

Saltsjöbaden VI Workshop

Clean Air for a Sustainable Future – Goals and Challenges

Main Recommendations

Hotel 11, Gothenburg

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Preface

The 6th Saltsjöbaden workshop was held in Göteborg 19-21 March 2018. The workshop was organised by the Swedish Environmental Protection agency and the IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute with support from the Nordic Council of Ministers and in close collaboration with and support from the UNECE Geneva Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (in the following referred to as the “UNECE Air Convention”) and other international organisations active in the field of air pollution. It was attended by about 180 scientists, policymakers and experts from 35 countries and five continents. In addition, representatives from 20 international organisations and agencies attended the workshop.

The Saltsjöbaden workshops have offered unique opportunities for policymakers, scientists, industry and NGOs to meet under unconventional forms and discuss future directions with respect to international collaboration on air pollution. The earlier workshops have been important for the development of the international collaboration, in particular within the UNECE region.

This workshop was organised similar to the previous ones, at which first a plenary session set the scene of the workshop, followed by discussions in parallel working groups leading to conclusions and recommendations, and finally the outcomes were presented and discussed at a general session where a set of general conclusions and recommendations were agreed upon.

Since air pollution will remain an important issue that will deserve both political and scientific attention many years into the future, early career experts, scientists and policymakers in the international collaboration for cleaner air were invited to a pre-workshop in the form of a “negotiation-lab”.

An Advisory Board was established for the overall planning of the workshop, in particular for the selection of topics and for the final preparations of the general conclusions and recommendations.

This report contains general conclusions and recommendations as well as reports from each of the working groups. The plenary presentations can be found at the workshop’s web page; <http://www.saltsjobaden6.ivl.se/>. A key to the abbreviations is annexed.

We, the representatives for the organisers, are grateful to all those involved in the planning and running of the workshop, in particular those leading the working groups, giving presentations and taking active part in the discussions.

Further information about the workshop can be found at <http://www.saltsjobaden6.ivl.se/>, where also reports from previous workshops can be downloaded. For questions and additional information, please contact peringe.grennfelt@ivl.se, anna.engleryd@naturvardsverket.se or john.munthe@ivl.se.

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Background

Air pollution is today a global threat that requires international collaboration and coordinated actions for its solution. Several international organisations have highlighted the problem and are taking action. In addition to the UNECE Air Convention, under which the initiative for this workshop was taken, WHO and UN Environment have recently decided on global actions to meet the long term challenges for clean air. Other organisations with large interest in international collaboration and forward-looking actions are the European Union, WHO, WMO, the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, CCAC, Arctic Council and AMAP, OECD IEA and various NGOs.

Representatives for the above mentioned organisations together with scientific and policy experts, in all about 180 persons from 35 countries, took part in the Saltsjöbaden VI Workshop in Gothenburg 19-21 March 2018. Under the theme *Clean Air for a Sustainable Future – Goals and Challenges* common issues, directions and options for future collaboration were discussed. The workshop was held under the Chatham House rule.

Air pollution is closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and several of the goals have air pollution issues implicitly included. How air pollution is linked and the ways for assessing air pollution specifically within the 2030 agenda have already been brought up in various fora but it needs further attention in particular with respect to its links to health, welfare and urbanization.

Air quality and its transboundary dimension have for long been of high priority within the UNECE region. The scientific assessment report *Towards Cleaner Air* from 2016 points specifically to the importance of transboundary air pollution for the exceedances of air quality limits in urban air; an area that needs a closer collaboration between international organisations, countries, NGOs, industry and urban authorities.

An issue of increasing concern is the hemispheric scale of air pollution and transport of pollutants into areas not normally considered under the UNECE Air Convention, in particular the Arctic. On this topic several initiatives are taken by international organisations such as AMAP and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). There is an increasing interest from these organisations to discuss how to proceed and collaborate. The Stockholm Convention on POPs and the Minamata Convention are also covering air pollution in a global context.

One particular issue of interest for the UNECE region is the ratification and implementation of the Air Conventions Protocols in the Eastern part of the UNECE region and there is a need to find new entrances for actions in these countries.

In 2016 the European Union agreed on a revised National Emissions Ceilings Directive, setting emission reduction commitments for 2030. The new directive has a number of aspects, closely linked to the UNECE Air Conventions agenda and where further consideration is needed. One particular issue in this context is the monitoring of ecosystem effects, which now appear both as part of the agenda under the convention and as a request within the EU.

To capture these concerns the workshop was organised around five overarching themes;

- Clean Air for cities - the importance of transboundary air pollution and international collaboration for achieving air quality standards.

- Clean Air Globally - needs and options for scientific support and policy cooperation.
- Clean Air in the East – how to achieve a faster ratification and implementation of the Air Convention’s protocols in the Eastern part of the UNECE region.
- Clean Air, Ecosystems and Climate –in particular how to organise future monitoring of the air pollution impact on ecosystems within the UNECE region.
- Clean Air – Sectors and Solutions - in which three sectors of particular interest were discussed; shipping, wood combustion and agriculture.

Main recommendations from Saltsjöbaden- VI

Based on the approx. 50 recommendations from the different working groups, a set of key recommendations were drawn and agreed upon at the final session of the meeting. The recommendations include an indication of who should take the initiative for further action as well as suggestions of other organisations to be involved.

1. Flexibility for parties in the Eastern region of UNECE in ratification of future review of the Gothenburg Protocol. Several of the parties in the Eastern region of the UNECE have argued that they see limited possibilities achieving all requests under future reviews of the Gothenburg Protocol and the protocols on Heavy Metals and POPs within a limited scope of time. In order for these parties to get credits for measures undertaken in the process of a full ratification, the CLRTAP should explore the possibility for the Eastern region parties to allow for step-wise ratification. (The EECCA Coordination group together with WGSR with the aim to come up with a proposal to the EB and the Implementation Committee.)

