



The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the highest-level decision-making body for all matters related with the environment. Every two years, the scientific communities, private sectors, and governments come together to determine the global environment agenda, where policies are defined and solutions are proposed to combat emerging environmental challenges.

Topic I: Protecting endangered species

The United Nations is aware of the continued situation endangered species face and the UNEA has worked on solutions for this issue in previous times. Protecting endangered species not only benefits them, it also benefits human beings. The diversity of species is what maintains equilibrium in the ecosystem, because it provides all the necessary resources for survival.

Question to Consider:

1. Are current policies and programs enough, or do they need to be reinforced and reworked?
2. What role should local communities play in the protection of endangered species?
3. What economic or social incentives can promote the conservation of species (i.e. ecotourism, reduced payments for environmental services)?

Topic II: Addressing air pollution in urban areas

Air pollution is one of the primary environmental risks that affect our health. Conditions like asthma, heart-disease, lung cancer, amongst others, are some of the biggest consequences. Studies show that in 2019, 99% of the world population lived in places where the air quality guidelines established by the World Health Organization are not being followed. The effects of air pollution are associated with 6.7 million premature deaths every year. These deaths are mostly seen in countries with low and medium income, like regions of Sub-Oriental Asia and the Occidental Pacific. The implementation of policies and the investments that promote the use of green modes of transportation, joined with better energetic efficiency in homes, electric systems in industry, and adequate management of municipal waste, would permit a significant reduction of atmospheric pollution in specific regions.

Question to Consider:

1. What types of sustainable transportation can be implemented?
2. How can we make energy more efficient in homes, buildings and industries?
3. What role can the transition to renewable energies play in the reduction of urban pollution?

Topic III: Promoting renewable energy in developing countries

It is known that energy is the base of the issue of climate change, and it is fundamental in its solution. Scientific reports have indicated that to avoid the negative impacts of climate change, it is necessary to reduce the emissions by half by 2030 and to reduce to zero by 2050. To accomplish this goal, the global population must stop depending on fossil fuels and start investing in alternative forms of energy that are clean, accessible, sustainable and reliable. The sources of renewable energy that are found around us, like solar, wind, hydraulic energy, waste and heat from the Earth are renewed naturally by the environment. A solid energy system should support all sectors, from industries, education, agriculture, health, business, communications and advanced technology. In the last few years, the process of accessing electricity in low income countries has accelerated, the energy efficiency continues to grow, as do renewable energies. However, it is necessary to guarantee that around 2,300 million of people can access clean fuels and technologies.

Questions to consider:

1. How can we strengthen institutions to guarantee an efficient implementation of clean sources of energy?
2. What financial systems can attract investments in renewable energies?
3. What role should high income countries play in order to aid in the transition towards clean energy in low income countries?