

Draft resolution on substantially improving air quality in cities to within healthy levels for human exposure

Proposed by the Sudan

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Taking note of the World Health Organization estimate, from the report entitled “Health and the Environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution” considered by the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2015, that air pollution contributes to over seven million premature deaths each year globally, a burden of disease that may now exceed the combined burdens of malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS,

Recalling the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as outlined in paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013,

Recognizing that poor air quality is a growing challenge in the context of sustainable development, in particular in relation to human health in cities and urban areas, and that efforts across sectors to improve air quality are needed,

Recognizing also that air pollution is an impediment to national sustainable development, with a negative impact on the economy, worker productivity, health-care costs and tourism, among many other things,

Aware that promoting improved air quality is a priority in protecting public health and provides co-benefits for the climate, ecosystem services, biodiversity and food security,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in which Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives committed to promoting sustainable development policies that supported healthy air quality in the context of sustainable cities and human settlements, and recognized that reducing air pollution led to positive effects on human health,

1. *Calls for the development of a public health and air quality information tool, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;*
2. *Invites those Member States affected by air quality issues to develop and implement, in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, national action programmes to improve air quality;*
3. *Requests the United Nations and other entities to provide tools to develop, support and enhance research and analysis, including for the assessment of the health and environmental impacts of air pollution, the identification of health risks and benefits of sector policies by means of health impact assessments, among other things, and to conduct cost-benefit analyses in specific stakeholder groups, such as women and children, at the subnational level, in cities and in households;*
4. *Requests the Executive Director, in partnership with Member States, other United Nations entities and relevant programmes, to develop and share best practices for the development and implementation of strategic frameworks for enhanced air quality and early warning systems for improved public health;*
5. *Also requests the Executive Director to provide technical support to Member States on air pollution issues by establishing an air quality monitoring network;*
6. *Calls for the development, led by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, of communications strategies to raise awareness of and stimulate demand for policies to tackle air pollution, prevent diseases associated with air pollution and improve well-being at the global, national and local levels;*
7. *Requests the Executive Director to provide training materials and technical support to build environmental sector capacity for communications, including with the public, on addressing the health effects of air pollution;*

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen technical support provided by global and regional networks, as appropriate, and to enhance institutional capacity to develop air pollution action plans, particularly within the health sector, including at the national and subnational levels, and for specific issues such as household air pollution;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Director to develop activities in the field of technology assessment, such as tools and a methodology for the assessment of the sustainability of technologies, to enable decision makers to select the most appropriate technologies for achieving improved air quality and public health;

10. *Calls on* the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations entities to provide the financial resources required to implement projects to improve air quality.
