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WHO and the CTBTO: joint initiatives to address air pollution in the cities

Air quality plays a pivotal role for the achievement of SDG 11 which is aimed at making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Having taken into consideration adverse effects of air pollution, the WHO issued the Air quality Guidelines which cover four air pollutants. But the list lacks radionuclides which are air pollutants as well. The objective of the research is to examine a possible contribution of the radionuclide monitoring technology of the IMS to the WHO studies. The results suggest that cooperation between the CTBTO and the WHO could be an important step forward in addressing air pollution. Initially, the CTBTO could provide the WHO with information on radionuclide levels. Secondly, it could facilitate the WHO research on recognizing health impacts of radionuclides. Likewise, joint study could pave the way for the update of the Air quality Guidelines and putting radionuclides on the list or drafting new legal documents. Next, cooperation could give an impetus to raising awareness of people about air pollution and encouraging state authorities to follow standards. Overall, cooperation between the CTBTO and the WHO will help to alleviate the problem of air pollution and make cities a safer place to live in.

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