



First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health: Improving Air Quality, Combatting Climate Change – Saving Lives

Organized in collaboration with UN Environment Program, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Bank, as well as UN DESA and EU DEVCO

30 October – 1 November 2018, WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

We invite Member States (Ministers), Heads of Intergovernmental Organizations, Mayors, Heads of Institutions, Scientific and Medical Societies, Associations, Donors and the Civil Society to respond to this urgent public health issue, by launching voluntary commitments to tackle air pollution and prevent related diseases and deaths. Representatives can use this form to submit a commitment/pledge. We invite all actors to launch their commitments during the High Level Action Day, in the session Cleaning the world's air – time to act and commit!

These commitments will constitute a core part of the implementation of the global air pollution and health agenda promoted by WHO and the collaborating partners through international resolutions and strategies (e.g. WHO resolution WHA 69: 2016, UNEA resolution on Air Pollution, UNFCCC Paris Agreement, LRTAP convention, WMO decision on the Integrated Health services and CCAC Strategic plan). They will also be included in the "Geneva Health Action Agenda for Clean Air" to be released at the end of the conference.

RESPONDANT ORGANIZATION:

ATMO France Federation / Airparif,

on behalf of the Regional French Air Quality Monitoring Networks

Independent NGOs certified by The French Ministry of Ecology for monitoring and informing about air pollution in France

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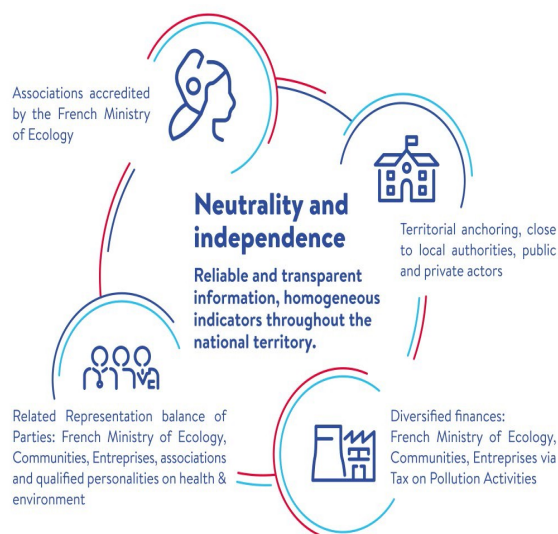
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Presentation of our Air Quality Monitoring networks

In France, air quality monitoring is mandatory and regulated by the Environmental Code since 1996. The “Air Law”, voted that year, gives the right to each French Citizen to respire an air of quality.

In EU, Member States are responsible for monitoring and informing about air pollution as well as checking compliance with the EU and French regulations. In France, according the French Air Act (1996), this responsibility is delegated by the ministry of Environment to our independent organizations. This organizations have a status of NGO’s and are gathering all the stakeholders in their administration board (State, local and territorial authorities, industries and economical players, and environmental protection and consumers associations, as well as health and air pollution experts). There is one of such air pollution observatory in each region.



The French Air Quality Monitoring Networks missions are:

- **MONITORING** through complementary tools (stations, models, etc) :
 - Air pollutants on a daily basis, following trends and forecasting pollution episodes;
 - Emerging issues (black carbon, ultrafine particles, pesticides, pollens, ...) and providing diagnosis for further health investigations;
 And disseminating reference data on air, climate and energy to be used by the different stakeholders;
- **ASSISTING** decision-makers when designing and following-up of medium and long-term action plans on air and related issues (energy, climate, urban nuisances);
- **COMMUNICATING** with stakeholders, raising awareness, developing education and training materials in order to change behaviors ;
- **STIMULATING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS** for raising awareness campaign and communication tools, decontamination solution, monitoring tools... based on strong partnerships with the different stakeholders as well as international organizations.

Their technical coordination at the national level is ensured by the Central Air Quality Monitoring Laboratory (LCSQA), on behalf of the Ministry of environment, who is also in charge of making the link with the EU commission (for instance to feed in the EU database).

List of ATMO FRANCE commitments

Support establishing/scaling-up air quality monitoring and forecasting

ATMO France Network is committed to support WHO's initiatives for exchange of expertise, capacity buildings and benchmark of good practices with our counterparts in foreign regions sharing the same challenge of improving air quality as a lack of capacity building and international collaboration has been highlighted by many speakers during the conference.

