

United Nations Environment Assembly



2019 年广东省中学生模拟联合国大会决赛
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United Nations Environment Assembly

History of the Committee

The United Nations Environment Assembly was created in June 2012, when world leaders called for UN Environment to be strengthened and upgraded during the [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development](#), also referred to as RIO+20. The Environment Assembly embodies a new era in which the environment is at the centre of the international community's focus and is given the same level of prominence as issues such as peace, poverty, health and security. The establishment of the Environment Assembly was the culmination of decades of international efforts, initiated at the [UN Conference on the Human Environment](#) in Stockholm in 1972 and aimed at creating a coherent system of international environmental governance.

The first and second sessions of the UN Environment Assembly tackled and adopted resolutions on major issues of illegal trade in wildlife, air quality, environmental rule of law, financing the Green Economy, the Sustainable Development Goals, and “delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. It was also a success with the adoption in 2014 of a [Ministerial Outcome Document](#) that called for the achievement of “an ambitious, universal implementable and realizable Post-2015 Development Agenda” that integrated all the dimensions of sustainable development for “the protection of the environment and the promotion of inclusive social and economic development in harmony with nature”.

The Third Environment Assembly took place in Nairobi 4-6 December 2017 under the overarching theme “Towards a pollution-free planet”. The Assembly addressed five sub-themes: Water Pollution, Land Pollution, Marine Pollution, Air Pollution, and Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste. It adopted a [Ministerial Declaration](#) and adopted [11 resolutions and 3 decisions](#), calling for accelerated action and strengthened partnerships on, inter alia: combating the spread of marine plastic litter and microplastics; eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of used lead-acid batteries; environment and health; improving air quality globally; pollution control by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors; addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems; managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development; and pollution prevention and control in areas affected by terrorist operations and armed conflicts. Over 4,300 delegates participated in UNEA-3 and its related events, including about 1200 delegates from more than 170 Member States, more than 700 representatives of Major Groups and other stakeholders, and 94 intergovernmental organizations.

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The Fourth Environment Assembly was held in Nairobi 11-15 March 2019, focusing on the theme “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”.

Topic 1: Addressing Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

“Marine plastic litter is a rapidly increasing threat to marine life, seafood safety and the lives of people in coastal areas all around the world.”

1. Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) defines marine litter as any “**manufactured or processed solid material which is discarded in the marine and coastal environment**” in the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment From Land-Based Activities. Scientists estimate that plastics make up between 90-95% of the 6.4 million tons of litter which enter marine ecosystems every year. Approximately 80% of this plastic waste begins on land, carried to the ocean by wind or drainages systems. This means that approximately one garbage truck of plastic enters the ocean systems every minute worldwide. **Microplastics are plastic particles that are 5mm or smaller, typically shed from the washing of synthetic fabrics, the breakage of larger pieces of plastic, and microbeads in hygiene products.** In 2017, scientists found microplastics in the stomachs of deep-sea creatures living in remote areas, previously thought to be untouched by marine litter. When ingested, microplastics cannot be broken down in the bodies of sea life and instead can release harmful toxins and block their digestive systems. Scientists are not sure how many microplastics exist in the oceans, but a recent study on rivers in the United Kingdom showed that in 2015-2016 40 billion plastic particles were washed into the ocean in the region alone. **Every year, plastic pollutants cause more than \$8 billion of damage to fishing and tourism industries globally.**

Plastic pollutants have devastating effects on the environment, biodiversity, and human health. For instance, coral that comes into contact with plastic litter and microplastics are 89% more likely to develop disease. Scientists estimate more than 100 million marine animals die each year after coming into contact with microplastics and marine litter. Plastics can absorb hazardous contaminants like polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), which are highly toxic when ingested. These chemicals can accumulate in humans and can cause endocrine damage and cancer. The United Nations (UN) has made the reduction and removal of plastic waste from oceans, rivers, and lakes a priority to protect marine ecosystems and human health.

