PRIORITY ACTIONS TO BREATHE
CLEAN AIR

Clean air is an **essential element of the human right to a healthy environment.** Yet, ~99% of the global population does not breathe clean air. However, the World Bank asserts it is **feasible and affordable** to implement clean air policies with impactful results.

Considering international and human rights obligations, and that improvements in environmental conditions can lower exposure and improve population health, **States must act urgently** to improve air quality. **All private actors** should support these efforts.

UNDERSTAND

- Priority contaminants
- Health harms
- **Vulnerable populations** to air pollution and unequal impacts
- Link to weather events and **climate change**
- Economic **impacts**

ENFORCEMENT

- **Polluter fees** finance oversight
- Fines/penalties that provide **real disincentives**
- Continuous emissions and fenceline **monitoring**
- **Safe work** spaces
- **Wildfire** prevention

INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

- **Continuous monitoring** and reporting
- Toxic emissions **registry**
- Cumulative **impact assessments**
- Air quality **maps and indices**
- **Accessible** public information and **education**



POLICIES FOR HEALTH

- Focus first on **most impacted areas** (hotspots and sacrifice zones)
- **Mitigate priority sources** requiring best available technology
- Limit and offset **new sources**
- Green spaces & efficient public transportation
- **Renewable energy** grids
- Reoriented **subsidies**

STRONG LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

- Air quality **standards and emission limits**
  - **Protecting** vulnerable populations (children, asthmatics, elderly)
  - **WHO guidelines** as a minimum
  - Complying with **human rights and international law obligations**
  - Based on **best available science**
- ESHRIAs[1] and comprehensive planning, considering **climate change**

[1] Environmental, Social and Human Rights Impact Assessments. (A/80/187).

Infographic based on the report *Priority actions towards breathing clean air, protecting public health and ensuring a healthy environment* (A/HRC/61/47) by the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, **Astrid Puentes Riaño.**

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