



**UNECE**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

**JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER PROGRAMME (JPO) Chiffre Nr. 2022-1-20**

**I. General Information**

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**Post Title:** JPO Associate Expert

**Sector of Assignment:** Environment Division, Transboundary Cooperation Section

**Organization/Office:** United Nations Economic Commissions for Europe (UNECE)

**Location :** Geneva, Switzerland

**Duration:** **2 years with possibility of extension for another year.** The extension of appointment is subject to yearly review concerning priorities, availability of funds, and satisfactory performance

**Please note that for participants of the JPO-Programme two years work experience are mandatory!** Relevant work experience can be counted. In order to assess the eligibility of the candidates, we review the relevant experience acquired after obtaining the first university degree (usually bachelor's degree).

**II. Supervision**

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Title of Supervisor:  
Environmental Affairs Officer - Secretary, Convention on Long- Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Content and methodology of supervision:  
The Associate Expert will follow the United Nations Performance Appraisal System in which overall objectives for the year and activities to be undertaken are defined. During the first month of the assignment, the Associate Expert will work jointly with his/her direct supervisor to finalize an agreed upon work plan. The United Nations Performance Evaluation System will serve as a primary platform to evaluate of the Associate expert's performance. At the end of the year the Expert's performance will be assessed vis-à-vis the set objectives.

In the routine work, the Expert will participate in regular unit meetings in which the work of the unit is organized and short- to medium-term objectives are fixed, and work carried out is discussed and assessed. Direct feedback will be provided in regular meetings with the supervisor, as necessary. During the assignment, the level of responsibility and the complexity

of the tasks to be carried out by the expert will increase.

### **III. Description of the organizational unit**

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The UNECE provides secretariat functions for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in accordance with its article 11. These include:

**Support to the intergovernmental process:** Organizes the annual sessions of the Executive Body and the main subsidiary bodies (EMEP Steering Body, Working Group on Effects and Working Group on Strategies and Review); Provides substantive and logistical support; Coordinates work and inputs from task forces, experts groups and scientific centres; prepares documentation and reports; Provides support and advice to the elected officers in the preparation and conduct of the sessions, follows up on EB decisions

**Legal support and advice:** Maintains information on treaty actions related to the Convention and its Protocols and liaise with United Nations Office of Legal Affairs/Treaty Section. Circulates proposals for amendments and adjustments to Protocols, communicate adopted amendments to the Treaty Section and circulate information on amendments, adjustments and entry into force in accordance with Protocol provisions and in coordination with Treaty Office. Provides information and advice to Parties on ratification/legal aspects of the Convention and its Protocols. Provides information and advice on legal, procedural, substantive and institutional matters to elected officers, Parties, task forces/expert groups. Reviews draft recommendations and decisions in all secretariat documents for complementarity, consistency and coherence.

**Support to science and policy:** The success of the Convention is built on the continued and effective science-policy interaction. The Executive Body has established a robust scientific network including 14 scientific centres supported by 13 task forces, involving a large number of scientists working on various aspects such as atmospheric and ecosystems effects monitoring, modelling, emission data, technological solutions and cost estimates. The secretariat implements the financing mechanisms for funding the work of the scientific centres (EMEP Protocol and EB decision 2002/1) and coordinates the workflow between scientific and policy bodies. It supports the negotiation of new or revised protocols taking place within the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

**Monitoring and review of compliance:** The Convention has been extended by eight Protocols and subsequent amendments to them. The protocols contain specific emission reduction obligations for various air pollutants as well as obligations to report data. In accordance with Executive Body decision 2012/20, the secretariat reviews emission data for compliance by Parties with their obligations under relevant Protocols in force, identifies cases of possible non-compliance, takes necessary steps and liaises with parties concerned. Presents relevant information on compliance with reporting obligations to the Implementation Committee and the Executive Body. Organizes the meetings of the Implementation Committee, prepares correspondence, documentation, as well as the annual report of the Implementation Committee to the Executive Body.

**Capacity-building:** The secretariat is implementing projects aimed at strengthening the implementation and ratification of the Convention's protocols, particularly in countries of South-

Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, through capacity-building activities on emission inventories, best available technologies and legislation gap analysis.

**Communication and awareness raising:** Liaises with other UNECE subprogrammes, UN entities and specialized agencies, and other international organizations on issues of relevance to the Convention's work. Issues publications and promotes the Convention through various fora.

#### **IV. Duties and Responsibilities**

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Further to the secretariat functions listed above, the work of the secretariat is guided by the biennial workplan adopted by the Executive Body every two years. The biennial workplan aims to translate the vision and strategic priorities set out in the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2, decision 2018/5, annex) into a list of activities to be implemented by respective bodies under the Convention during the period 2022–2023. During the biennium, the task forces and centres under the Convention will carry out the activities in accordance with their revised mandates as adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions (Geneva, 10–14 December 2018 and 9–13 December 2019, respectively). The 2022-2023 workplan, which will be adopted at the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Executive Body in December 2021, will contain additional activities of the task forces and centres not mentioned in the mandates. The Executive Body is also expected to decide on a new area of work – broader geographic cooperation – through establishing a task force on forum for international cooperation on airpollution under the Working Group on Strategies and Review. Another major activity requiring substantial additional secretariat support in 2022-2023 is the ongoing sufficiency and effectiveness review of the Gothenburg Protocol.