2. International and Regional Framework

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Member States adopted the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, calling for Member States to

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commit to tangible environmental change with suggested deadlines. **The Johannesburg Declaration commitments include the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) by 2012 and the creation and implementation of national legislation protecting the marine environment from land-based activities.** As of 2018, MPAs make up only 3.4% of the earth's oceans and less than 1% of the high seas. MPAs are predominantly coastal and have the strongest legal protections in developed states. During the 2012 World Ocean Summit, Member States discussed the need for further action in combating plastic marine litter. At the summit, Member States adopted the resolution "The Future We Want," which calls for substantial reduction in marine debris by 2025 and the completion of a globally integrated assessment on the environmental state of the oceans by 2014.

In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) guiding the international community's action toward creating a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable world. The harmful effects of marine plastic litter and microplastics create a major challenge in achieving the SDGs, particularly SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 14 on life below water. SDG 3 on human well-being is also affected by the consumption of seafood and water that contains or has come into contact with plastic pollutants. SDG 12 on responsible production and consumption calls for a significant reduction in global plastic production and sustainable consumption practices as well as efficient and effective waste management systems to reduce the release of waste and pollutants into water systems.⁹⁸

During the recent UN Ocean Conference in 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 71/312 "Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action" which encourages Member States to decrease or eliminate the production of single use plastics and microplastic beads to prevent further damage to marine environments. With the adoption of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions 1/6 (2014), 2/11 (2016) and 3/7 (2018) on marine plastic pollution and microplastics, UN Environment created an international foundation to call further attention to this topic and encourage action by Member States. In 2017, UN Environment published *Towards a Pollution Free Planet*, a report that outlines transformative economic actions, such as incentivizing sustainable consumption and production practices, and calls for efficient targeted pollutant intervention, particularly of plastics.

3. Effects of Marine Plastics on the Environment and Human Health

Experts estimate that since the mass production of plastic began in the 1950s, the earth has accumulated 8,300 million metric tons (MT) of plastic. 79% of plastics produced each year end up in our environment, which take between 450-1,000 years to biodegrade. In 2015, scientists conservatively estimated that there are 34 million MT of plastic in the open ocean, 29 million MT on the coastline and sea floor, and 23 million MT on coastal shores. Of all marine plastic litter, only 0.5% of it is visible on the water's

surface. Plastic is particularly harmful to marine life when ingested as it absorbs and concentrates harmful chemicals from the surrounding environment, such as pesticides and pollutants,

and can transfer the contaminants to animal tissue. Pollutants and chemicals accumulate in marine life as they make their way up the food chain, meaning humans may be exposed to high concentrations of persistent pollutants by eating seafood. Hazardous pollutants, such as DDT, are absorbed by plastic litter and are known to cause mutations that lead to cancer and can damage organs and mammalian endocrine systems.

Macroplastic litter effects marine biodiversity as animals are easily entangled, increasing the likelihood of strangulation. Soft plastics, such as single use plastic grocery bags, are often ingested by animals such as turtles, given their resemblance to jellyfish on the surface of the ocean. Plastic buildup in turtle's stomachs increases their buoyancy causing them to float on the surface, leaving them vulnerable to predators, intestinal blockage, and starvation. Microplastics are commonly eaten by a variety of aquatic animals including crustaceans, fish, and mammals. Nano-sized microplastics can cross animal cell membranes and spread contaminants throughout the body, causing direct cell damage.

25% of fish sold in seafood markets on the Western coast of the United States of America and in Indonesia had plastic debris found inside of them. **Diethylhexyl phthalate, a chemical present in many plastics, is a known carcinogen and can cause tumors, developmental disorders, and birth defects. Plastic litter contains traces of lead and mercury, toxins that are linked with endocrine and organ failure, and have been detected in fish caught for human consumption. Health complications from human consumption of plastic could lead to a health crisis and cost states millions of dollars.**

