



UNITED
NATIONS

UNEP/EA.6/L.13



United Nations
Environment
Programme

Distr.: Limited
29 February 2024
Original: English

United Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment Programme
Sixth session
Nairobi, 26 February–1 March 2024

Draft resolution on promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally*

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1/7 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality, its resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally, and noting World Health Assembly resolution WHA68.8 of 26 May 2015 on the health impact of air pollution, and UNGA resolution 74/212 on International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies,

Recognizing that air pollution, including fine particulate matter and tropospheric ozone and their precursors, is one of the greatest environmental risks to health, and that populations living in vulnerable situations are disproportionately exposed to air pollution and have a higher risk of associated negative health impacts and deaths,¹

Underscoring the need to elevate efforts at all levels of government, by environmental and health organizations, as well as the private sector to collaborate on addressing the significant impacts of air pollution, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Acknowledging the progress achieved by existing bodies and initiatives that facilitate cooperation on in-country and transboundary air pollution, including the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, its meteorological synthesizing centres, and its Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution, Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change for sustainable development in Africa and its proposed Africa Clean Air Program, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and its recently launched Clean Air Flagship, the air quality work programme under Montevideo Programme V and the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia,

Further recognizing air pollution also has significant adverse effects on ecosystems leading to loss of biodiversity,

Acknowledging that addressing air pollution results in multiple benefits to human health, the economy, ecosystems and climate and that efforts across sectors are needed to improve air quality,

Acknowledging that improving air quality can result in climate co-benefits and that climate change mitigation efforts can result in air quality co-benefits,

1. *Encourages* member states to accelerate efforts to implement relevant provisions of Environment Assembly resolution 3/8 on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally, including developing national air quality programmes and setting national ambient air quality

* The present document has not been formally edited.

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/pollution>. Accessed on 28 January 2024.

standards, bearing in mind the most recent air quality guidelines of the World Health Organization, as appropriate in their national circumstances;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, to form and facilitate a cooperation network on air quality, working with interested member states, members of specialized agencies, secretariats of the UN entities, including UN Regional Economic Commissions, relevant MEAs², international, regional and subregional bodies, organizations and initiatives³, that would inter alia:

(a) Raise awareness of the multiple impacts of air pollution and the importance of actions to mitigate it;

(b) Work with Member States to build and enhance national air quality monitoring capacity including the use of low-cost sensors of proper quality, passive samplers and satellite data, and digital solutions in conjunction with monitoring reference equipment;

(c) Share relevant knowledge, information and expertise; best practices; interactive online tools; and data and air quality maps, through the online platform;

(d) Work with Member States with advanced air quality management capabilities to share their expertise, and knowledge on all elements of air quality management;

(e) Support capacity building for addressing air pollution including through mutual learning from inter alia available science, technical expertise and information, including related to co-benefits of nitrogen management and climate plans;

(f) Support development of regional air quality arrangements, including an Africa Clean Air Programme and enhance, as appropriate, existing regional air quality initiatives, including those listed in footnote 3;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director subject to the availability of resources to provide an updated global online platform for network-wide information sharing and communication;

4. *Invites* member states, regional economic integration organizations; intergovernmental organizations; the private sector, including industry; foundations and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to help mobilize means of implementation in order to address air pollution, particularly in developing countries;

5. *Invites* regional and subregional cooperation bodies and initiatives, as well as financing institutions, to consider developing and implementing regional solutions to address air pollution issues, including by:

(a) Coordinating efforts to develop and implement air quality action plans and policies;

(b) Consider setting and cooperating on goals for regional air quality improvement;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its seventh session on the implementation of this resolution.

² Including, but not limited to, World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention, and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Europe.

³ Including, but not limited to, the Task Force for the International Cooperation on Air Pollution, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, the Malé Declaration, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, the Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership, the Air Pollution Information Network in Africa, the African Union Commission, African subregional air quality cooperation agreements, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia, the Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution and the Intergovernmental Air Pollution Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Arctic Council, and the UNEP working group on Nitrogen.