

Meeting Report: Accelerating Efforts to Improve Air Quality Globally – Progress Made to Implement UNEA Resolution 6/10

3rd December 2025 | UNEA-7

Resolution 6/10 on [promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally](#) was adopted at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6). The resolution calls on Member States and other stakeholders to strengthen collaborative action, share knowledge, and enhance capacity for air quality management, recognizing that transboundary air pollution poses shared environmental, health, and economic challenges.

At UNEA-7, UNEP and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) convened an Associated Event to take stock of progress made since the adoption of Resolution 6/10 and highlight successful approaches and partnerships that are accelerating action on air pollution. The event showcased how regional, science-based and multisectoral efforts are delivering practical results while generating co-benefits for climate mitigation, public health and sustainable development. The first part of the meeting reviewed key achievements and lessons learned in several regions, with a focus on how collaboration and innovation are helping to overcome persistent implementation barriers such as capacity gaps, financing constraints and limited access to technology. The second part of the meeting focused on pathways to accelerate implementation, including new approaches to air quality finance, private sector engagement, and partnership models that can support scalable and sustained solutions.

The two-hour event brought together over 90 in-person participants and around 240 online attendees, including representatives from Member States, UN entities, regional bodies and international organisations. The agenda included opening remarks from UNEP and Canada, followed by two interactive panel discussions featuring twelve speakers. A summary of the **key messages**, the **meeting agenda** and **photos** can be found below.

Get in touch!

For further information about the event or UNEP and CCAC's work on air quality and the UNEA 6/10 resolution, please contact Soraya Smaoun soraya.smaoun@un.org and Amanda Curry Brown amanda.brown@un.org

Key Messages

Global momentum for clean air action is accelerating across regions and political forums. Speakers noted unprecedented alignment on air quality in 2025, reflected in the [G20 Cape Town Ministerial Declaration on Air Quality](#), the [WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health](#), and the rapid progress made since UNEA resolution 6/10. These developments signal a growing recognition that clean air is fundamental to health, climate and economic stability.

Air pollution remains a severe global health and development crisis requiring urgent, scaled action. Participants highlighted that [7.9 million people die prematurely every year](#) due to air pollution, with the highest burdens in Africa and Asia. The WHO reaffirmed its new global target of a [50% reduction in health impacts by 2040](#), which will require far stronger cross-sectoral and cross-country implementation.

Countries demonstrated significant progress and practical, replicable solutions. Ghana outlined its new [legally binding air quality regulations](#), expanded national monitoring system, and development of [city-level air quality management plans](#). Chile showcased a 40% reduction in PM_{2.5}, achieved through legally binding decontamination plans, cross-sectoral collaboration, public-private partnerships and strong engagement of industries.

Regional collaboration was underscored as crucial for tackling air pollution challenges. The meeting showcased strong advances under the [Africa Clean Air Programme](#) (ACAP) and the adoption of a new [Regional Air Quality Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean](#). Japan emphasised that decades of collaboration through regional frameworks - particularly the [Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia \(EANET\)](#) and [the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership \(APCAP\)](#) - have helped countries build trust and generate comparable data to inform policy and regional dialogue.

Global platforms can connect regional initiatives, strengthen coordination, and address persistent gaps in knowledge and capacity. In this context, the rapid establishment of UNEP's [Global Air Quality Cooperation Network](#) and the [Air Quality Management Exchange \(AQMx\)](#) platform were welcomed, including the launch of new AQMx [sectoral technical guidance](#) on transport, energy, waste and agriculture to support air quality managers in applying evidence-based interventions.

Financing gaps remain the most significant barrier to scaling air quality action. Despite clear health and economic benefits, air quality [remains severely underfunded](#) - particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, which receives less than 1% of global clean air funding. Participants stressed that public finance alone will be insufficient, calling for stronger alignment with climate finance, clearer

regulatory frameworks, and the development of investment-ready project pipelines to mobilise private and blended finance, including through de-risking and performance-based approaches.

Evidence must translate into policy, regulation and enforcement. Participants emphasised the importance of strengthening the science-policy interface by improving access to reliable data, providing actionable technical guidance, and ensuring that evidence informs regulatory design and enforcement. [WHO's new science-policy summaries](#) and the new AQMx sectoral guidance were highlighted as tools to support this shift from analysis to action.

A shift from pilots to scaled, cross-sectoral implementation is urgently needed. Speakers emphasised that while pilots and feasibility studies are well established, progress is increasingly constrained by limited large-scale investment, fragmented governance and insufficient whole-of-government engagement. Participants highlighted the need for stronger coordination across ministries and sustained political commitment to deliver system-wide air quality improvements.