4. Addressing Existing Marine Plastic Litter: Cleaning the Oceans

Ocean currents are determined by large circulation systems, called gyres, which pull coastal plastic debris from coastlines into open water. These ocean current patterns have collected millions of tons of plastic litter into whirlpool like "garbage patches." These concentrated areas of marine litter often move with currents into areas densely populated by vulnerable microscopic marine life that are killed easily when removing plastics. Microplastics are often too small to be filtered out of water in cleanup efforts and water treatment systems. Removal is also extremely costly; scientists estimate that removing plastic debris from less than 1% of the northern Pacific Ocean could cost upwards of \$489 million per year. Despite these large patches where plastic often accumulates, plastic litter is still widespread, restricting the efficiency and effectiveness of already limited resources to effectively remove it. **UN Environment's GPA notes that there is a need for further research, technical expertise, funding, and infrastructure to drastically reduce the quantity of marine plastic litter.** Despite these challenges, removing plastic from the oceans is critical to achieving SDG 14 on

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life below water, and specifically target 14.1, which calls for a significant reduction in marine pollution, including plastic debris, by 2025. In addition, target 14.2 calls on Member States to take substantial action in the restoration of the oceans by 2020, a target that directly reflects the necessity and urgency in removing plastics from water systems.

The Ocean Cleanup project, launched on 8 September 2018, aims to gather up to 50% of the plastic debris in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch by 2023. The project intends to gather larger marine plastic litter in very fine netting, but the mesh is unable to trap most microplastics. The project operates under the assumption that marine life can and will easily swim under this mesh but microscopic marine life is still considered to be vulnerable to entanglement. **The Ocean Cleanup has been criticized for being costly by scientists who argue that the most cost effective and efficient way to remove plastic litter and microplastics from the oceans is to focus efforts on clearing beaches and coastal waters.** One such initiative is the International Coastal Cleanup, founded in 1987 by Ocean Conservancy, a nonprofit organization, which encourages individuals and organizations to gather and recycle coastal litter. In 2017, the International Coastal Cleanup and its volunteers collected over 8 million kilograms of litter from coastal waters to be recycled. The project spanned more than 24 thousand kilometers of beach and coast across the globe. The gathering of plastic litter on beaches is effective in preventing some debris from entering the ocean, but does little to address microplastics already in coastal areas, or in deeper waters, as well as plastics in the open ocean and in gyres.

5. Preventing Further Accumulation of Plastics: Sustainable Production and Consumption

The rate at which plastic is produced is five times greater than the rate at which it is recycled. There are thousands of different chemical combinations to create plastics that must be separated before recycling, or the mixing polymers will render the recycled products unusable. Most waste management facilities only have the resources to recycle 2-3 kinds of plastic. The United States Environmental Protection Agency partnered with UN Environment and the GPA to launch the Trash Free Waters Program in 2017 to prevent further accumulation of litter entering water systems, by strengthening waste management, particularly in the Caribbean.

Commitments made at Rio+20 for a significant reduction of marine plastic litter and microplastics by 2025 set a precedent for plastic-conscious production and consumption. **This calls for reducing Member State reliance on plastic materials. Bans on the use of microbeads in cosmetics have been successful in cutting down on plastic waste, but bans of single-use plastics can slow development and increase**

poverty levels when alternatives are inaccessible. Some Member States have passed legislation taxing single-use plastic bags, resulting in a reduction of disposable bag consumption. Other Member States have initiated a complete ban on plastic bags but in cases where alternatives were inaccessible to all socioeconomic classes, this created a larger demand and plastic bag black markets. Despite these challenges, some Member States have committed to becoming entirely plastic free by 2020. Although bans reduce plastic production and consumption, accessible eco-friendly alternatives are needed. UN Environment encourages Member States to make improvements in waste management systems by recycling more types of plastics, a commitment important for achieving many of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. More research and investment into plastic alternatives are needed to reduce current global plastic consumption, as well as more effective recycling and collecting of used plastics. SDG 12 on responsible production and consumption can guide Member States into frameworks that reduce the production of plastics, directly affecting the quantity of plastic litter entering water systems.

6. Conclusion

Marine plastic litter and microplastics damage marine ecosystems, impact seafood supply and quality, and harm human health and economic stability, affecting the achievement of many of the SDGs. Oceans, rivers, and coastal waters must be cleared of plastic litter and microplastics to protect marine biodiversity and achieve SDG 14 on life below water. Without drastic action, ineffective plastic waste management and the continued production of microplastics will result in the seas becoming home to more plastic waste than fish by 2050. Member States hold a shared responsibility for the planet's oceans and the life that inhabits it, so swift and meaningful intervention on marine plastic litter and microplastics is of the utmost importance to UN Environment.

