

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY MAJOR GROUPS (Local Authorities, NGOs, Farmers, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Science and Technology, Children and Youth, Indigenous People and Women)

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Resolution/Decision 8: Strengthening UNEP's Role in Promoting Air Quality¹

The United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Program,

[*Recalling*] [*Noting*] the World Health Organization estimate that air pollution contributes to 7 million premature deaths each year globally, a burden of disease that may now exceed the burdens of malaria, tuberculosis, and AIDS combined,

Recognizing that poor air quality is a growing challenge in the context of sustainable development, particularly in cities and urban centers, and that national efforts to improve air quality are needed,

Further recognizing that air pollution is an impediment to national economic development, impacting, inter alia, worker productivity, health care costs, and tourism,

Aware that reducing air pollution is a priority to protect public health and provide co-benefits for the climate, **energy efficiency, urban planning and services**, ecosystem services, biodiversity, and food security,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, by which the General Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in which [Member States] [participants] committed to promote sustainable development policies that support healthy air quality in the context of sustainable cities and human settlements and recognized that reducing air pollution leads to positive effects on health,

Aware that the 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a decision for a Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution,

Recalling with appreciation existing efforts to support national action to improve air quality, such as UNEP Live, the WHO guidelines on ambient air quality, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, **as well as contributions of numerous national and regional legislations and Conventions, that are compiled in GEO-5, such as Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) (UNECE 1979)** and the important contributions that networks, such as the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia and the Malé Declaration, have made to sharing information and best practices.

Acknowledging the value, role and contribution of existing efforts of local and subnational governments as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships in reducing air pollution such as legislative, public awareness and direct actions focusing on enhancing urban planning, public and non-motorized transport, buildings, waste management, energy efficiency and switching to low-carbon and renewable sources of energy.

1. *Urges* governments **at all levels** to take action to improve air quality to protect human health and

¹ Additional comments expected from Member States.

the environment, and promote sustainable development;

2. *Invites* Governments to establish and implement nationally-determined ambient air quality standards and emissions standards for their significant sources of air pollution;

3. *Invites* Governments to make air quality data more easily accessible and understandable to the public;

[4. *Invites* Governments to report to the UNEP Secretariat on their efforts taken pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this decision prior to the next United Nations Environment Assembly in 2016;]

5. *Requests* the Executive Director:

a. To undertake expanded capacity-building activities on air quality, such as workshops and policy development assistance, to support Governments **at all levels** in their efforts to implement paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this decision;

b. To raise awareness of the public health and environmental risks of air pollution and the multiple benefits from improved air quality through the Global Environmental Outlook 6 assessment process and public outreach campaigns, and across the UN system[, and in particular in the context of the discussions of the post-2015 development agenda];

c. To explore opportunities for strengthened cooperation on air pollution within the United Nations system, in particular with the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, including establishing linkages between UNEP Live, WMO Information System (WIS), and other relevant information management systems; **as well as with those developed by local and subnational governments and their networks and by multi-stakeholder partnerships**;

d. To undertake regional or subregional, as appropriate, assessments by 2016, focused on identifying gaps in air quality management capabilities, opportunities for cooperation, and air pollution mitigation opportunities, building upon existing cooperative efforts on air pollution;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on the information provided by governments [pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this decision.], and to provide an update on progress made in implementing the present decision, to the next United Nations Environment Assembly.]

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