



Statement of the European Union on Protection of the atmosphere

1. The European Union has the honour to continue contributing to the discussion of the 6th Committee regarding the topic of the protection of the atmosphere.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* . Montenegro\* .

Serbia\* and Albania\* . the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential

Series No.66 of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity of September 2012 entitled *"Geoengineering in Relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Technical and Regulatory Matters"*, it would be appropriate if guideline 7 makes a reference to the Precautionary Principle.

4. With regard to the fourth report on the protection of the atmosphere, we thank the Special Rapporteur Mr. Shinya Murase for his efforts and would like to make the following observations.

It is noted that the report acknowledges the evolution of the rather problematic reference to

the 'special situation and needs of developing countries' and would like to recall our earlier

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~~rights of all nationalities of airlines flying between European countries was not based on its~~

potential non-compatibility with WTO rules as the European Union considers the Aviation Directive as being fully compliant with international law, including international trade law.

8. As to draft guideline 10 as proposed by the report, we note with appreciation the proposed

~~text suggesting that States should take appropriate measures in the fields of international~~

seas, we believe that port States should actively verify the use of low sulphur marine fuels  
by ships calling its ports in accordance with their duty under the MARPOL Convention and

UNCLOS to reduce atmospheric pollution. Thus, with regard to draft guideline 11, we believe that States, first and above all flag states, should take active measures to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the requirements of sulphur emission.

12. With respect to the interrelationship with international human rights law, and notably the reference to the direct link between atmospheric pollution and an impairment of a protected right as mentioned in paragraph 82 of the fourth report, we believe that a specific reference should be inserted to the 2013 assessment of the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) which concluded that outdoor air pollution is carcinogenic to humans.
13. Specifically in relation to point 2 of draft guideline 12, we believe that poorer parts of the national population should also be mentioned under vulnerable groups of people. Also in developed countries, people in poorer neighbourhoods tend to be more affected by air