

World Health Organization

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOPIC B:

“Mitigating the Effects of
Pollution-Related Diseases”

NC
MUN
2018





“Environmental pollution is an incurable disease. It can only be prevented.”

-Barry Commoner

Luis C. Bosques Carmona
Undersecretary of General Assembly

NC
MUN
2018

Topic A:

Mitigating the Effects of Pollution-Related Diseases

The World Health Organization (WHO) was founded in 1948 with the main goal to direct and coordinate international health within the UN system, leading international efforts to provide health and technical support to Member States.

Environmental pollution has many facets, and the resultant health risk include diseases in almost all organ system. Estimates indicate that the proportion of the global burden of diseases associated with environmental pollution hazard range from 23 percent to 30 percent. In other words each year 6.5 million people die prematurely because of poor air quality. 4.3 million deaths are attributed to indoor air pollution from cooking; this is mostly in low and middle-income countries. 2 million deaths every year caused by respiratory infections because of indoor air pollution; 80,000 of these are children below the age of five.

Air pollutants:

- Carbon monoxide: Is produced by the incomplete burning of fossil fuels in vehicles, home heating equipment, and industrial plants, among many other sources. It can cause poisoning, whose symptoms "are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion", and lead to death

when inhaled by sleeping or drunk people.

- Sulfur dioxide: is produced by the burning of sulfur containing fuels like oil and coal, and can cause health issues, especially in those with existing heart or lung conditions. The WHO Factsheet states that when it mixes with water it produces sulfuric acid, that is present in acid rain, that has destroyed vast areas of forests.
- Nitrogen oxides: This pollutant is produced from "combustion processes" in land vehicles and ships related to power, heat, and running engines. combustion processes.
- Lead: is emitted into the air by vehicles and industrial sites and by waste burning facilities.
- Dioxin: is present in plastics, and is released during its manufacture and if plastic waste is incinerated
- Benzene: pollution occurs during some industrial processes and use of products containing petroleum, like plastics. Tobacco smoke exposure is another source. It can cause cancer and anemia according to the WHO.

Water pollutants:

- Industrial chemicals: Lead, mercury, asbestos, etc. are used for industrial purposes and later on the wastes are disposed to river, canals or other water bodies. Weak national regulations and waste management systems are the main cause of serious diseases caused by minerals and chemicals.
- Microorganisms and pathogens: In developing

countries sewage systems do not manage and control waste water which carries bacteria and other pathogens that can be deadly for humans. Another scenario is that waste water can act like a breeding ground for carriers, like mosquitoes. Pathogens and diseases found on waste water like: E. coli, Salmonella, Cholera, Shigella, Typhoid fever can be deadly for humans.

Points to address:

- What policies does your country do to prevent those types of pollution?
- In which way has your country helped the people who get ill from pollution?
- Which countries are in urgent need for help?
- Could your country help other countries with high pollution mortality rates?
- Has your country done anything to help other countries with pollution?

SOURCES

- Sources and Causes of Water Pollution - Conserve Energy Future. Conserve Energy Future. Retrieved 9 October 2017, from <https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/sources-and-causes-of-water-pollution.php>
- Gorham, R. (2002). AIR POLLUTION FROM GROUND TRANSPORTATION AN ASSESSMENT OF CAUSES, STRATEGIES AND TACTICS, AND PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/esa/gite/csd/gorham.pdf>
- Kinhal, V. (2017). Types of Air Pollution | LoveToKnow. LoveToKnow. Retrieved 12 October 2017, from http://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Types_of_Air_Pollution

NC
MUN
2018