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## **POLLUTION PREVENTION DECLARATION**

**Approved 4 September 1991, at the  
2nd IUAPPA Regional Conference, Seoul, Korea**

**The International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations** - a non-governmental, non-political organisation, consisting of professional and voluntary associations worldwide, whose national governments are assembling at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [in 1992],

Respectfully submits to the United Nations and to all the governments of the world, for earnest consideration, the following declaration:

### **The Union**

- Considering the full scope of the observations and recommendations for “sustainable development” contained in the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development report, titled Our Common Future, to the United Nations General Assembly, including those focusing on the rate of human population growth in the world,
- Considering further the need for economic growth and agricultural production to feed this population, inevitably leading to more pollution,
- Cognisant of the great strides in environmental protection made over the last twenty years,
- Concerned that technology is reaching the limits of traditional methods of pollution treatment and control,
- Sensitive to the dilemma that the significant resources spent on pollution control are not available for improving productivity or implementing alternative pollution control measures,
- Recognising that pollution control systems may result in pollutants being transferred from one medium to another,
- Concerned with the risks and potential social and environmental costs inherent in any release of pollutants into the environment,
- Aware that the public desires an environment where risks are minimised,

- Determined to promote the enhancement and maintenance of environmental quality, not only locally, but worldwide,

**Submits**, for the purpose of this Declaration, that:

### **Pollution Prevention**

- Constitutes a cornerstone of sustainable development,
- Reduces the risk inherent in the management of some waste streams and residues that result from traditional control methods, including the risk of technology failure,
- Avoids the inadvertent transfer of pollutants across media that may occur with some end-of-the-pipe media-specific treatment and control approaches,
- Addresses certain environmental problems of extraordinary urgency, such as the perturbation of the earth's radiation balance with consequences for global climate changes,
- Applies to a broad array of activities that lead to pollution, including energy use, agriculture, transportation, as well as industrial activity,
- Protects natural resources for future generations, by avoiding excessive levels of wastes and residues, minimising the depletion of resources, and maintaining the capacity of the environment to absorb pollutants,
- Provides a cost-effective method of environmental protection that can reduce raw material and energy losses, reduce the need for expensive "end-of-pipe" treatment technologies, encourage improvements in process efficiency and performance, and reduce long-term liability,
- Reduces the use of hazardous and toxic substances in manufacturing and other processes, Is feasible, practicable and available,

**Defines** for the purpose of this declaration, the following concepts:

- Life-cycle "cradle to grave" management includes raw materials extraction and use, energy conversion, impacts, transportation, worker safety, waste management, treatment and disposal, and potential liabilities, releases into the environment, as well as product use and ultimate disposal,
- Support for better design of industrial processes includes research and development, technology transfer, economic incentives, and technical assistance,

- The sectors of the economy include production, energy (efficiency), product design, and renewable fuels,
- International ventures includes the promotion and dissemination by industrialised nations of low-polluting and low-waste technology in developing countries,
- Public education includes providing information on consumer products and the consequences of business and industrial activity in their communities,

**Concludes that**

- Continued progress in environmental protection will require application of both innovative and traditional approaches for pollution control,
- Pollution prevention is the best possible solution for environmental protection on both environmental and economic grounds, being potentially the most effective method for reducing risks to human health and the environment for containing costs,

**Calls on all governments to:**

- Orient their existing environmental programmes to emphasise pollution prevention,
- Develop and use compatible analytical methods to assess the costs and environmental impacts of the entire life cycle management of products,
- Support the development and dissemination of better designs for industrial processes, inter-alia, to reduce the use of energy and scarce raw materials, and toxic pollutants, and the release of pollutants,
- Lead in the adoption of pollution prevention techniques through government procurement practices the design and operation of government facilities, and the development of a mix of economic and regulatory incentives,
- Allow the maximum opportunity for flexibility and innovation in the design of pollution prevention approaches by industry and all other sectors of the economy,
- Support cooperative international ventures,
- Involve the public, as citizens and as consumers, in pollution prevention through education,
- Promote the use of pollution prevention impact statements, and

- Establish through an international forum, an appropriate demonstration of pollution prevention.