

Arctic Council Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane

3^d Meeting, Moscow, April 14, 2014

Summary Report

Introduction

The third meeting of the Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane (TFBCM) was chaired by Jon Kahn, from the Swedish Ministry of Environment. The key items discussed at the meeting were: 1) The timeframe for national Black Carbon (BC) inventories; 2) The progress made with the intersessional work since the meeting in Stockholm in December, namely: The peer-review model for the AC TFBCM work (Sweden) and Reporting (Finland & Norway); 3) Discussion of the Co-chairs Draft Framework Document. The Task Force had a constructive and productive discussion on each of these agenda items.

Six out of eight Arctic States were present (Canada and the U.S. were not represented). Two out of six Permanent Participants (AAC and SC) were also present. Two AC Working Groups – AMAP and ACAP – attended the meeting. There were four AC Observers, including representatives from Germany, Japan, WWF and UNEP.

Presentation of intersessional work

Due to U.S. and AIA absence at the meeting the intersessional work on Community engagement (AIA), Private sector engagement (AIA), and Observer engagement (U.S.) were not discussed. The issue of targets, objectives and benchmarks (Norway) had no written report produced as yet and did therefore not lead to an in-depth discussion.

The chair opened for status updates from the states on the national BC inventories. Some states have already completed inventories on BC while others are working on their inventories currently or will submit updates in written form. There was some concern expressed by Russia about completing their inventory by February 2015, they expect to complete it during 2015.

The delegations showed appreciation for the paper submitted by Sweden on the scope of the peer review process which will work as a base for the continued work. There was some discussion on the use of the term “peer review” which could be confused with international scientific peer review.

Informal discussions on identifying the scope of the targets, objectives, benchmarks section have begun intersessionally. A teleconference was planned but could not be scheduled prior to the Moscow meeting. The need to include targets was discussed at the meeting, as well as quantifying the effects of BC and methane. The WGs AMAP and ACAP offered to report at the first meeting after the summer of the TF on their work on the sources and effects of BC and methane. Identifying linkages between sources, effects and the environment was also discussed as a priority issue. Indigenous representatives also maintained that they need to be better

included in the national processes.

A template document on national reporting was submitted by Finland prior to the meeting. It was discussed whether separate reporting to the AC was necessary, or if the reporting to CLRTAP and UNFCCC could simply be used to prepare a report with data from the Arctic states. Separating reporting on BC and methane was discussed and was in general deemed preferable since different methodologies are used. A need to specify that the reporting focuses on anthropogenic sources was identified. The biennial time-frame was reflected upon. Observer country involvement was also brought up as an area which should be developed further once the Arctic states have defined their reporting protocols. Finally, Russia nominated Sergej Vasiliev and Vladimir Kattsov to take part in the intersessional group on reporting.

Discussion of the Co-Chairs' framework document

Prior to the meeting, the Co-chairs revised the Framework Document, included a preamble and made significant changes throughout to make the document more comprehensive. A considerable part of the meeting involved discussions on the preamble, structure, and specific wording in the Framework Document. Input from all delegates present helped the Co-chairs to develop a better understanding of areas of convergence and divergence, though feedback has yet to be submitted by all Arctic states. The Co-chairs will develop a new draft of the Framework Document based on the feedback received, and additional feedback solicited in writing.

Other Presentations and Observer statements

At the end of the meeting Vigdis Vestreng from the Norwegian Environmental Agency held a short presentation on the proposed Norwegian action plan on SLCPs which was published in December 2013.

In addition Kathrin Keil from Germany gave a short statement.

These presentations and statement as well as the presentations held on the intersessional work are available from the TFBCM password area on the AC website.

Next Steps

The TFBCM will need to deliver an arrangement by the next Arctic Council Ministerial in Canada in spring 2015. In order to deliver to Ministers in 2015, the chair identified the need for three more meetings this year and a high level of activity in the intersessional groups.

The Finnish delegation offered to host the next meeting. It has subsequently been confirmed that the fourth meeting of the TFBCM will be held 21-22 May in Helsinki.