



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES – 7 September

Virtual event: REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR CLEANING THE AIR WE SHARE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#TheAirWeShare / #WorldCleanAirDay
September 7 de 2022
2 pm (Panama time, GMT-5)

Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rd-uvqD4sHNxy04lmT5NXb7CYJKmoGv-i>

Background

In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly designated **7 September** as the **International Day of Clean Air for blue skies**, emphasizing the need to make further efforts to improve air quality and reduce air pollution in order to protect human health and mitigate the effects on climate due to pollutants emissions, acknowledging that improving air quality can enhance climate change mitigation, and that climate change mitigation can improve air quality. This year commemorates the third International Day of Clean Air for blue skies with the theme “The Air We Share”, recognizing that all human beings depend on air for life and that any impact on air quality affects everyone. Moreover, the U.N. General Assembly recently and overwhelmingly approved an **historic resolution** recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.

It is now well established that air pollution is one of the biggest environmental threats to health today, responsible for 7 million premature deaths every year globally and an estimated of 320,000 premature deaths each year in Latin America and the Caribbean. Air pollutants also contribute directly to the climate crisis, thereby endangering health and livelihoods of current and future generations. Air pollution knows no international borders and no nation nor people are exempt from its effects. In this sense, **international and regional cooperation** to coordinate efforts to prevent and reduce air pollution involving scientists, private sectors, citizens and public institutions is essential to promote ambitious and more effective actions.

This year, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) with the support of the Clean Air Institute mobilize a joint effort to commemorate the third version of the



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International Day of Clean Air for blue skies under the theme [#TheAirWeShare](#). This virtual regional event aims to share with attendees the recent actions and projects with different countries in the region to strength the national and sub-national air quality agendas. The [Regional Action Plan 2022-2025 on Air Quality](#) developed by the Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution and PAHO Air Quality & Health Program will be presented, as well as highlighting country experiences tackling air pollution and protecting public health in the LAC region. Also, a new collaboration between UNEP and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) will be launched aimed to leapfrog current barriers to advanced air quality management in the region.

Agenda

2:00 pm	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <p>Jacqueline Alvarez (<i>tbc</i>) Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p> <p>Daniel Buss Unit Chief Climate Change and Environmental Determinants of Health Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)</p>	UNEP/PAHO
2:15 pm	<p>PAHO Air Quality & Health Program</p> <p>Juan José Castillo Advisor on Air Quality and Health Climate Change and Environmental Determinants of Health Unit Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)</p>	PAHO
2:25 pm	<p>Regional Action Plan on Air Quality for Latin America and the Caribbean - 2022-2025</p> <p>Jordi Pon/Luisa Fernanda González Subprogramme of chemical, waste and air quality United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p>	UNEP
2:40 pm	<p>Launching of the EDF/UNEP collaboration on Air Quality in the Latin America and the Caribbean region</p> <p>Sergio Sánchez Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)</p>	UNEP/EDF
Fostering the national and sub-national air quality agenda in the LAC region		



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2:50 pm	<p>Air quality monitoring with low-cost sensors in Costa Rica José Félix Rojas National University of Costa Rica</p> <p>Regional integrated programme on air quality, climate change and health in Central America countries Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) (tbc)</p> <p>Estimating health impacts of the air pollution through AirQ+ tool for Bogotá Lorena Catalina Bonilla Leader in the health and region agenda Secretaría de Ambiente de Bogotá</p>	Moderator: Clean Air Institute
3:20 pm	Closing remarks	UNEP

Reference documents

Air Pollution Network

- Regional Action Plan on Air Quality for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022-2025 [\[español\]](#) [\[english\]](#)
- Resource Mobilization Strategy for the Latin America and the Caribbean Air Quality Regional Action Plan 2022-2025 [\[español\]](#) [\[english\]](#)
- Actions on Air Quality - Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Report [\[español\]](#) [\[english\]](#)



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