AFRICA GROUP

Draft Resolution on Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution

Recalling
the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as outlined in paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 27/2 off 22 February 2013;
Also Recalling
United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7 on “Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Program in Promoting Air Quality” and resolution 2/21 on “Sand and Dust storms”;

Further 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;

Recognizing that
air pollution is the world’s single greatest environmental risk to health and that over 7 million people across the world die prematurely every year from exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution, a burden of diseases that may now exceed malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS combined;

Also Recognizing
that air pollution is a growing challenge in the context of sustainable development, in particular, in relation to human health in both rural and urban areas, and that effort across sectors to reduce air pollution are needed;

Further recognizing
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 other things;

Aware that
reducing air pollution is a priority in protecting public health and providing co-benefits for the climate and biodiversity;

Noting that
the cost of global air pollution is extremely high and in particular in Africa where it is estimated at $ 450 billion representing 7.9% of GDP of the region;

Recognizing that
air pollution mostly affects women, children and the elderly in particular, those in low-income populations as they are often exposed to high levels of ambient air pollution and indoor air pollution from cooking and heating with wood fuels and kerosene;
Also realizing
the specific needs and special circumstances of particularly developing countries, including urban areas with levels of air pollution higher than the World Health Organization air quality guidelines;
1. **Encourages** member states to take action across sectors to reduce all forms of air pollution in order to protect human health and the environment, reduce negative impacts on the economy as well as promoting sustainable development;

2. **Urges** member states to integrate and strengthen air pollution management aspects in the national development agenda, internalize pollution costs and create awareness at sub-national and local levels, the business and local communities on the environmental, health and socio-economic negative impacts of pollution;

3. **Invites** Member States to develop and implement, in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, national action programmes to prevent and reduce air pollution including on short-lived climate pollutants;

4. **Also invites** member States in a position to do so, financial institutions and private sector to contribute technical and financial support towards regional and national initiatives to address air pollution;

5. **Encourages** member States to establish and enforce vehicle emissions and fuel standards, in order to reduce air pollution;

6. **Requests** the Executive Director in collaboration with other UN agencies and other partners to provide tools and methodologies to develop, support and enhance research and analysis, including for the assessment of the health and environmental impacts of air pollution and conducting cost-benefit analyses in specific stakeholder groups, such as women and children;

7. **Requests** the Executive Director to strengthen collaboration with the World Health Organisation, other regional initiatives and partners, to raise awareness of and stimulate demand for policies that prevent and reduce air pollution;

8. **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 environment and health sectors, and for specific issues in particular indoor air pollution;

9. **Requests** the Executive Director to support developing countries to expand the use of renewable energy for cooking to prevent and reduce indoor air pollution, through the development and implementation of sustainable finance and investment mechanisms, innovative and technological solutions, and education and public awareness;
10. *Further requests* the Executive Director to support developing countries to develop and enhance technical capabilities for air quality monitoring and data collection;

11. *Also Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution during the next United Nations Environment Assembly.