

Seventh Session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED-7)

Partnership Event 1

Lessons for building an air quality management framework for the Asia Pacific Region

30 November 2022

UNCC – CR 1 | 09:00 – 09:55 Bangkok Time

Virtual Participation by ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/99144039665>

Organizers: Governments of Mongolia and the Maldives

Background

Mongolia and the Maldives propose to co-organize with other interested member countries the Partnership Event on 30 November 2022, in the sidelines of the UNESCAP's 7th Committee on Environment and Development which will be held at ministerial level from 29 November to 1 December 2022. The Partnership event will serve as a platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange on air pollution issues in the Asia-Pacific, with the aim to showcase and discuss current and proposed new partnership initiatives.

Transboundary air pollution has become a pan-Asia-Pacific problem and requires pan-Asia-Pacific solutions. Mongolia and Maldives would like to invite all UNESCAP member countries to commit to a new Partnership which would promote science-based and policy-oriented cooperation for improved air quality management; set up an open regional mechanism for governments, international organizations and NGO's networks to exchange on air pollution challenges and solutions; mobilize political commitments for domestic actions and regional cooperation on air pollution; identify technical and financial resources to accelerate actions on air pollution.



The proposed Partnership event will be inaugurated by H.E. Mr B.Bat-Erdene, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, who will announce Mongolia's interest to host the Asia-Pacific High-level Meeting on Clean Air in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2023.

Key questions to be addressed

With member States agreeing to a Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution, there are clear opportunities to accelerate actions to improve air quality management across the Asia Pacific region through enhanced cooperation, sharing of data, exchange of best practices, and building capacities. In this context, attendees and panelists are requested to reflect on the following key questions:

- I. How can member State leverage their collective expertise to support regional actions on air pollutions?
- II. What can member States do to support low and middle-income countries to build their capacities to address air pollution?
- III. How can the knowledge base on air pollution be strengthened to support actions on air pollution?

Proposed Agenda

Opening

- H.E. Mr B.Bat-Erdene, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (3 minutes)
- Ms. Huda A Shareef, Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the UNESCAP, (3 minutes)
- Ms. Rubina Adhikari, Representative, Children and Youth Major Group of United Nations Environment Programme (2 Minutes)



Panel Discussion

Moderated panel discussion with Representatives from the following delegations:

- Kazakhstan, Ms. Zulfiya Suleimenova, Vice-Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources
- Japan, Mr. TSUSUMI Tappei, Director. International Office. Environmental Management Bureau. Ministry of Environment
- United States of America, Ms. Sherry Sykes, the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality in the State Department Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
- Asian Development Bank, Ms. Karma Yangzom, Principal Environment Specialist, Asia Clean Blue Sky Program

Interventions from other delegations/Questions & Answers

Summary and Wrap-Up

- Conclusion by Moderator
- Announcement by Government of Mongolia of Asia-Pacific High-level Meeting on Clean Air in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2023

