**Health in All Policies**

**Kuopio, Finland Meeting**

**Role Play Characters**

**Mayor:**

As city mayor, you are chairman of the meeting. You are currently in the middle of your five-year term as mayor and a member of a centre-left political party. You are concerned about the poor health of many children in the city and also view addressing the issue as an opportunity to gain popular support for when you stand as candidate in national elections in two years. This is not something you speak about openly. You tell the other stakeholders about the goal and the importance of the meeting to address children’s exposure to outdoor air pollution in the form of nitrogen dioxide. Furthermore, you insist on the inequality between children’s exposure from high socioeconomic neighbourhoods and schools, and the much higher exposure of children from low socioeconomic neighbourhoods and schools. You are responsible for the smooth running of the meeting and managing time. You should ensure that all stakeholders listen to each other and take turns presenting their views. The mayor is responsible for recording any agreements that are reached. You are expecting the stakeholders to present you with five possible solutions and interventions.

**Health Department:**

Recently, the head of your department retired and was replaced by a well-respected deputy-head who has a reputation for publicly opposing vested interests counter to public health. She has directed you to call a meeting on addressing the inequality in the outdoor nitrogen dioxide exposure of children from different socioeconomic backgrounds at home and at school. The Parents Association has been complaining as children are more sensitive to air pollution. She expects you to push for a strong and comprehensive action plan that has the support of as many sectors as possible. As negotiator for the health department, you are responsible for promoting the highest standard of health for the inhabitants of the city. Your department defines health broadly as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. It advocates for a Health in All Policies approach to health challenges such as exposure to air pollution since it is caused by social, environmental and commercial determinants of health.

**Education Department:**

As negotiator for the education department, you have been invited to attend the meeting (and the varying levels of exposure inversely proportionate to socioeconomic statuses). This is the first meeting you have attended on a health issue and you are not clear about the repercussions of such exposure or how the education sector can play a role. You do not want others to think you are ignorant so you will not reveal this to any of the other stakeholders. You have education meetings to attend later and you do not believe that you will be affected whether an agreement is reached or not. You have some contributions to make regarding exposure at schools however you will need to be actively convinced by other parties before you will adopt any position.

**Infrastructure, transport and housing department (political head):**

You are an experienced architect and town planner in the infrastructure, transport and housing department. You have been invited to attend a meeting to prepare an action plan related to addressing children’s outdoor exposure to nitrogen dioxide (and the varying levels of exposure inversely proportionate to socioeconomic statuses). You know this is in lead-up to the Paris climate change meeting. You are aware of the importance of promoting healthy neighbourhoods and are particularly concerned about promoting projects aimed at improving neighbourhood artwork, accessible life styles (supermarket, bakery, schools) in these districts supporting you politically. However, your department does not currently have any funds for major infrastructure work.

**Infrastructure, transport and housing department (technical lead):**

You are working with your political head of department in town planning, with a background in civil engineering. You have been invited to attend a meeting to prepare an action plan related to addressing children’s outdoor exposure to nitrogen dioxide (and the varying levels of exposure inversely proportionate to socioeconomic statuses). You know that your political head could be interested in the idea of neighbourhood architectural competitions and you want to see if can obtain a budget from the mayor through working on climate change to advance these ideas and gain approval from your political head.

**Finance Department:**

You recently heard about a meeting called by the health department and chaired by the mayor on an action plan to address children’s exposure to nitrogen dioxide (and the varying levels of exposure inversely proportionate to socioeconomic statuses. The head of your department has asked you to attend to “keep an eye on things”. For the past three years, your country’s economic growth has been positive but less than last decade. The priority of your department is to keep debt levels stable and promote economic activity. Your head of department has publicly stated that youth unemployment is too high and he has privately expressed concern that job losses could create political instability.

**Parents’ Association:**

You are the spokesperson for your local Parents’ Association. The group is comprised of parents of students attending schools in areas of varying socioeconomic statuses (including private and public schools). Data on levels of nitrogen dioxide in different parts of the city have been released and came to the attention of your association when it was noted that levels increased as the socioeconomic status of the area decreased. The association has been complaining to the health department about this issue as parents are worried about their children’s exposure. This is because children are sensitive to air pollution. You are expecting your local government to take serious action in reducing the levels in the air and in bringing about equality. You are looking for solutions with immediate effects. Despite this, you need to remember that you are representing all of the parents of your association - including those with higher socioeconomic backgrounds who are far less affected by this issue.

**Private transport company:**

You are the CEO of a local transport company, which provides the public transport services. Your only real competition in the city is not with other businesses but with residents who drive their own cars rather than using your services. You are supportive of the mayor’s wish to take actions against climate change because you expect to receive more clients as people abandon their cars. On the other hand, you are worried that changes will be drastic and end up affecting your business (such as an increase in use of non-motor vehicles or in prices for gas and diesel).

**Traffic Police Department:**

You have been invited to a meeting involving a health issue. The head of the department has sent you suspecting that the outcome of the meeting will involve new traffic regulations. If this is the case, she expects you to ask for an increase in budget to cover the costs of new employees and other required materials. Your department believes this may be a chance to prove its capabilities. The city’s roads are often dangerous with constant speeding and, in areas of low socioeconomic status, common drunk driving. You see this as an added opportunity to reduce such dangers.