Agenda

Agenda item	Description
Opening Remarks (10 minutes) • Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, Director of Industry and Economy Division, UNEP • Nicholas Barber, Deputy Director of Multilateral Affairs Division, Environment and Climate Change Canada	Opening remarks
Panel 1: Stocktake and lessons learned (50 minutes) • Soraya Smaoun, O.i.C - Pollution and Health Unit/Air Quality Coordinator, UNEP (moderator) • Panellist remarks: - Takaaki Murata, Deputy Director, Ministry of the Environment, Japan - Peter Dery, Director for Environment, Ministry of Environment, Science, and Technology, Ghana - María Mesonero Kromand, Coordinator of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Chile • Moderated discussion	This discussion session took stock of achievements since the adoption of resolution 6/10, examining key milestones and how international and regional collaboration and innovation has overcome implementation barriers including capacity gaps and financing constraints.
Panel 2: Accelerating Action (50 minutes) • Alice Kaudia, CCAC Senior Advisor for Africa (moderator) • Panellist presentations: - Amanda Curry Brown, Clean Air Flagship Coordinator, CCAC	The second discussion session explored critical pathways forward, featuring presentations on new approaches to air quality

- Jane Burston, CEO, Clean Air Fund (online) - George Mwaniki, Head of Air Quality, World Resources Institute (WRI) Africa - Sophie Gummy, Technical Officer, WHO • Moderated discussion	finance, breakthrough private sector engagement models, and novel partnership frameworks that are catalysing scalable, sustainable solutions.
Closing Remarks (5 minutes) Gerry Opondo, Founder and Executive Director of the Environmental Compliance Institute (ECI)	Summary of key takeaways and next steps.

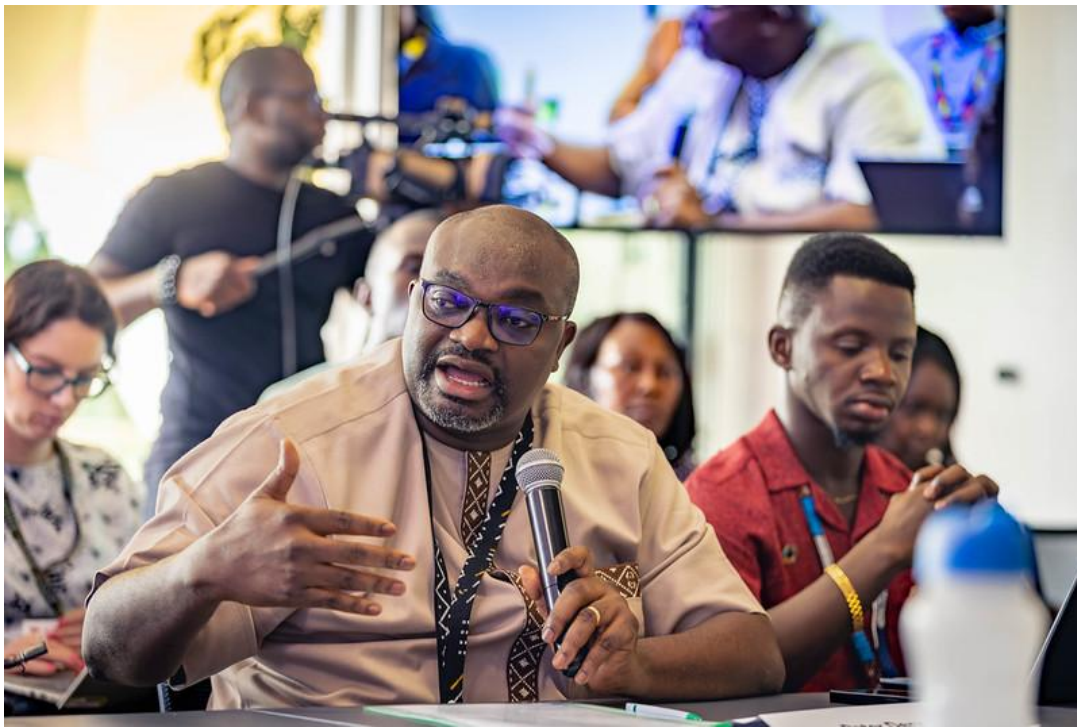
Photos



Participants listen to **Takaaki Murata**, Deputy Director, Ministry of the Environment, Japan



Alice Kaudia, CCAC Senior Advisor for Africa, begins the second panel



Peter Dery, Director for Environment, MESTI Ghana speaking in the first panel



Nicholas Barber, Deputy Director of Multilateral Affairs Division, Environment and Climate Change Canada delivers his opening remarks



María Mesonero Kromand, Coordinator of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Chile, speaking in the first panel