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**Draft Elements for a Framework  
Agreement on Atmospheric Pollution  
in Latin America and the Caribbean**



## Table of Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Background.....  | 1 |
| Framework Agreement on Atmospheric Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean..... | 2 |
| 1. Regional Cooperation .....  | 2 |
| 2. National and Regional Environmental Governance .....                              | 2 |
| 3. Transport Sector .....  | 3 |
| Standards for vehicles .....   | 3 |
| Fuel standards .....   | 3 |
| 4. Urban Management and Planning .....   | 3 |
| Transportation Infrastructure and Urban Planning .....                               | 3 |
| 5. Fixed and area sources.....   | 4 |
| 6. Forest fires, uncontrolled Burning, and Deforestation .....                       | 4 |
| 7. Indoor Air Pollution .....  | 4 |
| 8. Public Participation in Air Quality Management .....                              | 5 |
| 9. Capacity Building /Research Development .....                                     | 5 |



## Background

1. Taking into account that atmospheric pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean constitutes a health problem for the population and ecosystems, which should be addressed regionally through concerted alternatives and solutions using mechanisms such as South-South cooperation, UNEP promotes and supports the adoption of concrete actions to reduce the levels of air pollution and taking the necessary preventive measures for each specific case and region.

2. In this regard, UNEP collaborates at the global level and in the Latin America and the Caribbean region with the Global Forum on Air Pollution to further discussions and put into practice concrete actions on the topic of air pollution for the region. To this end, the topic was submitted for consideration at the XVI Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup> where two decisions were reached<sup>2</sup>: the first one, directly related to the topic of air pollution and recognizing the increase in air pollution in the region, which negatively affects the health and quality of life of the population, where it was decided to integrate the Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>3</sup>, and the second one refers to the need to advocate for improvement in the quality of fuels, using clean fuels, and vehicles with lower emission levels.

3. At this meeting, it was agreed to organize a second meeting of the Intergovernmental Network<sup>4</sup>, where in addition to a technical seminar where topics such as the global and regional tendencies of air pollution, health costs and benefits, and the international cooperation efforts on this topic were addressed, the proposal for a Framework Agreement on Air Pollution was developed which we submit to the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean for approval.

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<sup>1</sup> Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 27<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 7 (Atmospheric pollution) and Decision 8 (Better fuels for a better quality of life)

<sup>3</sup> Panama City, March 25-27, 2009, creation of the Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>4</sup> Mexico City, December 2- 4, 2009, 2nd Meeting of the Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Framework Agreement on Air Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean

### 1. Regional Cooperation

- 1.1. Cooperate in the preparation of flexible and differentiated agreements for the maximum reduction and control of air pollutants;
- 1.2. Consider the synergies and shared benefits obtained by taking joint measures against the emission of air pollutants and greenhouse gases;
- 1.3. Develop and align among the States, as much as possible, the policies, guidelines, legislation, standards, monitoring procedures and data management procedures with respect to national air quality management;
- 1.4. Promote the exchange of information, research, and technology on air quality management through sub-regional networks and data bases;
- 1.5. Provide support and technical assistance in identifying the sources of pollution and the impacts on human health and the environment;
- 1.6. Promote cost benefit studies of air pollution and its impacts;
- 1.7. Promote epidemiological studies in the countries for appropriate decision making in each case;
- 1.8. Align emission standards and regulations from fixed sources and areas to control and promote research on the effects of transboundary air pollution;
- 1.9. Promote the development of local and regional laboratories specialized in the analysis of air pollutants.

### 2. National and Regional Environmental Governance

- 2.1 Promote the coordination of the national parties interested in the development and implementation of policies on air quality and air quality management strategies;
- 2.2 Build or improve the capacity of air quality management units in the national environmental agencies;
- 2.3 Develop and/or maintain, whichever the case may be, national emission inventories for the main air pollutants and greenhouse gases, including the transboundary air pollutants, and assess the impact of the various policies and measures related to these emissions;
- 2.4 Promote and install air quality monitoring stations for key pollutants using regionally standardized equipment and protocols and, as necessary, on a sub-regional level, linking this to the work being carried out globally with respect to modelling and forecasting with support from international cooperation agencies;
- 2.5 Identify and share best practices related to financing policies in order to implement measures to improve air quality and emission control and evaluation using monitoring and emission inventory systems;

- 2.6 Facilitate the regional alignment of air quality standards and guidelines and carry out periodic revisions to evaluate the national and regional air quality standards, comparing them with the best international practices;
- 2.7 Promote the use of networks and the exchange of information with support from cooperation agencies (North-South, South-South).