The Associate Expert will be involved in a broad range of activities of the Convention secretariat, for the purpose of getting a maximum exposure to the different aspects of the operation of a multilateral environmental agreement and thus maximizing the value of the learning experience. To respond to the need for increased resources of the secretariat during this period, the focus of work will be on the following main areas:

1. Supporting the exchange of information and mutual learning on both the scientific/technical and policy level by:
  - (a) Liaising with other international organizations and UN entities, including various UNECE programmes, such as on transport, sustainable energy, housing and land management, forestry and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements; assist in strengthening cooperation with UNFCCC, CCAC, WMO, WHO and UNEP and other relevant organizations;
  - (b) Making arrangements for, contributing to and coordinating the preparation of related documentation to be used by the secretariat during thematic seminars, workshops and other related events;
  - (c) Organizing thematic sessions within the framework of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;
  - (d) Collecting and maintaining information on good practices in national implementation of protocols shared by Parties;

- (e) Participating in relevant outreach and cooperation activities and events.
2. Supporting the intergovernmental processes under the Convention, including by:
- (a) Supporting the planning, organization, and follow-up of intergovernmental meetings under the Convention (in person and online); assisting with the drafting of official and informal documents for intergovernmental meetings under the Convention;
  - (b) Assisting in the coordination and supervision of the implementation of decisions taken, maintaining the necessary contacts with the lead countries of activities and working closely with the countries' focal points; drafting of correspondence, collecting inputs and overseeing the preparation of the relevant outputs;
  - (c) Assisting in coordinating the work of the task forces under the Working Group on Strategies and Review (on nitrogen management, techno-economic issues and broader geographic cooperation); assisting in the development of policy recommendations.
3. Providing support to the secretariat in raising awareness of the Convention and increasing visibility of the Secretariat's work through drafting and outreach material regarding the Convention by:
- (a) Produce and maintain updated information on the Convention and the Protocol on the website, social media, and other means of communication with Parties, other interested States and partners;
  - (b) Drafting publications, press releases and other outreach material on the promotion of the objectives and activities undertaken under the Convention, as well as its tools and guidance documents;
  - (c) Assisting in the preparation of presentations and speeches;
  - (d) Representing the Secretariat at international meetings in her/his field of competence;
  - (e) Carrying out other tasks assigned as necessary.

## V. Qualifications and Experience

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Education:

**Master's degree** in environmental studies, sciences, economics, law or another relevant field.

Work experience:

Two years of previous work experience, preferably in an international environment and on environment or sustainable development related aspects and linked to policy relevant work or multilateral environmental agreements. Previous experience on air pollution, climate change, ecosystem, or biodiversity related issues is an asset.

Languages:

Excellent written and spoken proficiency, in English is required. Excellent drafting and writing skills in English are required. Fluency in Russian is an asset.

UN competencies: Professionalism, Planning and Organizing, Teamwork, Communication.

## V. Learning Elements

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The Associate Expert will develop skills and gain experience in

- Understanding the role and functioning of a secretariat of a Multilateral Environmental Agreement;
- Organizing intergovernmental meetings, workshops and seminars;
- Administration and servicing of intergovernmental bodies under the Convention;
- Policymaking in the field of air pollution abatement;
- Interacting with a broad spectrum of experts and officials from national and international organizations, notably with different programme areas of UNECE, as well as other UN organizations such as UNFCCC, WMO, WHO, UNEP, as well as the research community; developing and sustaining partnerships and networks;
- Intergovernmental negotiations and inter-organizational work;
- The linkages between policies, strategies and measures affecting air pollution as well as energy, industry, agriculture, buildings, transport, human health, ecosystems and biodiversity;
- The linkages between air pollution and climate change, including intercontinental air pollution issues and their climate change relevance and linkages;
- Identifying and analysing policy relevant issues and recommendations; drafting background and policy papers.

## VI. Background Information

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The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution was adopted with the aim to limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution including long-range transboundary air pollution with the objective to protect human health and the environment. Since its adoption in 1979 the Convention has addressed some of the major environmental problems of the UNECE region through scientific collaboration and policy negotiation. The Convention has been extended by eight protocols with specific obligations designed to reduce emissions of key air pollutants. It now has 51 Parties including the European Union.

As outlined in its long-term strategy, the focus of the work under the Convention is increasingly on related key cross-sectoral and multi-scale issues, addressing the synergies and trade-offs between policies to address air pollution, climate change and biodiversity, while at the same time recognizing the need for increased cooperation between different levels of government, to reduce emissions at the local, national, regional and global levels. The lessons learnt from the Convention can be used in other regions, thus contributing to solutions globally. Parties recognized this by establishing the forum for international cooperation on air pollution by adopting Decision 2019/5.

Increased ratification and related implementation is also vital for the effectiveness of the Convention, particularly in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South- Eastern Europe, with a particular focus on the Convention's three most recent Protocols - on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Heavy Metals and the Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.

**Bitte senden Sie Ihre JPO-Bewerbung direkt an das  
Büro Führungskräfte zu Internationalen Organisationen (BFIO)  
unter Angabe der Chiffre Nr. 2022-1-20 auf dem  
Bewerbungsbogen**

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