



Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 4 (c)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

75/4. Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and 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,

Recognizing that air pollution is a pressing environmental challenge that has increased considerably in recent years, leading to a rise in premature deaths, threatening livelihoods and the sustainable development of the region, in particular in many cities in Asia and the Pacific where air pollution is a major public health hazard to an increasing urban population,

Recognizing also the growing need for clean energy and diversification of energy sources through new, efficient and environmentally sound technologies, which can contribute to climate change mitigation, environmental sustainability and reduced air pollution,

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

Recognizing the work of various intergovernmental programmes in Asia and the Pacific concerning air pollution, including the Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely

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

² See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/EA.3/RES.8.

Transboundary Effects for South Asia, the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia and the Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of member States to combat air pollution, including through the launch of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership,

1. *Encourages* all members and associate members to strengthen domestic policies and measures to reduce air pollution and mitigate the impacts of air pollution on human health;

2. *Invites* all members and associate members to share with other members their experiences of subregional and regional cooperation on various intergovernmental programmes in Asia and the Pacific concerning air pollution, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the Committee on Environment and Development, where appropriate;

3. *Invites* member States to strengthen efforts to foster sustainable and environmentally sound development towards ecological sustainability and cooperation on, and the transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, to tackle air pollution challenges;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To facilitate the voluntary exchange of experiences of subregional and regional cooperation, including the promotion of voluntary scientific and technological cooperation to tackle air pollution in Asia and the Pacific, to facilitate the collection and dissemination of information, and to conduct analytical studies related to air pollution in the region to support policies, as appropriate, taking into account in-house expertise and the mandate of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To collaborate with regional and subregional programmes on air pollution, relevant United Nations bodies, including the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, and multilateral and bilateral donors to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific, in accordance with their respective mandates;

(c) To provide, upon request of member States, technical support for the development of policies on mitigation of air pollution;

(d) To report to the Commission at its seventy-seventh session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*5th plenary meeting
31 May 2019*