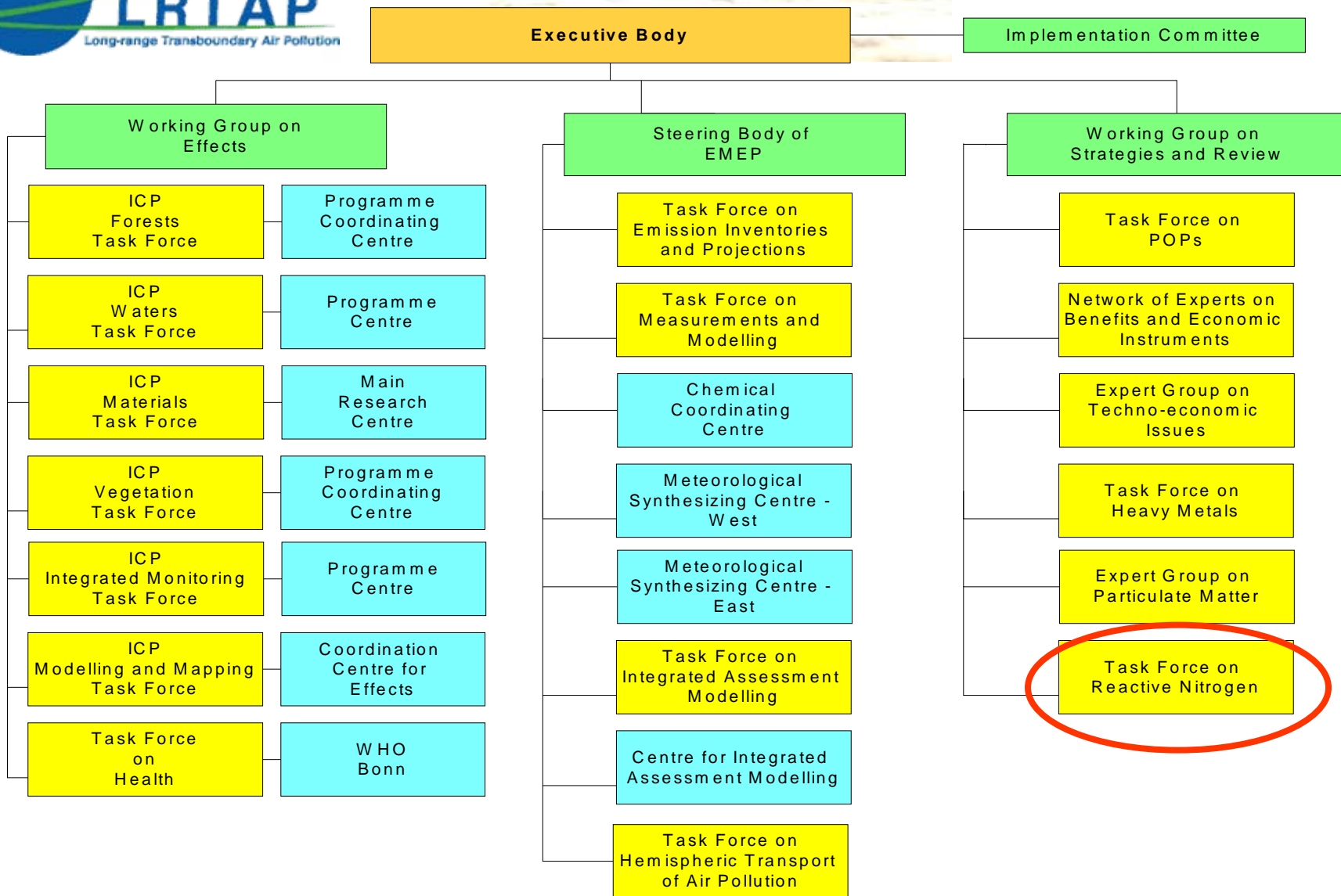
51 Parties to the Convention



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



Organization of the Convention

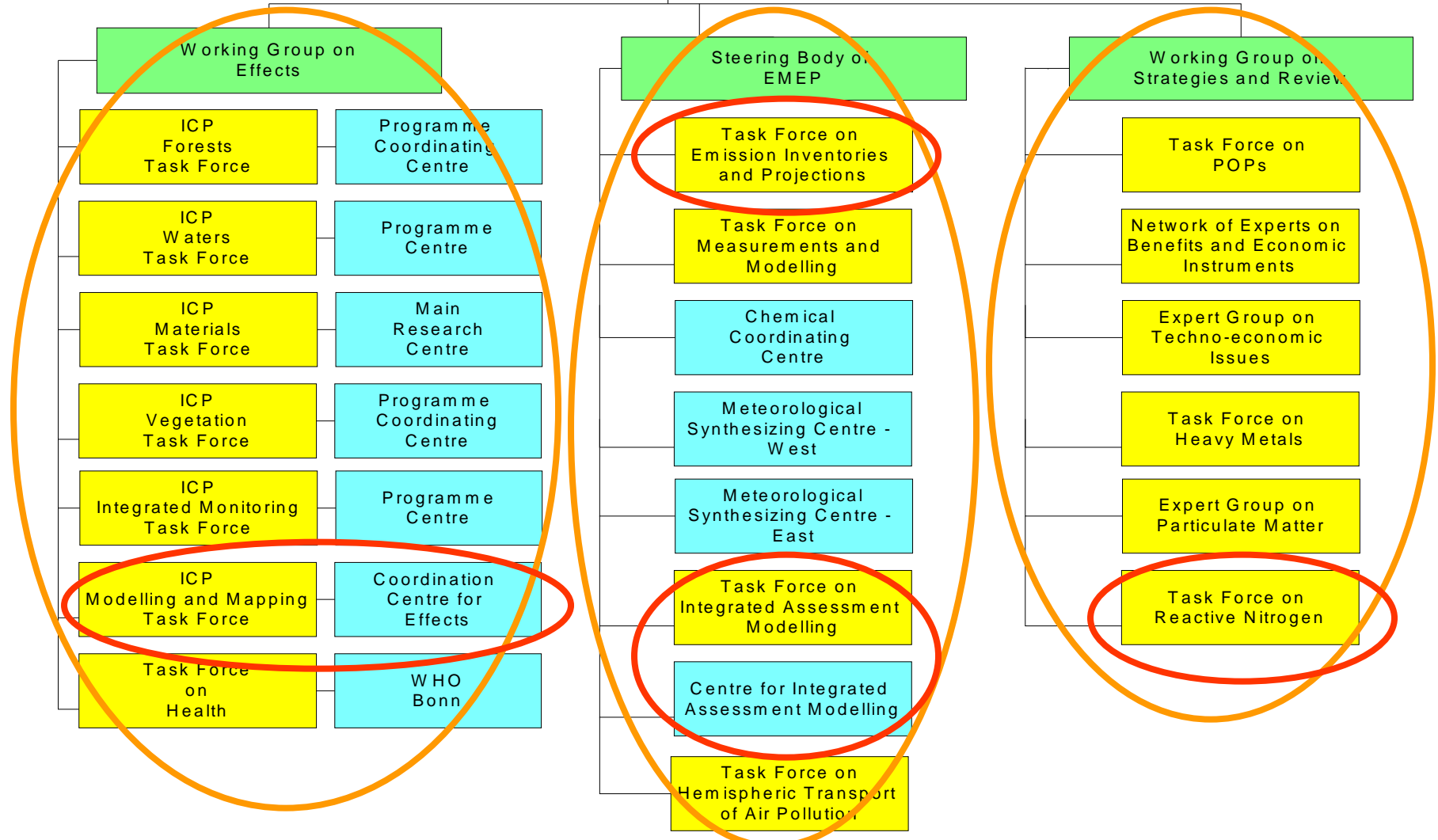


Organization of the Convention



Executive Body

Implementation Committee



Protocols



- 1979 Geneva Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
- implementation of and compliance with
- 1984 EMEP Protocol
- 1985 and 1994 Sulphur Protocols
- 1988 NO_x Protocol
- 1991 VOC Protocol
 - volatile organic compounds
- 1998 Heavy Metals Protocol
 - review completed
 - no mandate to negotiate revision
 - invited the Task Force on Heavy Metals to
- 1998 POP Protocol
 - persistent organic pollutants
 - review completed
 - mandated the Working Group on Strategies and Review to negotiate draft amendments
- 1999 Gothenburg Protocol
 - multi-pollutant (SO₂, NO_x, NH₃, VOC)
 - multi-effect (acidification, eutrophication, ozone)
 - review 2006–2007, PM?, revision 2008–**2009!**

