

YUNMUN XXX

World Health Organization

Topic 2: Air Pollution

One of the largest environmental health risks in 2019 is air pollution. Approximately 90% of individuals breathe various microscopic pollutants that can penetrate respiratory and circulatory systems that damage the lung, heart, and brain, prematurely killing over seven million people every year. One in every three deaths from stroke, lung cancer, and heart disease are contracted from air pollution.¹ The primary cause of air pollution stems from areas that distribute high volumes of emissions, most prevalent among factories, vehicles, and even agricultural centers.

While the root of the problem, carbon emissions, is an environmental one and as such not in WHO's jurisdiction, it is vital to combat this health hazard from a health perspective as well as partnering with other UN organizations.² Some countries are more greatly affected by smog and air pollution than others, but this issue does affect us all. In researching this topic please keep the following questions in mind:

- How has your country tried to combat the negative health effects of air pollution?
- Does your country monitor air pollution levels?
- How can we communicate with the public best practices on how to stay healthy if they live in an area with high levels of air pollution?

Do not feel the need to limit yourself to these questions, as they are merely a springboard for our discussion. Research the issue, come prepared, and work together with your fellow delegates to protect the current and future health of people and animals as well as the world environment. Make sure to understand your specific country's current policy and stance on the issue. Your country's nuanced approaches are highly valued.

Best of luck,

Jason Jubas

Chair, WHO

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¹ <https://www.who.int/air-pollution/news-and-events/how-air-pollution-is-destroying-our-health>

²

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/air-quality/activities/health-aspects-of-long-range-transboundary-air-pollution>