

**COMMITTEE:** Climate

**QUESTION OF:** Combating cross-border air pollution as a consequence of industrial activity and wildfires

**SUBMITTED BY:** Estonia

**CO-SUBMITTED BY:** Brazil, Mexico, Finland, Panama

**SIGNATORIES:** Turkey, USA, Denmark, Japan, Portugal, Bangladesh, Colombia, France, Canada and United Kingdom

The General Assembly,

*Recognizing* that air pollution originating from industrial emissions and large-scale wildfires can cross national borders, posing risks to environmental integrity and human health,

*Concerned* that smoke from wildfires in the Amazon Basin and atmospheric industrial emissions increasingly affect neighboring South American States,

*Reaffirming* the importance of regional cooperation, shared responsibility, and respect for national sovereignty in addressing transboundary environmental harm,

*Alarmed* that air pollution is responsible for approximately seven million premature deaths globally each year, with transboundary pollution exacerbating these impacts,

*Recalling* the commitments of Member States under the Paris Agreement, including the submission of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to reduce emissions and enhance climate resilience,

*Bearing in mind* the transboundary nature of air pollution and its disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, Indigenous peoples, and rural communities,

*Guided by* the scientific consensus on the health, environmental, and economic risks posed by pollutants that travel across borders via air, water, or land,

1. Calls for coordinated regional action to reduce transboundary air pollution at its source, with an emphasis on prevention and mitigation, including:
  - a. Strengthening enforcement against illegal deforestation and land-clearing fires;
  - b. Promoting cooperation on sustainable land-use practices and fire-prevention training;
  - c. Supporting cleaner industrial production through voluntary emission-reduction technology transfer;
  - d. Expanding investment in renewable energy systems to reduce fossil-fuel-driven air pollution;
  - e. Encouraging joint wildfire response exercises and the sharing of firefighting resources;

2. Establishes a Regional Transboundary Air Quality Cooperation Framework, coordinated through existing regional institutions, aimed at improving monitoring and information-sharing, including:
  - a. Expanding the voluntary use of satellite data from national and regional space agencies to monitor smoke plumes and industrial emissions;
  - b. Creating a shared atmospheric data platform accessible to Amazon Basin countries;
  - c. Integrating early-warning alert systems for wildfire smoke, particularly during El Niño-amplified fire seasons;
  - d. Encouraging information-sharing among meteorological, environmental, and public health agencies;
3. Encourages measures to protect public health and vulnerable populations affected by transboundary air pollution, including:
  - a. Developing cross-border public health advisories during extreme air-quality events;
  - b. Prioritizing protections for Indigenous communities, children, and rural populations disproportionately affected by smoke exposure;
  - c. Supporting research on the long-term health impacts of wildfire smoke in the Amazon region;
  - d. Improving both urban and rural air-quality monitoring infrastructure;
  - e. Fostering collaboration between the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and relevant regional authorities;
4. Calls upon States, where appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances, to consider implementing clear industrial emission standards in border regions, including:
  - a. Establishing emission caps consistent with national and regional environmental goals;
  - b. Promoting transparency through public reporting of industrial emissions;
5. Requests increased international financial and technical assistance, upon request, to support countries seeking to transition from fossil-fuel-dependent systems to cleaner and more sustainable technologies;
6. Reinforces timely information-sharing during highly polluting events such as wildfires, including:
  - a. Real-time exchange of data on air quality, wildfire spread, and emissions through regional and international monitoring systems;
  - b. Enhanced cooperation among meteorological agencies, environmental ministries, and disaster-response authorities to improve forecasting and public communication;

c. Increased use of satellite imagery and remote-sensing technologies to assess transboundary pollution impacts.