2. Clean air in cities. The WHO air pollution guidelines as well as national and EU standards will in many urban areas not be met without measures to reduce the regional background, which often to a large extent is caused by transboundary transport. Vice versa, activities in cities also cause considerable amounts of air pollution that will influence air quality outside the city and results in transboundary transport of air pollution. An Expert panel should be set up under TFIAM in order to support local air policy with respect to the linkages between regional and local air pollution and the cost-effectiveness of coordinated actions. (TFIAM together with European Commission, WHO and relevant urban networks)

3. Global air quality and earth observation network. For a broader approach to the global dimension, scientifically and as a basis for action, there is a need to develop a global harmonized monitoring network, preferably in an Earth System observation concept, including interactions with ecosystems but also emission inventories and projections. Such a network should take into account the most recent developments with respect to remote sensing, cheap remotely operated monitors and data collection/communication. Coordination with networks related to climate change is of importance and it could form part of a global earth “observatory”. Finance is a key issue in particular in regions with economies in transition and further work needs involvement of the World Bank and similar organisations. (HTAP in close collaboration with WMO, TFMM AMAP and others)

4. Global air policy dialogue. Establish a policy platform on a broader geographic scale to address air pollution involving international organisations (UN Environment, WHO, WMO, Arctic Council, CCAC,

Stockholm and Minamata Conventions and others) and regional initiatives (including EANET, Malé declaration and others), taking a step-wise approach at the outset, with an initial focus on increasing regional cooperative efforts. (UNECE Air Convention/EB Bureau in collaboration with UN Environment)

5. Improved ecosystem monitoring. Monitoring of ecosystem impacts is a time and resource-consuming activity where coordination between different bodies is of crucial importance. The workshop recommended setting up an expert group to coordinate and harmonize the monitoring of air pollution impact on ecosystems for conventions and other bodies (e.g. UNECE Air Convention, CBD, TEEB) and the European Union. (Working Group on Effects together with the European Commission)

6. Reduce emissions from shipping. Encourage the establishment of maritime emission control areas in all seas and develop schemes to reduce emissions from existing ships. Important stakeholders within this field are in addition to the IMO and the UNECE Air Convention, HELCOM, OPSARCOM, REMPEC, European Commission and the Arctic Council (IMO and CLRTAP)

7. Reduce domestic heating emissions. Address health impacts of domestic solid fuel burning and develop schemes for awareness-raising and replacement of old stoves and other combustion equipment. (TFTEI involving other organisations such WHO, CCAC, UN Environment, UN FCCC, EU Parties and urban platforms)

8. Reduce agricultural nitrogen losses. The agricultural sector is lagging behind, in spite of the availability of cheap technical solutions for substantial emission reductions. There is a need for developing criteria to link agricultural subsidies to emission reduction obligations and healthy food production. A voluntary “30% club” for ammonia reductions should be launched to encourage immediate action in areas with intensive agriculture (TFRN together with EU-COM, Parties, INMS)

9. Early Career Workshop. An Air Quality Negotiation Simulation was held for new and early career researchers and professionals to learn about the nature of international negotiations and the different perspectives that play a role and to gain experience in finding creative solutions that can bridge contrasting stakes of various Parties. It was recommended that such Early Career workshops continue to be held, where possible, in order to encourage other young professionals to participate in air quality science and policy work, particularly under the UNECE Air Convention. (UNECE Air Convention)

Brief history of the Saltsjöbaden workshops

The first workshop was held at Saltsjöbaden outside Stockholm in April 2000. It was aimed to discuss and outline further initiatives within the UNECE Air Convention and the EU after the recent signing of Gothenburg Protocol and the protocols on Heavy Metals and POPs. The idea behind the workshop and the format was to discuss under informal conditions how science and policy should be developed to support further negotiations and actions on transboundary air pollution. The workshop became a starting-point for the continued work both within the Convention and the European Commission, not the least the outline of the CAFE programme.

All following workshops have taken place in Gothenburg; although they have been named “Saltsjöbaden workshops” since they have all followed the same concept originally developed for the first workshop.

All workshops have as mentioned above ended in a set of strategic recommendations with respect to further development of international air quality science and policy. The most significant recommendations from earlier meetings were:

- 2000 The workshop pointed in particular to the increased importance of health effects for future international collaboration and in particular an increased role of the Task Force for Health.
- 2004 The intercontinental and hemispheric dimension of air pollution received an increased attention and as consequence of the workshop the UNECE Air Convention set up a task force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TF HTAP)
- 2007 A key recommendation from the workshop was to initiate integrated activities under the UNECE Air Convention directed towards Nitrogen approach (TFRN). The workshop brought also up the importance of atmospheric pollutants for climate and the issue of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP)
- 2009 The workshop took a broad approach on the linkages between air pollution and climate change and in particular SLCP. The outcome was brought to the UNFCCC community and in particular to the COP 15 in Copenhagen 2009.
- 2013 The workshop brought in particular up the issues of outreach to various stakeholders, including the public but also the issue of implementation of signed protocols.

Several recommendations are repeatedly coming back both as consequence of difficulties to realise the ideas but also because they need to be repeated in order to not be forgotten. Such recommendations include

- Better communication to the public
- Better communication to finance ministries
- Closer cooperation with the UN FCCC
- Stable funding of effects work

The first three workshops were organised within the framework of the Mistra ASTA programme and the following three mainly with support from the Swedish Environment Protection Agency. The Nordic Council of Ministers has been supporting all workshops. Other organisations, such as the European Commission and the UNECE have supported some of the workshops.