*Place on your letterhead and edit as needed*

DATE

ADDRESS

Dear x,

Pollution is the largest cause of death in the world, killing an estimated 8.9 million people per year, according to data from the World Health Organization. It has severe implications for sustainable development, exacerbates the poverty cycle, harms the environment and biodiversity, causes lifelong disability and stagnates economic growth.

The  XXXX (AGENCY NAME) is concerned about the impacts of toxic pollution in *COUNTRY NAME* and would like to request your support of the following position. We kindly request you to make the following intervention on our behalf during the intergovernmental negotiations at UN Headquarters in New York the week of 23rd March 2015, and to convey this message to the South African head of the G77 delegation.

*COUNTRY OR* AGENCY *NAME* supports:

1. *Integrating the sound management of chemicals, wastes and pollution as a contributor to sustainable development into the Declaration as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda;*
2. *Maintaining the existing text in the draft SDGs related to toxic pollution.* ***Target 3.9 is the most important given the large impact of pollution on human health****:*
   * Goal 3, Target 3.9: “by 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination”
   * Goal 6, Target 6.3: “by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increasing recycling and safe reuse by x% globally”
   * Goal 12, Target 12.4: “by 2020 achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle in accordance with agreed international frameworks and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment”
   * Goal 14, Target 14.1: “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”
3. *Ensuring that measurable and technically rigorous indicators for all types of pollution, chemicals and wastes are included in the SDGs monitoring framework, and replacing the existing indicator under 3.9 with a more comprehensive indicator, as follows:*

“Death and disability from indoor and outdoor air pollution, polluted water and sanitation, and contaminated sites versus 2012 baseline measured by WHO/IHME Global Burden of Disease methodology”

This indicator is appropriate as it measures death and disability directly, using a metrics ontology well developed in public health circles by WHO, IHME and others.  It applies directly to the target.  More importantly, the GBD process is one that continues to be refined and improved, and therefore this indicator will adapt as knowledge on pollution and health develops.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Name, Position Title

Cc to: Nikhil Seth, John Gilroy, Michael McManus and Evans Maturu