Delegates should consider these questions to further their research: What are the major obstacles for Member States to implementing strategies to protect oceans from plastic litter? What steps can Member States take to phase out single-use plastics? How can Member States minimize microplastics entering oceans? How can Member States contribute to the efforts to remove macroplastic litter from seas? How can states minimize the negative effects on human health from plastic ingestion? How can they develop a green culture among citizens? What can the international community do in support Member States' efforts?

Topic 2: Preventing and Reducing Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality Globally

1. Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Statistics Division defines air pollution as “**the presence of contaminant or pollutant substance in the air that do not disperse properly and that interfere with human health, welfare, or produce other harmful environmental effects.**” Air quality is determined by the levels of pollution in the air

and the amount of time people are exposed to the pollution, which results in adverse health outcomes. The primary contaminants that harm human health and the environment are particulate matter such as dust and soot, liquids, and gases such as nitrogen oxides, ozone, and sulfur dioxide. Inhaling these substances can cause detrimental health effects such as heart attacks, lung disease, and cancer. **Air pollution is one of the world's leading causes of premature deaths, accounting for one in nine deaths per year. Additionally, air pollution has negative consequences for the global economy, reducing gross domestic product by 5-10% annually due to loss of life, people's reduced ability to work, negative effects on agriculture, damages to cultural and natural heritage, and damages to ecosystems.** These impacts are not only costly because of decreasing productivity but also require Member States to perform costly remediation and restoration activities of impacted areas.

Air pollution impacts quality of life, health outcomes, and economic development, which reflect many of the pillars of sustainable development. **Reducing air pollution is critical to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (2030 Agenda), including SDG 3 on health and well-being, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, and SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. At the same time meeting SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy and SDG 13 on climate action will contribute to reducing air pollution globally. The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) contributes to achieving the SDGs by leading the environmental response of the UN system in a coherent and cohesive manner. Air pollution was an important topic of discussion on the agenda of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). Reducing air pollution globally will require investments in nearly every sector of the economy, from manufacturing, transportation, and energy generation, to transforming urban and rural communities to become more sustainable and energy efficient. Collaboration across the UN system, Member States, civil society, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be critical to reducing global air pollution.

2. International and Regional Framework

At the first intergovernmental conference on the environment held in Stockholm in 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment adopted the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.¹⁹² The declaration notes the increasing threat of pollution and links the protection of the environment to human rights, including the right to live with dignity and well-being. **The declaration calls upon Member States to protect the environment in numerous ways, particularly through principle 21, which states that Member States can use their own resources at their own discretion but also bear the responsibility to ensure that those activities do not cause harm to other Member States.** Building upon principle 21, the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE) adopted the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, the first

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international treaty to tackle air pollution on a regional level. Whereas the 1972 Declaration calls upon Member States to uphold certain principles related to the human environment, the 1979 Convention obligates the contracting parties to share information on and review air pollution reduction policies and monitor their progress. Eight Protocols to the Convention identify additional pollutants to under the 1979 Convention and expand Member States' commitments to reduce air pollution.

The cross-sectorial link between air pollution and climate change was only recently incorporated into policy discussions, while earlier international agreements tended to address air pollution and climate change independently. However, addressing climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions contributes to reducing air pollution and improving air quality globally, as many activities that emit air pollutants also emit GHG emissions. Short-lived climate pollutants, such as ground-level ozone, also contribute to overall atmospheric GHG levels and climate change. As a result, international agreements such as the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which aims to reduce GHG emissions, indirectly support efforts to reduce air pollution. The UNFCCC commits States parties to reduce their GHG emissions caused by human activity, also known as anthropogenic GHG emissions, to pre-1990 levels. Under the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, adopted in 1997 Member States committed to reduce their annual emissions by 2012 to 5% below their 1990 levels.

UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 2015, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2030 Agenda) and the 2015 Paris Agreement reflect UN Environment's recommendations on reducing air pollution in its Ministerial Outcome Document of 2014. Under the Paris Agreement, Member States commit to reduce anthropogenic GHG emissions in order to hold global temperature increase to below two degrees Celsius, which will also improve global air quality and reduce overall pollution. The issue of air quality is addressed across the 2030 Agenda and many of the SDGs are directly related to reduction in air pollutants, such as SDG target 3.9 indicator 1 on "reducing premature mortality due to indoor and outdoor pollution," SDG target 11.6 indicator 2 on "reducing annual average levels of particulate matter in cities," or indirectly such as SDG target 7.2 on "increasing the mix of renewable energy" in the global energy mix.²⁰⁶ Reducing air pollution is also linked to achieving SDG 12 because chemicals during production of many different goods can be released into the air and to SDG target 9.4 on "updating industry infrastructure to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency." Similarly, meeting SDG target 13.2 on "integrating climate change measures in national policy," is important to reduce GHG emissions, many of which are also air pollutants. While many of the targets relate directly to reducing air pollution, failure to reduce air pollution can impede the success of meeting other SDGs such as SDG 15 on terrestrial life as air pollution can mix with precipitation and cause acid rain that threatens ecosystems.

These goals and targets are further exemplified in the New Urban Agenda (2016)

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adopted during the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The New Urban Agenda calls upon Member States to meet several goals to achieve sustainable urban development. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), many cities with a population of 100,000 or more do not meet WHO air quality guidelines; according to WHO's most recent measurements, these deficiencies affect 97% of cities in low- and middle-income countries and 49% of cities in high-income countries.

3. Air Pollution Impacts on Human Health

Yearly, approximately 7 million people die prematurely due to the effects of poor air quality. Air pollution takes place both indoors and outdoors. Cooking, heating, and lighting are major contributors of indoor air pollution. It accounts for roughly 3.8 million of air pollution-related premature deaths; 800,000 of these deaths are children under the age of five. Outdoor air pollution is caused both by human sources such as power generation, transportation, and other industrial processes, and by natural causes such as sand or dust storms.

Approximately half of the world's population continues to rely on traditional biomass sources of fuel such as wood, crop waste and dung, or coal; combined with the use of poorly ventilated stoves for cooking and heating, these are major contributors to indoor air pollution. Women and children who often bear the responsibility of cooking and cleaning within the home are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution. It causes non-communicable diseases such as stroke, ischemic heart disease, chronic pulmonary lung disease, and lung cancer. Children can contract pneumonia due to the inhalation of particulate matter caused by indoor air pollution, which causes nearly half of all childhood pneumonia deaths. Studies have also linked air pollution to impacts on children's lung development, asthma, and respiratory infections. Additionally, air pollution exposure during pregnancy can result in low birth weight and preterm births.

Outdoor air pollution contributes to 4.2 million premature deaths due to inhalation of particulate matter. 91% of deaths due to outdoor air pollution occur in low- and middle-income countries. Although an estimated nine out of ten people worldwide breathe polluted air, the highest outdoor air pollution levels are in low and middle-income countries, with levels exceeding five times WHO standards. Vehicle emissions, inefficient use of energy in the home, industry, agriculture, and in the transportation sectors are contributors to declining air quality in urban and rural areas. Even residents of high-income countries, which typically have the lowest levels of outdoor air pollution, experience health consequences and lowered life-expectancy from outdoor air pollution. Outdoor air pollution can cause the same non-communicable diseases as indoor air pollution, and particulate matter is strongly linked to rising cancer risks

4. Preventing indoor air pollution

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Public-private partnerships such as the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves contribute to reducing indoor air pollution by raising awareness of the importance of clean cookstoves and fuels and strengthening the supply of clean cookstoves. The Global Alliance furthers innovation and secures financing for suppliers to produce at scale and more cost effectively. Affordability of clean cookstoves can be an issue for consumers. This means that innovative solutions need to be developed to ensure that consumers can purchase the stoves. Some producers have offered in-house financing to consumers and fuel companies have been offering pay-as-you-go service for fuel in more affordable quantities. Since 2010, almost 90 million clean or energy efficient cookstoves have been distributed.