Executive Body

(Dec 2007, ECE/EB.AIR/91)



- revision of 1999 Gothenburg Protocol (multi-pollutant/multi-effect)
 - set clear environmental targets
 - modelled optimized scenarios
 - develop work on emerging technologies
- persuasive policy-relevant effects indicators
 - “Invited the Working Group on Effects to consider further quantification of policy-relevant effects indicators such as biodiversity change, and to link them to the integrated modelling workWorking Group on Effects”
- revised EECCA action plan
 - Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
 - “...provide practical, methodological support and capacity-building (including assessment of resources needed) for the establishment of new stations and programmes in relation to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects activities”
- Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (Decision 2007/1)
 - technical and scientific information
 - options for strategy development
 - links to other international work
 - incorporate work of Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement

Recent meetings



- Working Group on Strategies and Review (April 2008)
 - any new instrument to maximize implementation and ratification
 - emission ceilings for primary PM_{2.5} and main precursors of secondary PM_{2.5} (relative and absolute values, respectively)
 - activity projections compatible with climate change policy targets for 2020
 - options to be explored in revision of Gothenburg Protocol
 - merits of target setting options for 2020/2050 (TFIAM, WGE)
 - aspirational targets for 2050
- TFIAM (May 2008)
 - took note of the TFRN meeting and decided to participate actively

Working Group on Effects activities



- effects-oriented work
 - receptors: aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, materials, human health
 - six international cooperative programmes (ICP): Waters, Forests, Vegetation, Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Mapping, Materials
 - Joint Task Force on Health (with WHO), Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling
- updated 2008 critical load data
 - calculated and empirical critical loads, dynamic modelling, robustness
- draft *“Guidelines on Effects”*
 - reporting of monitoring and modelling (“what”)
 - programme manuals give methodologies (“how”)
 - possible list of key parameters
- draft *“2008 Consolidated Report”* on air pollution effects
 - ecosystems, materials, human health
 - cause-effects, stock at risk, links between observations and critical loads
- proposal on tentative collaboration on report *“Airborne nitrogen impacts on the environment [and health]”*
 - with TFRN and TFIAM
 - aim ca. 12 pages in Sep 2009

Other activities (EMEP, WGSR)



- many Convention activities are related to TFRN
 - emissions
 - atmospheric transport
 - effects
 - control technologies
 - costs and benefits
 - integrated assessment modelling
- complementing work (not duplication)
- links to other policies, scientific research and development

Operational issues



- lead countries support Co-Chairs
- any Party may provide assistance and financial support
 - support activities with expertise and financing
 - prepare reports
 - host workshops
 - support participation of EECCA delegates
 - collaborative activities within and outside Convention
- encourage participation of non-EU Parties
 - address all Convention area
- secretariat serves meetings and assists Co-Chairs
- draft 2009 and medium-term workplans
 - former to be included in Convention's 2009 workplan
 - latter not obligatory, but useful for the new body
- report of first Task Force meeting
 - for WGSR session in September (deadline early June)

Discussion items



- revision of 1999 Gothenburg Protocol
 - target setting, non-binding aspirational targets, [2020/]2050
 - role of nitrogen cycle?
- collaboration with Working Group on Effects (WGE)
 - policy-relevant persuasive effects indicators linked to integrated assessment modelling
 - draft “*Guidelines on Effects*”: selected key parameters on effects
 - collaboration on status report “*Airborne nitrogen impacts on the environment [and health]*”
- collaboration with Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (TFIAM)
 - Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM) , other EMEP centres (CCC, MSC-West)
 - network of National Integrated Assessment Modelling (NIAM)
- outreach
 - [screen current collaboration and] explore potential activities, in particular Malé Declaration
 - activities with EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)
- draft 2009 and medium-term workplans