

SINGAPORE'S INPUT

Background

Pollution knows no boundary. Pollution originating from one area may affect the environment of other areas including across countries. A spill from an oil installation in one country may affect the marine environment of a neighbouring country. The industrial emission from economic activities in one country may pollute the air of neighbouring countries. The pollution of an international river in an upstream country may affect the water quality conditions of the river in downstream countries. The leaking of radioactive material from nuclear plants in one country may also raise environmental concerns to many regional countries.

When these happen, it is imperative that there is close cooperation and communication between the source and destination countries of the pollution. In this context, Singapore is of the view that in addition to addressing domestic sources of pollution, addressing transboundary forms of pollution should also be covered in the Ministerial Declaration at UNEA-3. Multilateral forums, such as UNEA, plays a pertinent role in helping to draw focus, strengthen cooperation, and in turn address pollution in its transboundary forms.

Input

We have drafted some points to be included in the Ministerial Outcome document:

- > Pollution does not stop at national borders. Pollution originating from one country may affect the environment of other countries.
- > Therefore, it is important to prevent, reduce, and control transboundary environment harm arising from activities within our territories. As responsible global citizens, it is our duty to cooperate, such as consulting each other, exchanging information, and working together, when there is a risk of significant transboundary pollution harm.
- > We therefore reiterate the importance and relevance of Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development - which emphasised that "*(States have) the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction*" - and for countries to uphold them.