

Country: India

Agenda Item: Addressing Health Issues Caused by Air Pollution

India is a big country in Asia with a population of nearly 1.5 billion people. It is the largest South Asian economy. In the last ten years, India overtook some of the world's best economies, displaying impressive growth. The economy that mostly consists of service, technology, and construction sectors, is modernizing thanks to digital governance. At the same time, we are still working on improving income inequality, and the lives of our people who are struggling with poverty. Most notably, the Indian government has strived to enhance public health: according to World Health Organization (WHO) data, there has been a striking increase of the percentage of people enjoying good quality healthcare and services in the past seven years. Nonetheless, an issue that is threatening not only India, but the whole global population, is still a major obstacle in the way of Indians becoming healthier. That issue is air pollution.

Sadly, 99% of the global population lives in a place with air quality that is considered dangerous by WHO guideline limits. This is a major worldwide health risk and a serious environmental threat. As you all know, air pollution has been a problem since the Industrial Revolution, in the 1700s. Over time, cars, industries and power plants started to burn more fossil fuels like oil or gas, which increased air pollution. Today, countries such as China, India and the United States deal with air pollution the most because of their big economy and population. However, potential solutions are coming from these same countries. These potential solutions include developing renewable and clean energy sources, reducing the usage of fossil fuels, and dedicating financial resources to combatting air pollution.

India is committed to providing pollution-free air and water as well as a clean environment to its citizens. That is why in accordance with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), India has created the National Clean Air Program (NCAP). We are aiming to reduce the levels of PM2.5 and PM10 by 40% until 2026 with this program. India has also taken steps in the right direction by increasing air quality monitoring stations and adopting Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS). The Indian government has set aside 1.7 billion dollars to combat air pollution. India's expectations from the UN are to send UNEP to train the public including businesses, civil society, youth, media, and health professionals. As the distinguished delegates here all know, air pollution is a problem that crosses national borders. So, India welcomes the efforts of its neighboring countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan for forming international partnerships and encouraging regional investment in clean technology. The international community, through organizations like UNEP, COP, Green Climate Fund and others, should provide funding to South Asian countries to help them address pollution effectively.

References:

CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook>

UN Environment Program: <https://www.unep.org/topics/air/global-air-quality-cooperation-network>

WHO (World Health Organization): <https://www.who.int>

World Bank Data: <https://data.worldbank.org>