

‘Towards a
Pollution-Free Planet’ -
The theme of the 2017
session of the United
Nations Environment
Assembly



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“Pollution is nothing than the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we are ignorant of their value”

R. Buckminster Fuller

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1. The 2017 Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly: Towards a Pollution Free Planet



The Assembly

The UN Environment Assembly, the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, will gather in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4-6 December 2017 under the overarching theme of pollution.

WHAT IS THE UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY?

Highest-level decision-making body on the environment



Convener of UN Member States, Civil Society and Business



Global platform for leadership on environmental policy

The Third Environment Assembly will focus on pollution

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#Beat Pollution

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Citizens



- Commit to an action
- Sign the Clean Planet Pledge
- Submit your pollution story

Government, Business, Civil Society



Register your voluntary commitments

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UN 
environment
assembly

Events Around the Assembly

- 27-28 November: Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum
- 29 November - 1 December: Third Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
- 2-3 December: The Science Policy Forum
- 4-6 December 2017: The Sustainable Innovation Expo



2. Pollution Matters



Source: Future Centre Trust

Pollution: no longer a just a local problem but a global challenge posing risk to health, development, equity and future generations.

TACKLING POLLUTION, A GLOBAL THREAT

Every year:

AIR



6.5 million people die from air pollution

CHEMICAL



Lead poisoning in children costs the world some \$977 billion

FRESHWATER



80% of global wastewater enters the environment without proper treatment

WASTE



1/3 of food produced worldwide is lost or wasted

LAND & SOIL



As many as 25 million agricultural workers experience unintentional pesticide poisoning

MARINE



And all year long, marine litter is found in 100% of sea turtles

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COSTS OF POLLUTION

In 2015



Indoor + outdoor air pollution
\$5.3 trillion

Greenhouse gas emissions
\$4.9 trillion

Chemicals, lead, mercury
\$480 billion

General waste
\$216 billion

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Addressing Pollution

Gaps:

- Implementation
- Knowledge
- Infrastructure
- Leadership
- Mispricing/invisibility of ecosystem values and externalization of pollution costs
- Insufficient recognition that producer and consumer choices have pollution consequences



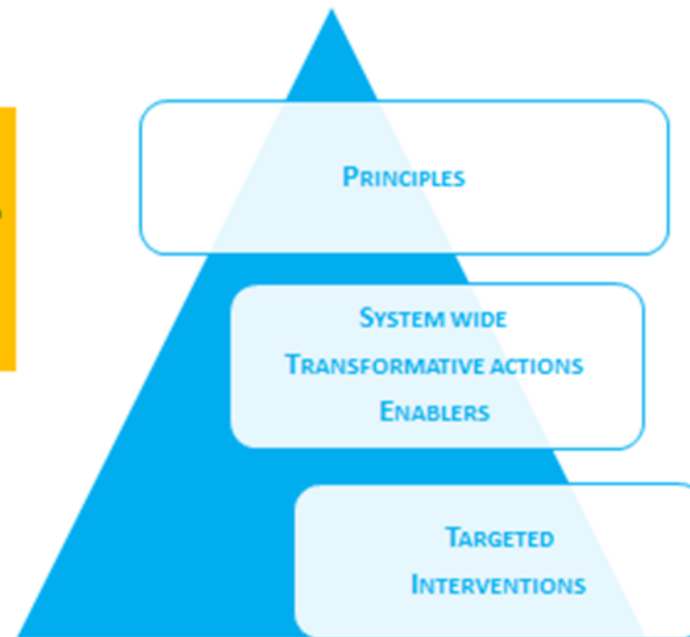
3. Pollution and the Agenda 2030



4. Transitioning towards a Pollution-Free Planet: A Framework for Actions

A Framework for a Transition towards a Pollution-Free Planet

A pollution free planet is one without direct or indirect alterations of the biological, thermal, physical or radioactive properties of any medium in such a way as to cause a hazard or potential hazard to human health or health, safety and welfare of the living species
(adapted from Eionet)



- Has both a preventive and curative slant, based on opportunity and innovations.
- Requires political leadership and high level champions and commitments, but with action at the local level in cities, villages, beaches, slums.
- Requires interministerial coordination
- Needs to engage governors, mayors, civil society organizations, business leaders and the citizen at large

5. Conclusion

A pollution-free planet is within reach, and is vital for overall human well-being and prosperity, and for improving the conditions of the poor and the disadvantaged, many of whom rely heavily on well-functioning ecosystems for their survival. With the right level of political will, public support and business engagement, it is within reach. It is far and away the best insurance policy for both current and future generations and the living world, strengthening the integrity of ecosystems that underpin our survival. The United Nations Environment Assembly will contribute to achieve this.

Resources

UN Environment Website: www.unep.org

Documents, agendas, draft resolutions:
<http://www.unep.org/about/cpr/>

Assembly Website: <http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/>

Resources for Major Groups: <http://www.unep.org/about/majorgroups/>

#Beat Pollution: <http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/beat-pollution>

Clean Planet Pledge:
<http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/clean-planet-pledge>

UN Environment Regional Office Europe:
<http://www.unep.org/europe/>

Thank you

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment
September 5 – 8, Bangkok, Thailand
Presentation by NN
UN Environment Regional Office for Asia Pacific

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www.unenvironment.org/environmentassembly