



AirQualityAsia

Inaugural Round Table Consultation

On

The Role of Parliament in Meeting the Clean Air Challenge

National Assembly of Pakistan

18 September 2017

We, the participants of the AirQualityAsia Round Table Consultation:

Acknowledging that air quality represents serious health, economic, social, environmental and transboundary challenges;

Cautioning that the drive towards economic development can lead to high levels of pollution and can carry immense health costs that can be counter-productive unless proper monitoring, emissions standards, enforcement and measures incentivizing efficient and clean use of energy are not in place to protect against air pollution and promote Sustainable Development Goals;

Committed to substantially reducing, by 2030, the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous air pollutants and contamination (SDG 3.9); the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management (SDG 11.6);

Committed by our governments in SDG 12.4 to achieve, by 2020, the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life-cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment (SDG 12.4);

Confirming the urgent need to improve monitoring of air pollution in Pakistan, especially for PM2.5;

Confirming our commitment to protect and preserve our heritage from destruction cause by air pollution;



Acknowledging the role of urban forests in improving air quality;

Reaffirming as agreed by our governments in SDG 3.9 that ensuring clean air quality can serve improvements in global public health as well as provide robust climate adaptation measures;

Accepting as agreed by our governments in SDG 11.6 that assessment of air quality is crucial in informing policy makers for adopting corrective measures;

Acknowledging that States owe a special responsibility to one another to reduce or prevent sources of transboundary air pollution; and

Emphasizing that robust fiscal policies and incentives can lead industry investments in clean air technologies;

Agree to work within Parliament, Parliamentary Committees and with civil society organizations and other regional and international fora in which we participate, to:

1. Enhance public awareness of the dangers and costs of air pollution to individuals, societies and public health systems, with a view to mobilizing public opinion in favour of cleaner air quality across Pakistan.
2. Review and revise the national energy policies with a view of mainstreaming SDGs by focusing on renewable and low-carbon energy sources.
3. Propose tax relief and subsidies that support initiatives and investment in green technologies, energy efficient industries and a low-carbon and zero-emission economy.
4. Propose budgets for investment in air quality measurement devices that can provide real-time air quality information.
5. Work together to ensure Pakistan's meets its commitments on SDGs 3.9, 11.6 and 12.4 by 2030.