### **3. Transport Sector**

#### ***Standards for vehicles***

- 3.1 For those countries where the importation of used vehicles is permitted, promote establishing regulations to control and make sure that the condition of these vehicles does not pose a threat to the environment;
- 3.2 Establish pilot programs, at the national level, to measure the emission of pollutants of the vehicles in the main cities to be completed by 2015, at the latest;
- 3.3 Develop the necessary capacity to enforce inspection and maintenance programs;
- 3.4 Establish maximum permissible emission levels at the regional level by 2015 for the different categories of motor vehicles, to be as rigorous as the quality of the available fuel allows;
- 3.5 Explore and adopt modern technologies that promote vehicle fuel efficiency and the reduction of emissions, for new vehicles and for those in circulation;
- 3.6 Promote and establish emissions regulations for mobile sources.

#### ***Fuel standards***

- 3.7 Promote the establishment and standardization of appropriate fuel specification regulations, aiming for a sulphur content of 50 ppm by 2015;
- 3.8 Establish new reference laboratories and reinforce and expand the capacity of the existing labs in order to analyze fuel quality;
- 3.9 Carry out detailed economic, social, and environmental evaluations to allow for the sustainable use of biofuels and other clean fuels.

### **4. Urban Planning and Management**

#### ***Transportation Infrastructure and Urban Planning***

- 4.1 Promote investments in the development of sustainable urban mobility infrastructure;
- 4.2 Promote the use of lanes or highways exclusively for public transportation;
- 4.3 Establish operating rules and maintenance standards for public transportation vehicles and for rendering the service;
- 4.4 Promote the development and implementation of traffic administration

policies and demand management, particularly streamlining the use of private vehicles through measures such as charging tolls, fees for traffic congestion, and the administration of parking lots;

- 4.5 Promote the financial sustainability of improvements in public transportation;
- 4.6 Develop adequate information systems as a need for urban planning, formulating scenarios and policy evaluation;
- 4.7 Develop and promote strategies to increase green areas, ecological measures in urban spaces and the paving of sidewalks and roads;
- 4.8 Develop and/or use land use control instruments, such as urban planning regulations, to ensure the appropriate location of industrial establishments.

## **5. Fixed and area sources**

- 5.1 Draft and adopt adequate policies and legal frameworks to promote the adoption of the best available technologies and the best environmental practices by 2015;
- 5.2 Draft and adopt policies and legal frameworks to facilitate and promote the use of cleaner fuels and the efficient use of energy;
- 5.3 Require environmental impact evaluations and/or environmental audits, as the case may be, for businesses and activities having potential and real impacts on air quality;
- 5.4 Promote establishing and/or adopting emission standards and regulations for the different activities and ensure their compliance;
- 5.5. Develop the capacity for the national monitoring of emissions caused by area and fixed sources.

## **6. Forest fires, Uncontrolled Burning, and Deforestation**

- 6.1 Support research on the frequency and impact of forest fires in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- 6.2 Promote the development and strengthening of the population's capacity to prevent and control forest fires, both provoked by man and from natural causes;
- 6.3 Develop and implement early warning systems for fires, such as fire management strategies;
- 6.4 Promote reforestation programs in deteriorated landscapes and develop alternative livelihood programs;
- 6.5 Enact regulations for the prohibition of waste burning outdoors.

## **7. Indoor Air Pollution**

- 7.1 Promote the use of accessible, more efficient, clean combustion and safer



energy devices;

- 7.2 Promote the use of technologies and cleaner and more advanced energy, including the use of renewable energy;
- 7.3 Support energy efficiency training programs and promote public awareness of the impact of indoor air pollution;
- 7.4 Promote formulation of technical specifications for domestic combustion devices and establish emission standards;
- 7.5 Promote and support building naturally ventilated houses;
- 7.6 Promote electrification of poor areas to avoid using fuel lamps;
- 7.7 Promote the substitution of conventional ovens for ovens with improved technology;
- 7.8 Promote the establishment of standardised methodologies to analyze control parameters for sick building syndrome.

## **8. Public Participation in Air Quality Management**

- 8.1 Increase public awareness of air pollution problems through awareness campaigns using formal and informal communication channels;
- 8.2 Improve participation of those interested in air quality management by supporting initiatives to build capacities in governments, academic institutions and civil society organizations;
- 8.3 Promote the active commitment of the civil society and other stakeholders in collaborative air quality management projects;
- 8.4 Promote the access to and exchange of information on air pollution including, among others, research and educational information;
- 8.5 Develop effective communication strategies on the impacts of air pollution on human health and the environment, aimed, for example, at school aged children;
- 8.6 Promote and support the development of citizen participation mechanisms.

## **9. Building Capacities / Research Development**

- 9.1 Promote and establish regional educational entities, identifying regional centres of excellence for researching air quality management and other related topics, integrating them into research networks;
- 9.2 Promote and support the development of training modules and student exchange programs on air quality management and other related topics;
- 9.3 Develop and/or adopt methodologies to evaluate the impacts of air pollution during the environmental impact evaluations, environmental audit studies, and socio-economic evaluations in collaboration with national and international academic institutions;

- 9.4 Promote and support initiatives to reduce air pollution in collaboration with regional and international organizations;
- 9.5 Foster and support the harmonized use of inventories, monitoring and modelling processes, impact evaluations, reduction options, and framework policy approach.