

Committee: Environmental

Topic: The question of implementing measures against environmental air pollution

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Summary:

Air pollution is a mix of particles and gases that can reach harmful concentrations both outside and indoors. It is one of the most serious problems that humanity faces nowadays as it harms all humans, animals and plants. Some of the worst damage it can cause are: 1)respiratory diseases,2) cardiovascular damage,3) fatigue headaches and anxiety, 4)irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, 5)damage to reproductive organs,6) harm to the liver, spleen and blood and7) nervous system damage.

The UN have done several attempts to resolve the air pollution problem and although there has been an increase on the issue, the world is still in danger.

The issue has not taken the attention it should have as the media have failed to inform people all around the world about its dangerousness.

Every country must now cooperate with each other with the common goal of solving the issue.

Definition of key terms:

Air pollution: presence of chemicals in the atmosphere where the concentration is high enough to affect climate and harm organisms.

Primary pollutants: emitted directly into the troposphere in a harmful form (carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide).

Atmosphere: is a thin layer of gases held close to Earth by gravity.

Secondary pollutants: when primary pollutants react with the components of air.

Temperature Inversion: layer of dense, cool air trapped under a layer of less dense, warm air.

Smog: smog is made out of a combination of different pollutants, such as particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, though it is mainly ground level ozone.

Point sources: point sources are stationary sources of pollution that release massive amounts of air pollution.

Alternative fuels: alternative fuels are fuels that can replace traditional fossil fuels, which are large sources of pollution (electricity, ethanol etc.)

Background Information:

-Air pollution is a form of pollution made when the harmful substances go into the atmosphere

-Air pollution causes can be divided into two main sources: 1) human activity and 2) natural activity.

-Only some of the significant problems that air pollution cause our health are: heart problems, respiratory problems and different types of cancers.

-Air pollution is also what causes acid rains and greenhouse gases.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved:

The most developed countries are those that mostly **cause the air pollution** and especially those which have not replaced the energy production based on fossil fuels.

Such countries are: China, USA, Russia

However it must be admitted that every country pollutes the air in different ways as industry, transportations, naval commerce etc.

On the other hand, the ones that **make continuous attempts for the issue's resolution** are pretty much all the countries of the world as each one takes part in international conference. However it is not always that simple as there are financial interests that block the decisions made.

Timeline of Events:

Dates: air pollution harms the world since the ancient times

Relevant UN treaties and Events:

1) Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution. Geneva 13, November 1979.

- 2) Convention for the protection of the Ozone Layer. Vienna, 22 March 1985.
- 3) Conventions on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposals. Basel, 22 March 1989.
- 4) Convention on Biological diversity. Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992.
- 5) Convention on persistent organic pollutants. Stockholm, 22, May 2001.

Previous attempts to solve the issue:

Every attempt made to resolve the air pollution issue, still remains something that needs to be done in order to save ourselves and any other piece of life on the globe so there are not any previous attempts that their result is not still needed .

However the first treaties of the UN based on the air pollution had to do with the protection of the ozone layer as well as the environmental management of toxics

Possible solutions:

- 1) Reduce the use of fossil fuels
- 2) Use the means of transport
- 3) Use renewable energy sources
- 4) Use filters
- 5) Search for better-quality fuels
- 6) Education for sustainable development and media campaigns

Bibliography:

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