AIR QUALITY WORK IN UN ENVIRONMENT

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PRESENTATION SUMMARY

- Air pollution: a global challenge
- Air Quality and UN Environment’s mandate
- Progress overview
- Zooming in on major areas of work on air quality
- Looking ahead
Delhi finally has an action plan to combat air pollution, here’s how you can help

Pollution linked to 9 million deaths worldwide in 2015, study says

Pollution causing more deaths worldwide than war or smoking: Lancet

The World Health Organization says poor air quality is the greatest environmental health risk
UNEA RESOLUTIONS

- **UNEA Resolution 1/7 on air quality**: requests UN Environment to support governments in their efforts to implement the resolution through:
  - capacity-building activities;
  - awareness-raising;
  - strengthened cooperation on air pollution;
  - Monitoring and assessment of air quality issues; and
  - Undertaking global, regional and sub-regional assessments.

- **UNEA Resolution 2/21 on sand and dust storms**: requests the Executive Director to support member States through:
  - identification of relevant data and information gaps
  - policy measures and actions
  - building on the “Global assessment of sand and dust storms” under General Assembly resolution 70/195 of 22 December 2015
UN ENVIRONMENT ACTIONS ON AIR QUALITY

- AQ Implementation Programme presented to CPR (UNEA1)
- Global AQ Policy Overview (UNEA1)
- Global Report Launch (UNEA2)
- New Unit AQ & Mobility (UNEA2)
- BreatheLife Launch (UNEA3)
- AQ Policy Support Programme (UNEA3)
- Resources Sweden & Norway (UNEA3)
UN ENVIRONMENT AQ REPORT

• Analyzed AQ policies in cooperation with Member States (193 countries)
• 14 Sub regional reports
• Global summary
• Ten key actions
FINDINGS ON AIR QUALITY POLICY ACTIONS AROUND THE WORLD
UNEPE’S MAIN AREAS OF WORK ON AIR QUALITY:
1. MONITORING & ASSESSMENT

• Pilot countries for 2017-18: Costa Rica, Paraguay, Kenya

• Catalyzed commercial production of open-source device

• Leveraging partnerships to test application of low cost technology in 3-5 cities

• Revising strategy to focus less on technology and more on assessment of its use

• Regional air quality and health assessment in six countries underway: Ethiopia, Botswana, Benin & Thailand, Sri Lanka, Mongolia
UNEP’S MAIN AREAS OF WORK:
2. AQ POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

• Demonstration project in three African Cities (i.e. Kigali, Addis Ababa and Nairobi)

• Conduct an analysis of air pollution source apportionment

• Support the development of policy recommendations

• Develop one or two specific targeted interventions (sectoral or regulatory support)
UN ENVIRONMENT’S MAIN AREAS OF WORK

3. CLEAN MOBILITY

• Many sectoral programs that benefit air quality (forests, tourism, production and consumption, law, renewable energy, mobility, …)

• Clean mobility - many countries & cities projects:
  • Walking and Cycling (7 country projects)
  • Clean Fuels and Vehicles (58 country projects)
  • Clean Urban Bus Fleets (8 country projects)
  • Clean Ports (4 country projects)
  • Electric Vehicles (28 country projects)
UNEP’S MAIN AREAS OF WORK:
4. GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES

• Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
• Regional Environment and Health Forums (UN Environment & World Health Organisation)
• Cooperation with Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP),
• UN Environment as host of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network of East Asia (EANET)
• Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership
• Health, Environment and Climate Change Coalition as a key partnership between WHO, World Meteorological Organisation and UN Environment
5. SAND AND DUST STORMS

• UN Environment has developed a strategy building on global assessment of sand and dust storms

• A project is under development to assess and promote green technology, such as wind breaks and sand dune stabilisation
6. CAMPAIGNING: RAISE AWARENESS AMONG CITIZENS

- Providing Authoritative Air Quality Data portrayed interactively
- Run social media campaigns
- Work with media organizations to tell the story
- Provide awareness materials
- Promote the work cities are doing to improve air quality

BreatheLife2030.org

35 cities - home to 25 million people - have joined the campaign in 1 year

Over 80% of the world’s cities have air pollution levels over the WHO guideline for safe air
LOOKING AHEAD: UN ENVIRONMENT’S AMBITION ON AIR QUALITY

Develop an integrated menu of services to countries:

• Building from UN Environment work in regions

• Country level strategies with various components i.e. monitoring, assessments, support to legislation and standards, education and awareness-raising on air quality

• Sectoral interventions i.e. fuels and vehicles, public transport, waste burning, clean industry, indoor air pollution, sand and dust storms

• City level projects

• Global programmes including campaigns and advocacy efforts
STRENGTHENING UN ENVIRONMENT’S ROLE IN AIR QUALITY

• Political & institutional:
  • 2018-2021 Medium Term Strategy to support agency-wide air quality programming
  • UNEA3 resolution on air quality

• Partnerships:
  • Continue to build synergies with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition numerous activities in countries on air quality (e.g. Urban Health, Heavy Duty Diesel Initiative, Support to National Planning Initiative, etc.)
  • global partners: World Health Organisation, World Meteorological Organisation, UN-HABITAT, World Bank, etc
  • South South cooperation approach: Link with Centre for Science and Environment, Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership, Clean Air Asia, etc
  • Continue to strengthen sectoral programmes

• Resources:
  • Fund raising strategy
  • Additional core and extra-budgetary resources