

Committee: World Health Organization (WHO)
Topic: Health Problems Caused by Air Pollution
Country: Republic of South Africa
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The Republic of South Africa is a country located at the very south side of Africa. Its capital is Pretoria. Its area is 1,221,037 sq km. Its population is 62.02 million. It is rich in cocoa production and coal mines. Its economic potential by resources and location makes it has a unique and considerable position in the United Nations

Air pollution is one of the world's most dangerous public health threats. According to the World Health Organization, over 7 million people die every year because of air pollution related sicknesses. Polluted air causes asthma, lung cancer, heart disease, strokes, and chronic respiratory infections. Children, the old, and people living in low income areas are the most vulnerable. Indoor air pollution, caused by unsafe cooking gasses, also affects millions of families in developing regions.

The United Nations and WHO have committed several actions to stop air pollution: • WHO Air Quality Guidelines: global standards for safe air levels. • UN Clean Air Initiative: supports countries in reducing emissions. • SDG 3 (Good Health) and SDG 13 (Climate Action): focus on reducing health risks linked to pollution. • Partnerships with UNEP and other organizations to monitor air quality and reduce industrial emissions. These actions show the global commitment to protecting public health from polluted air.

Republic of South Africa faces significant problems with air pollution because of industrial places, mining, coal power plants, and increasing city building. These issues cause high rates of asthma and respiratory illnesses. South Africa is trying to fix the problem with the solutions under: • Strengthening national air quality laws • Increasing monitoring of polluted areas • Promoting cleaner energy and reducing dependence on coal • Supporting health services for affected communities South Africa believes international cooperation is needed for reducing global air pollution levels and protecting the health of all citizens.

The Republic of South Africa proposes the following solutions: 1. WHO-funded air quality monitoring systems in high-risk regions to track harmful pollutants in real time. 2. Clean energy transition programs, supporting solar, wind, and safe cooking technologies. 3. Public health education campaigns to inform communities about the dangers of polluted air. 4. International medical support to help countries with high pollution-related disease rates. 5. Stronger global emission standards, created jointly by WHO, UNEP, and Member States. South Africa believes these solutions will reduce disease, save lives, and create a cleaner and healthier world for future generations.

Sources:

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2. <https://www.greenpeace.org/africa/en/blog/54600/air-pollution-in-south-africa-the-silent-killer-that-demands-urgent-action/>
3. <https://www.bartermckellar.law/environmental-law-explained/air-quality-act-in-the-south-african-legal-context-a-comprehensive-overview>
4. <https://globalvoices.org/2024/12/29/south-africas-air-pollution-crisis-contributing-factors-and-solutions/>
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14094760>