

The issue and its context: AIR POLLUTION

Title: Enhanced Coordination for Increased Delivery of UN's Efforts to Address Air Pollution

The impact of air pollution on human health and the environment has become increasingly global in scale and extent. The need to recognize and to address the health risks associated with air pollution has become even more urgent. Analyses of the burden of disease have highlighted again that modifiable environmental factors represent 23% of premature death per year worldwide.

Within the United Nations' system a number of agencies have prioritized air pollution as a key area of work, e.g., UN Environment, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) UN-Habitat, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). However, it appears there is no well-structured process to coordinate the various efforts to address air pollution effectively across UN agencies.

To achieve the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals that relate to air pollution (for instance, SDGs 3, 7, 11 and 13), it is essential that the UN system enhances inter-agency coordination on the issue of air pollution, seeking synergies and maximizing results with limited resources available across agencies.

For this reason, it is proposed to the Environment Management Group to establish a UN-wide coordination process that enables UN agencies to become more efficient and effective in its delivery on the air pollution agenda.

UN wide dimensions:

As stated above, successfully addressing the issue of air pollution is key in achieving a number of UN-adopted Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development clearly highlights the urgency to address air pollution in a coherent and effective manner. The UN has widely recognized the importance of the issue as is exemplified by the variety of agencies (see above) that have incorporated air pollution in their programmes of work and action agendas.

Possible contribution of the Environment Management Group

The Environment Management Group (EMG) is best positioned to provide the necessary support to establish a ***UN-wide Coordination Process on Air Pollution*** for UN agencies. Firstly, the EMG should conduct an inventory on 'Who is doing What' on air pollution in the UN system, and secondly, identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration among relevant UN agencies on the topic of air pollution. Once such an inventory and opportunities assessment has been concluded, the proposed UN-wide Coordination Process on Air Pollution should be set up. In doing so, the EMG should build from the vast experience it has acquired over the years in providing coordination on multiple environmental issues.

Specific outputs/outcomes to be achieved

Main outputs would be: 1) An inventory on 'Who is doing What' on air pollution in the UN system; 2) An overview of opportunities for coordination and collaboration among relevant UN agencies on the topic of air pollution; 3) a *UN-wide Coordination Process on Air Pollution*; and 4) A set of shared strategies to address jointly (that is, across UN agencies) the pressing issue of air pollution.