



**United Nations Association in Canada**  
**Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies**

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“Towards a Pollution Free Planet”

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

*Feedback on report by UNA-Canada’s Green Corps Participants:  
Marny Girard & Burgess Langshaw*



**Marny Girard** (comments in attached PDF, with outlying thoughts below):

- Many of the key measures do not include timelines for implementation or indicate to what degree they would mitigate the negative effects of the pollutant(s). Some of these measures are also lacking details of how they would be accomplished and who would be responsible;
- The paper briefly mentions the creation of jobs, but does not address the occupations that would be transformed or eliminated in the transition to a pollution-free future. Further, in the lists of stakeholders, labour (workers and their representatives) is repeatedly absent;
- No mention of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and besides inclusion in the SDGs, Indigenous Peoples are only referred to in the Annex. No consideration for Traditional Knowledge; and
- A pollution-free planet would necessitate the phasing out of fossil fuels and the transformation of industrial, extractive, transportation, and agricultural sectors. The report does provide concrete actions for some of these areas, but there is a lack of ambition, particularly surrounding fossil fuels.

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**Burgess Langshaw:**

“I find it strange that the perspective taken in the report is mostly (though not exclusively) one of mitigation rather than adaptation or even better yet, prevention.

In addition, a major economic discussion should be in order (beyond the proper pricing of resources) where the externalities of pollution are internalized into products and prices. This would discourage the manufacturing of highly polluting goods and then consumers who chose to buy higher polluting goods would pay a larger weight of the damages, rather than on the poor. The report notes the poor are most vulnerable and least able to pay for it.

Finally, although I realize that there isn't necessarily room for it within this report I think it worthy to mention the idea of restructuring our economic models. In particular, I think mention of the DeGrowth movement and the Doughnut Economics model (book by Kate Raworth) is vital in consideration of pollution. Doughnut economics in particular has a special role to play in this, in that it fits circular economic activities to within the capacity of the biosphere (hence two interlocking circles - making a Doughnut).”

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