=> Through the MoU of French air quality monitoring networks with their counterpart abroad : Atmo Hauts de France with its counterparts in Benelux, Atmo Grand Est in Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany and Switzerland, Atmo Occitanie with Spain, AtmoSud with Italy and its Mediterranean neighbors, Atmo AuRA in Italy and Switzerland, Airparif within its MoU with Beijing, Tehran, Hanoi and Buenos Aires, etc.

Some of the area of expertise to be shared are the following :

> *Ensure proper management and maintenance of air quality monitors, as well as open data sharing for air pollution and climate change; with a focus on Short Live Compounds (SLCs). According to Clean Air and Climate Coalition (CACC), they are indeed the key pollutants to focus on in order to reduce both air pollution and climate change with a co-benefits on health, economy and food safety;*

> *Support operationalizing air pollution forecasting and advisory , promote air quality warning and forecasting tools to raise public awareness, provide assistance to the authorities, and as such reduce the risk of acute health episodes ;*

> *Support research on developing monitoring tools and provide an operational feedback on how best to use them depending on the needs and resources (models, satellites, reference monitoring stations, micro sensors...);*

> *Improve quality of data following international standards including the roll-out of guidelines on the use of low-cost air quality sensors. French air quality monitoring agencies will provide feedbacks from their work on this issue to provide the exhaustive review of the WMO (citizens science initiatives with among others Air Breizh, Atmo Hauts-de-France, Atmo Normandie, Atmo AuRA and Airparif; prototype of micro sensors based monitoring network with Atmo Aura and Airparif; micro sensors challenge to test the performance of devices on the market depending on their use with Airparif, Atmo Grand Est and Atmo AuRA, etc);*

> *Support air quality monitors in exposure hotspots, indoor and outdoor, with a focus in buildings hosting sensitive people like children, elderly people and hospitals.*

Develop /scale-up research on health/air quality

> Research on health impacts of ambient and household air pollution and on acute pollution events (including formation and behavior), and exposure.

> Research on effective interventions to improve air quality and improve health, and limit climate change

=> ATMO France and the French Air Quality Network is actively involved together with researchers and health experts in several programs dedicated to such issues, and is willing to share the conclusions with WHO:

- *The PATer project* (INSERM) : a five-year work program led by ATMO France with INSERM, INERIS and the help of Santé Publique France, launched at the end of 2013 on the **impact of air pollution on fetal growth** (supported by ANSES).
- *The PRIMEQUAL Program* (Ministry of Environment and ADEME): an air quality research program that aims to provide scientific evidences and **tools necessary for environmental decision-makers and managers** to monitor and improve indoor and outdoor air quality in order to reduce risks to health and the environment. It is a multidisciplinary approach involving physics, biology, mathematics and social sciences.
- *The OCAPOL project* (Arc Foundation): it aims to study the long-term effects of air pollution on **adult cancers**
- *The REPP'AIR Project*: a research program carried out with the Grand Est Regional Agriculture department of Grand Est. It aims to improve understanding of the phenomena involved in the transfer of **pesticides** into the air in order to **better advise professionals and to reduce their exposure to such products**.
- *AirQ+* (ADEME and Santé Publique France) : air pollution data from the monitoring networks are currently being used by 10 local authorities to feed the **WHO's tool** in order to **evaluate the burden of air pollution on the citizens**.
- *Pesticides monitoring in ambient air*: our members have been pioneers in following pesticides levels in ambient air for more than 20 years, which is at the root of Anses' recommendation for permanently monitoring those compounds, despite the lack of regulation yet. In 2018, the first national monitoring campaign (Anses/Ministry of environnement/INERIS/ATMO France) has been launched in order to provide a diagnosis for those pollutants which are not taken into account in the air. The results will then be used to assess the people's exposure at the national scale and, one step further, to lay the foundation for a **monitoring strategy of pesticides and their residues**.

Advocacy & Awareness Raising

> **ATMO France Federation will advertise the BreatheLife campaign towards its members and encourage them to join the initiative in their communication, education and awareness raising campaigns.**

> **ATMO France and its members are dedicated through their mission to support local initiatives to improve ambient and/or household air quality with health and climate benefits.**

Strengthen health sector capacity/education/training

> **Support education programs for health professional staff with specific and innovative training material on the impact of air pollution on health**

ATMO France is launching in January a training platform **ABCDair** dedicated to different targets : children of different age, general public, teachers, and specialists. This platform will gather training materials and be freely available for all. **ATMO France is willing to make it available for WHO's initiatives.**

In addition, **our members are working on innovative training materials (MOOC, Videos, escape game, serious game...)** and are willing to share these experience to **WHO** and would be interested to look for synergies with **WHO's initiatives.**