



General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 April 2023

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-second session

27 February–31 March 2023

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Integrated Youth Empowerment - Common Initiative Group (I.Y.E. – C.I.G.), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 February 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Right to Clean and Healthy Environment in India

On 28 July 2022, the United Nations General Assembly declared that everyone on the planet has a right to a healthy environment. Our organization wants to bring council attention towards India where air pollution is a major environmental issue. Ambient air pollution in India is estimated to cause 670,000 deaths annually and particularly aggravates respiratory and cardiovascular conditions including chronic bronchitis, lungs cancer and asthma. Delhi had most polluted air in India in 2022, whereas other cities of India also performal poorly. A pollution watchdog of India released data that found that the PM 2.5 levels (particulate matter) of Delhi were 99.71 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022. PM 2.5 is the finest dust and other harmful particles that measure less than 2.5 microns and can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, causing respiratory and cardiac diseases. Indian capital has for almost a decade been the most polluted capital city because of its toxic air quality, beyond the World health Organisation's safe limit of five microns, that kills thousands of people every year. At least 59,000 people in Delhi were killed due to air pollution in according to Greenpeace South-East Asia's analysis of IQAir data. Parents in the Indian capital New Delhi are considering leaving over concerns for the health of their children in a city where pollution levels hover above safe limits. Many people have been looking for options to move out of the city where they were born and have lived all their lives, because the pollution is causing health problems for their children. The most crucial reasons for the alarming levels of air pollution in Delhi includes its landlocked geographical location, crop burning in neighbouring states (Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan), vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, and large-scale construction activities. Indian government lacks an integrated air quality management plan and doing nothing to control air pollution. We urge this council to ask Indian government to take concrete measures to control the air pollution in India especially in order to ensure a clean and healthy environment to its citizens.
