



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

TACKLING AIR POLLUTION – CHALLENGES FOR GOVERNMENTS AND INDUSTRY

Side Event at the VIP LOUNGE, UN Compound
1.00 – 2.30 pm

Organized by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature
Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

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MODERATOR:

Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director of the Division of Technology, Industry
and Economics at the UN Environment

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

Mr. Li Ganjie, Minister of Environmental Protection, the People's Republic of
China

PANELLISTS:

Ms. Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Republic of
South Africa

Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary at the German Federal
Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and
Nuclear Safety

Mr. Richard Northcote, Chief Sustainability Officer, Covestro

Mr. Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, Founder and Director of the Centre for
Environment Education (CEE), India

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

EVENT SUMMARY:

Citizens worldwide are suffering from air pollution which is caused to a large extent by inadequate industrial production processes. Pollutants from industrial activities are numerous and include particulate matter, volatile organic components, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, as well as toxic metals, such as lead and mercury. According to the WHO, fine particulate matter alone is estimated to cause about 25% of lung cancer deaths, 8% of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease deaths, and about 15% of ischemic heart disease and stroke.

Industry is one of the main drivers of our economies, contributing to innovation, employment creation and sustainable development. It can also play a central role in addressing today's largest single environmental health risk: air pollution.

Efforts made in the reduction of air pollution will directly contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 3.9 ("by 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination"). This will in turn benefit public health systems, improve living conditions for the affected population – often the poorest people in society - and at the same time stimulate national productivity.

Governments are not only challenged to find the right policy mix and regulatory mechanisms, but they are also needed to provide clear guidance to encourage industries to embrace urgent action on air pollution. Solutions range from voluntary approaches and reporting requirements to financial incentives as well as restrictions and bans for polluting industrial activities. One of the main questions is: how best to get industries to get on board and join forces with governments?

This side event will provide a platform to present and discuss different approaches for implementing effective measures against industrial air pollution. Ministers and Vice-Ministers from China, South Africa and Germany as well as representatives of industry and civil society will showcase their lessons learnt on how to address air pollution in industrialized as well as emerging economies.