5. Reducing Urban Air Pollution

Over half of the world's population lives in urban areas, but only 12% of those cities have air quality standards that meet WHO guidelines. Housing energy consumption for heating, cooking, and other uses contributes to approximately 17.8% of carbon dioxide emissions. Sustainable urbanization and urban development plans, such as promoting higher density dwellings and compact urban areas, as well as improved ventilation and insulation can improve household energy efficiency and reduce energy demands and emissions. UN Environment coordinates the District Energy in Cities Initiative to meet targets in the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda by improving the sustainability of energy plans in urban areas. This initiative helps Member States through knowledge sharing of the best practices and implementation strategies and through ensuring that policies increase and do not discourage investment in low-carbon energy generation sources.

Transportation is a major contributor to urban air pollution. However, 90 out of 193 countries do not have vehicle emissions standards. UN Environment collaborates with the International Energy Agency and others on the Global Fuel Economy Initiative to help reduce GHG emissions and pollution from transportation through a 50% improvement in fuel economy by 2050, meaning doubling the distance a vehicle can travel on that fuel. Such improvements conserve resources and reduce the amount of fossil fuels burned. However, gaps still persist in engine technology between Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and non-OECD countries. The UN Environment Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicle is the leading public-private partnership, coordinating Member States, NGOs, industry groups, and companies, to promote cleaner fuels, vehicles, and vehicle fuel standards in developing economies and economies in transition. Policies that improve the safety of non-motorized transport like walking and cycling can also improve air quality by reducing the reliance on fuel-intensive modes of transportation for mobility. Investment in infrastructure to support safe methods of non-motorized transport is a challenge that will need to be overcome for cities to transform to low or even zero-carbon emitters.

6. Preventing Air Pollution: Transforming Energy Systems

Currently, the burning of fossil fuels generates 66% of the world's electricity and contributes to approximately 60% of GHG emissions. Renewable energies such as wind, solar, and hydropower produce little to no air pollution and provide economic benefits such as employing over 9.8 million people worldwide. 113 countries have adopted national targets for generating renewable energy. Energy efficiency policies have also been adopted in 137 countries. Both renewable energy and energy efficiency are critical components to transforming energy systems across the world and reduce GHG emissions from traditional sources of energy generation.

However, renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies still compete with highly subsidized carbon-intensive energy generation. In order to overcome these barriers, UN Environment encourages Member States to adopt policies that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, raises awareness about successful energy policies, dispels myths about renewable technologies, and encourages investment. Corporate sourcing of renewable energy through power-purchase agreements, utility green procurement programs, or unbundled energy attribute certificates has the potential to increase private-sector investment in renewable electricity generation. In 2017, only 3.5% of electricity demand in the commercial and industrial sector was generated by renewable energies globally. One of the challenges is that renewable energy has high starting capital costs; therefore access to financing can be a major barrier to private developers of renewable energy projects, especially in developing economies. Policies aimed at reducing financial risk, which could open up private investment, and incentivizing investment can improve developers' access to capital and potentially increase private investment in new projects.

Conclusion

UN Environment partners with many different organizations in order to reduce air pollution. Reducing air pollution is important to meet SDGs for improving global health and mitigating climate change. Indoor and outdoor air pollution contribute to millions of premature deaths and reducing and preventing air pollution will require access to sustainable fuels, clean energy, and sustainable urban development plans. Increasing the mix of renewable sources of energy in the generation of electricity can reduce emissions of pollutants from the energy sector. Furthermore, transforming the transportation sector through incentivizing non-motorized transportation can have positive impacts on urban air quality. In addition, introducing vehicle emission standards and housing standards, such as insulation of buildings, can improve air quality and general well-being.

Further Research

As delegates research the topic, they should consider: What other impacts does air pollution pose to the international community? What other innovative air pollution

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prevention strategies can Member States propose as actionable policy options? What barriers exist to implementing air pollution reduction strategies? How can air pollution and air quality solutions be integrated into the broader sustainable development discussion? How can UN Environment empower and incentivize Member States to meet SDGs relating to air quality?