Air & Climate - Intermediate Climate Policies
Gothenburg 19-21 October 2009.

Final Conclusions and Recommendations

The coming period represents a key and important opportunity to link air and climate concerns, with the UNEP governing board, Arctic Council and possible conclusion of the Gothenburg Protocol revision all occurring in 2011. In light of this opportunity, the conference recommends:

1. Address under the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol the climate effects of air pollutants and the short-lived climate forcers, including BC, CO and methane.

2. Create a CLRTAP Task Force or ad hoc expert group to investigate physical and economic aspects of climate change and air quality interactions, initially urgently to inform the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol.

3. The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen should prepare a special report on nitrogen and climate interactions.

4. CLRTAP scientists need actively contribute to IPCC-reports, including AR5, which should include air pollution impacts through the work of WG3 especially. Climate models & scenarios need to take into account the effects of ozone and nitrogen on ecosystems and their feedbacks on climate change.

5. GAP Forum, UNEP, WMO and other similar bodies should continue to build links between regional agreements and networks for air pollution and climate change to enhance exchange of knowledge and information. Such links may lead in the longer term to a framework convention for the atmosphere.

6. CLRTAP and UNEP should explore the need for developing a protocol to address background ozone on the hemispheric scale with potential participation of all countries in the Northern Hemisphere.

7. In many developing countries health and other sustainable development concerns are driving policy, and climate effects are considered a co-benefit, while in many industrialised countries climate drives policy. The CLRTAP Convention can contribute to melding these two approaches, by greatly improving its outreach, making a valuable contribution to the capacity building, science and policy know-how needs of developing countries. Regional networks need greater support.

8. Although there exists consensus on the large importance of PM-species on both health and climate change, the assessments of IGAC and UNEP will help further inform effective policy development in CLRTAP, UNFCCC and other relevant conventions. Research on the toxicity of PM-species and ozone within CLRTAP should continue.

Nitrogen and climate special report
Address actions by UNFCCC
---

9. A clear vision of intermediate and long term air & climate targets and measures from policymakers would aid the scientific community in structuring their research priorities. Consider the timing of targets & measures and the cumulative impact for both short- and long-lived substances.

10. Geoengineering is relevant in the cost-benefit debate. An apparent low cost opportunity to address global issues raises important questions with regard to governance (i.e. who decides if action can or should be taken?). Create/include a global atmosphere convention as a framework for the management of the atmosphere (coherent air and climate policy)