**2. Briefing Paper – Environmental Committee**

**Chair:** Virginia Liotta

**Co-Chair:** Giorgia Vernacchia

**Topic:** The issue of urban air pollution

**Background:** Air pollution is a global concern impacting the health and environment of numerous urban centres worldwide. London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) stands as a pioneering effort to mitigate vehicular emissions and improve air quality. Considering its success, other countries should consider implementing their own tailored regulations to combat air pollution effectively. However, while London's ULEZ serves as a model for combatting air pollution, it's crucial for each country to develop tailored regulations that suit their specific contexts while contributing to global environmental sustainability. The implementation of country-specific measures, in conjunction with international cooperation, can pave the way for a cleaner and healthier future for all nations.

**Case for Country-Specific Regulations:**

* **Localized Solutions:** Each country faces unique challenges concerning air pollution, influenced by varying factors such as industrial activities, transportation networks, geographical conditions, and societal behaviours. Therefore, tailored regulations can address specific local sources of pollution.
* **Policy Alignment with Global Goals:** While considering local dynamics, regulations should align with global objectives, such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to ensure a collective effort towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality on an international scale.
* **Encouraging Innovation:** Implementing country-specific regulations can stimulate innovation and technology advancements in cleaner energy, transportation, and industry practices. This could lead to economic opportunities and sustainable growth while reducing environmental impacts.

**Challenges in Implementing Country-Specific Regulations:**

* **Resource Allocation:** Developing and enforcing regulations demands significant resources in terms of funding, technology, and administrative capacity. Not all countries may have the necessary infrastructure or financial means to implement stringent regulations immediately.
* **Policy Coordination:** Harmonizing regulations across regions or countries might be challenging due to differing political interests, economic conditions, and regulatory frameworks, requiring extensive coordination and cooperation.
* **Equity Concerns:** Striking a balance between environmental benefits and potential socioeconomic impacts is crucial. Regulations should avoid disproportionately burdening vulnerable populations or hindering economic development.

**Skeleton resolution**

1. Encourage countries to develop air pollution regulations that consider local factors and challenges while aligning with broader global environmental goals;
2. Foster collaboration among countries, sharing best practices, technological innovations, and expertise to collectively address air pollution and climate change;
3. Provide assistance, technical expertise, and financial aid, especially to developing nations, to facilitate the development and implementation of effective air pollution regulations.

**References:**

[Ultra Low Emission Zone - Transport for London (tfl.gov.uk)](https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone)

[Transport and environment report 2020 - Train or plane? — European Environment Agency (europa.eu)](https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/transport-and-environment-report-2020)

[THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development (un.org)](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)