

## **Arctic Council Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, Stockholm, December 11-13, 2013**

### **Summary Report**

#### **Introduction**

The second meeting of the Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane (TFBCM) was co-chaired by France Jacovella, Director General of Climate Change International, Environment Canada and Annika Markovic, Swedish Ambassador for Environment. The key items discussed at the meeting were: 1) presentations by the Arctic States' and Permanent Participants on intersessional work, actions their governments are taking domestically regarding black carbon and methane emissions reductions, and their views on key issues for the Task Force's work (e.g., targets, indicators, and inventories for black carbon); 2) presentations by other organizations and Arctic Council (AC) Working Groups on their work related to black carbon and methane; and 3) discussion of the Co-chairs draft Framework Document. The Task Force (TF) had a constructive and productive discussion on each of these agenda items.

All Arctic States with the exception of the Kingdom of Denmark, who submitted their comments to the meeting in writing, were present. Five out of six Permanent Participants (except for RAIPON) were also present. Two AC Working Groups – AMAP and ACAP – attended the meeting. Arctic Council (AC) Observers were also present, including representatives from China, Germany, India, Japan, Nordic Council of Ministers, NEFCO, UNEP/CCAC Secretariat and EU.

#### **Presentation of intersessional work**

Due to the ambitious timeline set out by the Co-chairs and as agreed at the first meeting of the TFBCM in Whitehorse, September 2013, many of the delegations provided submissions during the intersessional period. Some of the submissions provided initial views on key issues being addressed by the TFBCM, such as targets/indicators, while others provided information on activities ongoing internationally and domestically related to short lived climate pollutants (SLCP). All the submissions are available to TF members on the TFBCM section of the Arctic Council website.

#### **Presentations by Other Organizations and Arctic Council Working Groups**

There were presentations by representatives of other organizations working in the field of SLCPs including the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). Over a lunch break, a new International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI) and World Bank report on the impact of SLCPs "On Thin Ice" was presented. There was also a presentation by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) who shared information on their activities related to black carbon and shipping emissions.

To further cooperation between the TF and both AMAP and ACAP and to investigate how these groups can contribute to the work of the TF, presentations were provided by ACAP and AMAP. ACAP

presented their projects aiming at reducing black carbon in the Arctic. AMAP gave an overview of the scientific work ongoing in its two relevant expert groups on black carbon/ tropospheric ozone and methane. AMAP also highlighted the role of its previous work in leveraging the profile of SLCPs. One of the major deliverables from the AMAP expert groups to the next Ministerial will be updated scientific assessments on black carbon and methane. It was agreed that the outcome of the TFBCM work will need to be appropriately linked with the findings and recommendations from the AMAP reports. It was also felt that some of ACAP's project based work would be useful for the Task Force, including that undertaken through the Indigenous People's Contaminants Action Plan Project Steering Group. Ensuring alignment between the working group deliverables and those of the TFBCM will require coordination.

The importance of AC observers' presence at the meeting was underlined by several delegates. Observers expressed unanimous appreciation for having been invited to the meeting of the Task Force. Recognizing the global nature of the issue of black carbon and methane, and the fact that non-Arctic sources of these pollutants impact the Arctic, many noted that observers can positively contribute to the work of the TF. Some of the observers highlighted their long history of polar research and expressed an interest in data sharing and other forms of cooperation, including contributing to the Task Force's work.

### **Discussion of the Co-Chairs' framework document**

The Co-chairs' Framework Document was prepared based on discussions at the first TFBCM meeting, submissions by Arctic states/ Permanent Participants and the Terms of Reference of the Task Force. A significant part of the meeting involved discussions on the structure and content of the Framework Document. Input from all delegates helped the Co-chairs to develop a better understanding of areas of convergence and divergence. There was broad convergence among participants on the structural elements of the Framework, including sections on a common vision; enhanced national actions, such as reporting and inventories; and joint actions, such as Arctic Council projects, science, and outreach to stakeholders and observers. The Co-chairs will develop a new draft of the Framework Document based on feedback received and upon intersessional work, which will be discussed at the next TFBCM meeting.

### **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, intersessional tasks were identified, including work on peer review processes, community level engagement, reporting, targets/indicators/objectives, engagement with business, role of observers, as well as a new draft of the Co-chairs Framework Document.

Options for the location and timing of the next meeting of the TFBCM are being explored, including the possibility of Canada hosting the meeting in late March or another country hosting the meeting in April or May.