

Draft Decision of the 7th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties on Development of the Protocol

The Working Group,

~~Taking note of~~ Endorsing the Report on the development of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/6), including the possible approach for revising Annexes I, II and III (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/6/Add.1); the key areas for possible development and the Comparative analysis of different international reporting obligations related to Annexes I, II and III of the Protocol on PRTRs (PRTR/WG.1/2019/Inf.2),

Aware that some Parties are interested in information on possible approaches for Parties to develop PRTRs, going beyond the current requirements of the Protocol,

Recalling that pursuant to Article 6.2 of the Protocol, having assessed the experience gained from the development of national pollutant release and transfer registers and the implementation of this Protocol, and taking into account relevant international processes, the Meeting of the Parties shall review the reporting requirements under this Protocol and shall consider specified issues in its further development,

Also recalling that pursuant to Article 20 of the Protocol, Parties may propose amendments to the Protocol and that such proposals are to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties,

- i) Decides to intensify analytical work on the development of the Protocol, including the review referred to in article 6(2) of the Protocol, and sets up an information exchange among Parties and other relevant stakeholders to further share experience gained in the Protocol implementation, including implementation challenges and possible approaches for Parties to develop PRTRs going beyond the current requirements of the Protocol. This information exchange, to be organised through submissions, should cover:
 - experience gained in the implementation of the activities specified in annex I of the Protocol and their possible revision;
 - experience gained in the implementation of the pollutants specified in annex II of the Protocol and their possible revision;
 - experience gained in the implementation of the thresholds in annexes I and II; and their possible revision;
 - experience and concrete solutions proposals for optimisation of the Protocol text and its implementation regarding the key areas identified in paragraph 39 ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2019/6; and

- a possible inclusion of other relevant aspects, such as information on on-site transfers, storage, the specification of reporting requirements for diffuse sources or the development of criteria for including pollutants under this Protocol.
- ii) In the light of the information shared, and based on inputs by Parties and observers, will draw up a comprehensive report, including recommendations for strengthening the Protocol and/or its application through amendments to the Protocol text or other relevant guidance, with the assistance of the Bureau;
- iii) Will consider this report and the associated recommendations at its eighth meeting, with a view to their adoption by ~~as a basis for recommending to~~ the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session~~the adoption of the report as a reference document for Parties.~~