



## Second Committee

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First Session

Second Committee

Agenda item 1

**Trilateral Cooperation to Tackle Fine Dust and Air Pollution**

**Sponsors: People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea**

### **Trilateral Cooperation to Tackle Fine Dust and Air Pollution**

*The Second Committee,*

*Noting with deep concern* the severity of air pollution and its adverse impact in the East Asia region and the significant impact of transboundary pollution on neighbouring countries,

*Recalling* the past United Nations (UN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other international organizations' actions addressing air pollution,

*Keeping in mind* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and especially the goal of good health and wellbeing that every human has the equal right to breathe clean air and have good health,

*Recalling* the outcomes of past Tripartite Environment Minister Meetings and other regional efforts in order to mitigate air pollution,

*Keeping in mind* that long-range transboundary air pollution is one of the major sources of pollution in many countries,

*Understanding* that regional cooperation and international transparency are vital to solve the air pollution,

*Bearing in mind* that global climate change and the emission of greenhouse gas is closely related with the solution of air pollution,

*Reaffirming* Paris Agreement 2015 as an international guideline addressing global climate change and reducing carbon emission,

*Recognizing* that the current public awareness on air pollution and environmental protection is inadequate and needs to be raised,

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*Emphasizing* the economic capacity and impact of private sector on the solution to air pollution,

*Affirming* sustainable development as the ultimate goal of the solution,

### **Definitions**

1. *Defines* “Air Pollution” as the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into resources and ecosystems and material property and impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment, and “air pollution” shall be construed accordingly;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Defines* “Long-range transboundary air pollution” as air pollution whose physical origin is situated wholly or in part within the area under the area under the national jurisdiction of one State and which has adverse effects in the area under the jurisdiction of another State at such a distance that it is not generally possible to distinguish the contribution of individual emission sources or groups of sources;<sup>2</sup>

### **Raising Awareness on the Public through Education**

3. *Emphasizes* that raising awareness of the public is fundamental step to reduce air pollution and achieve sustainable development;
4. *Encourages* local high schools, colleges, and universities, no matter state-owned or private-owned, to provide exchange programs in the local areas on environmental protection:
  - a. The programs are strongly encouraged to include air pollution and global climate changes as key topics;
5. *Encourages* institutions of all kinds, particularly schools and other educational organisations, to organise activities, especially in local communities, addressing and advocating actions as follows:
  - a. Purchasing energy-efficient items:
  - b. Reducing open-air burning of straws, wood, plastics, and unprocessed coal:
  - c. Reporting and supervising activities, constructions, industries, or other behaviours that produce large amount of pollutants without proper permission, and taking action to alert the public through campaigns, SNS poster contests or such that promotes the awareness of electronic vehicles:
  - d. Supporting the use of energy-efficient public transportation:
  - e. And other actions related to the reduction of carbon footprint or air pollution on an individual level, especially those practical for students;

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<sup>1</sup> 1979 CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

<sup>2</sup> 1979 CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

6. *Reiterates* each citizen's equal right to pursue the best health status and wellbeing and to breathe clean air:
  - a. Notices with deep concern that many people are working in heavily polluted places and are living with inadequate protection from the air pollution;
  - b. Fully recognizes the adverse effect of air pollution on the health of people if adequate protection is not present;
  - c. Decides that extra wages should be paid to the workers in heavily polluted working conditions and should be provided necessary protection from the pollution;
  - d. Recommends government department of education or other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to organise volunteering work to distribute dust-proof mask and indoor air filters to communities in heavily polluted areas;
7. *Encourages* institutes, especially schools of all kinds, to start to organize annual tree-planting days and accordingly plant certain amount of trees on campus at that day:
  - a. Students shall be encouraged to volunteer in watering and maintain the trees;
8. *Also encourages* young people, especially students, to use social media as a tool to promote awareness on air pollution and sustainable development among student bodies and the younger generation;
9. *Suggests* that governments educate the people on the use and scientific facts about alternative fuels in following ways:
  - a. Encouraging the establishment of student organisations;
  - b. Educating the public through media in various forms, especially videos regarding complicated scientific concepts of thermonuclear energy;
  - c. Establishing museums concerning the use of alternative energy sources, especially thermonuclear energy;
  - d. Assigning student reporters regarding the safe and efficient use of alternative energy, especially thermonuclear energy;
10. *Creates* a trilateral panel of juniors for better regulation of the carbon trading system in all three countries:
  - a. The juniors in the panel should come from People's Republic of China, Japan, and Republic of Korea;
  - b. The juniors in the panel should not be directly related to any government;
  - c. The panel is responsible for giving advice to the three governments on setting the cap of carbon emission for each company;

### **Creating Domestic and International Transparency with Student Efforts**

11. *Decides* that citizens have the right to freely access following information about the pollution of each company under the cap-and-trade system:
  - a. The annual cap of carbon emission set for the company;
  - b. The total carbon emissions of the company each year;
  - c. And the company's trading records for carbon allowance;
12. *Strongly suggests* citizens to actively participate in the process of sources of pollutants which cause adverse impact on daily life or health conditions;

### **Green Technology Development and Private Sector Engagement**

13. *Considers* that fossil fuels will continue to be the major source of energy around the world, especially in developing countries, for a considerable amount of time, and renewable energies need to be economically competitive in order to be extensively utilized;
14. *Suggests* that the solution of air pollution and climate change in the energy sector should be divided into short-term solution and long-term solution:
  - a. Short-term solution needs to give an immediate response to mitigate the current pollution by minimizing the adverse impact of pollutants that are produced, while long-term solution should focus on sustainability and address the pollution by fundamentally reducing the production of pollutants;
  - b. Short-term solution does not aim to replace fossil fuel with renewable energy, but instead promotes a more efficient and environmentally friendly use of fossil fuels, including but not limited to developing affordable filters to be installed at factories and vehicles;
  - c. Long-term solution focuses on decreasing the use of fossil fuel and replacing it with cheap and safe renewable energy sources, including but not limited to the extensive use of electric vehicles, lithium batteries, and nuclear and wind power plants;
  - d. Short-term solution and long-term solution should be given the same priority in terms of research and investment;
15. *Expresses* its appreciation to the past investments, both from the public sector and the private sector, to the development of green technologies and their application;
16. *Urges* cooperation among countries in future development of green technologies, especially the utilization of renewable energy;
17. *Suggests* college and university students to conduct additional research on the development of green technology;

18. *Looks forward to* the organisation and participation of future student contest, competitions, and activities regarding environmental protection, and especially on research or solution to air pollution in East Asia regarding such topics like film festivals;
19. *Strongly encourages* students to understand how the engagement of private sector and unrestricted cooperation between corporations can be beneficial;
20. *Recommends* governments to provide incentives, as appropriate, if companies create additional smart phone applications or opportunities related to the solution or research on air pollution such as student internship program;
21. *Persuade* individuals to establish applications or activities concerning air pollution:
  - a. Create events such as online competitions and quizzes for the applications;
  - b. Provide live information on location of buses for each applications;
  - c. Encourages students to actively participate on creating applications;
22. *Decides* to be consistently sieged on this issue.