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Republic of Korea: draft resolution

International Day for Blue Sky

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling the Sustainable Development Goal targets related to air pollution, such as target 3.9, to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030, and target 11.6, to reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management, by 2030,

Concerned by the severe and direct health hazards of air pollution, acknowledging in this regard that air pollution, including fine particulate matter, is classified as a cause of lung cancer by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization, mindful that air pollution is the single



greatest environmental risk to human health and one of the main avoidable causes of death and disease globally, with some estimated 6.5 million premature deaths across the world attributed to indoor and outdoor air pollution, recognizing that, particularly in developing countries, air pollution disproportionately affects women, children and the elderly, conscious that, in the absence of aggressive intervention, the number of premature deaths resulting from ambient air pollution is estimated to be on track to increase by more than 50 per cent by 2050, and also taking into account that the adverse effects of air pollution not only shorten lives but also affect the day-to-day lives of people,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 3/8 of 6 December 2017, entitled “Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally”,¹ and World Health Assembly resolution 68.8 of 26 May 2015, entitled “Health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution”,²

Recalling also Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 75/4 of 31 May 2019, entitled “Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific”, in which the Commission encouraged its members and associate members to strengthen domestic policies and measures and invited them to share experiences of regional and subregional cooperation,

Recognizing that the transboundary nature of air pollution presents vast and complex challenges of global dimensions that affect all regions of the world and all people, considering in this regard that most air pollutants are emitted as a result of human activities, and acknowledging that the problems caused by air pollution require cooperation, including the collection and utilization of data, joint research and development, and the sharing of best practices related to combating air pollution bilaterally and at the global, regional, and subregional levels, and mindful of the importance of raising public awareness, pursuing policies that reflect public consensus and enhancing public education at the international, regional, national and local levels,

Appreciating the progress made in combating air pollution as seen in various projects, partnerships and instruments including the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants, the Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, the joint research project on long-range transboundary air pollutants in North-East Asia, the Regional Action Plan for Intergovernmental Cooperation on Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Africa Sustainable Transport Forum and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,³

Noting that air pollution and climate change share a common solution, and further acknowledging that reducing air pollution levels will slow the progression of climate change and that pursuing climate action will, in turn, address air pollution,

Encouraged by the increasing interest of the international community in tackling air pollution, particularly air pollution caused by particulate matter, and emphasizing the need to further efforts to lower air pollution levels to protect human health,

1. *Decides* to designate 15 November as the International Day for Blue Sky, to be observed starting in 2020;

¹ UNEP/EA.3/Res.8.

² See World Health Organization, document WHA68/2015/REC/1.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1302, No. 21623.

2. *Urges* Member States to devote the International Day, as appropriate in the national context, to reaffirming their commitment to action against air pollution, including particulate matter, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, raising awareness of the importance of improving air quality, taking measures to organize activities, seminars, forums, conferences and round tables related to reducing air pollution, and encouraging further research into causes, consequences and solutions shared by air pollution and climate change;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its responsibilities and functions and in collaboration with Member States, appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the general public, to facilitate the observance of the International Day for Blue Sky, and invites the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed, as necessary, of the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to ensure the observance of the International Day for Blue Sky.
