

Global Agenda on Health, Environment, and Climate Change

The First Global Model WHO World Health Assembly,

Having considered the Director-General's report on the proposed agreement between the World Health Organization and the International Development Law Organization¹, titled WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through healthy environments presented at the 74th World Health Assembly;

Recalling resolution WHA61.19 on climate change and health by which Member States shared the concern of the impact of climate change on public health, cognizant of the fact the resolution was the last time the World Health Assembly approved a resolution on climate change and health and that there has been significant progress made in the scientific evidence on the detrimental impacts of climate change on human health;

Alarmed by the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published in its Sixth Assessment Report, stating that within the next two decades, the earth will irreversibly warm by 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial times, that global temperatures have increased by 1.0 degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial period leading to more frequent and severe climate related natural disasters, having a profound impact on the health security of our nations;

Appreciating countries taking action and engaging in developing the full potential of the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Convention on Biodiversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as mandated by Decision 1/CP.21 and the adoption of Paris Agreement by 196 parties at COP 21 to increase the effectiveness of international efforts to combat the threat posed by climate change by limiting the rise in global temperature, open monitoring and reporting of countries' climate goals giving wealthier nations a method to support developing countries in their efforts to provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate change, strengthen resilience and enhance abilities to adapt to climate impacts;

Underlining the development of the Operational framework for building climate resilient health systems that responds to the demand from Member States and partners for guidance on how the health sector and its operational basis in health systems can systematically and effectively address the challenges increasingly presented by climate variability and change, and appreciating the inclusion of the health-environment nexus in the climate negotiations during COP-27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt;

¹ Document A75/34,

Recognizing that Small Islands and Developing States are in the front-line facing the devastating effects of climate change, such as floods, droughts and sea level rise;

Expressing concern that known avoidable environmental risk factors cause at least 13 million deaths every year and approximately one-quarter of the global burden of disease;

Expressing concern also that the international community is not fully aware of the current state and the severe threats humanity will face if action is misguided by ignorance of science, disinformation, misinformation and prioritizing national interest before international public interest;

Believing that awareness is the first step towards change, it is critical to make efforts towards raising awareness in all sectors of the community on environmental health and facilitate community-led decision-making approaches to address the climate crisis;

Expressing concern on climate change's impact on social and economic health determinants;

Aware that pandemics and natural disasters will increase due to climate change and hopeful that they can be addressed in an interdisciplinary way, with solidarity, and by engaging with the "One Health" concept;

Acknowledging the success, pioneering work and dedication of governments and stakeholders in many Member States in developing strategies and policies to reduce the drivers and impact of climate change;

Bearing in mind the principle of *pacta sunt servanda*, believing that compliance with previously mentioned conventions can lead to significant progress in climate change mitigation and adaptation,

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to develop a strategic plan at national and regional level to amplify resilience against health emergencies exacerbated by climate change and to strengthen partnerships with other countries in the same regions to ensure unity in working towards this goal;

(2) to encourage innovations in the renewable energy sector, in order to speed up the mass adoption of renewable energy by making it available, accessible and affordable while also being mindful of social and cultural differences that might slow down its adoption;

(3) to invest in a common fund for the adaptation process for climate-related disasters including pandemics and to fulfill climate finance commitments, supporting

most affected countries and motivating all countries to reach carbon neutrality and integrate sustainable energy systems into respective healthcare facilities;

(4) to build resilient, low-carbon footprint healthcare systems that anticipate, are prepared for, and prevent health emergencies associated with seasonal, weather or climate variations, especially in the most vulnerable populations including but not limited to children, women, ethnic minorities, migrants and refugees, elderly people, people with disabilities, and those with pre-existing health conditions;

(5) to develop, and improve early warning systems that predict extreme weather events and related disease outbreaks and to develop disaster response plans to improve preparedness;

(6) to adopt environmental conservation and preservation initiatives with the objective of reducing the impact of climate change on biodiversity, the environment and human health;

(7) to consider environmental and climate change related consequences in decision-making processes in all sectors, especially in the energy and transport sectors to reduce air pollution;

(8) to collaborate with the WHO and comply with agreed upon recommendations for preparedness of global health-related issues;

(9) to make environmental health a compulsory part of education at all levels for community leaders in the dissemination of public health research to raise awareness and overcome gender inequalities that impede the adoption of sustainable and healthy living practices;

(10) to involve a multidisciplinary team of experts in urban planning including the development of transport systems, housing, and green spaces;

(11) to provide accessible, available, acceptable, and qualitative health care for all, especially for vulnerable populations due to climate change;

(12) to consider sociocultural barriers of sustainable practices for healthy living in the context of different regions, including low-income and rural populations, and develop alternative sustainable changes to honor local beliefs and needs;

(13) to guarantee healthy living conditions and access to health care of migrants and people displaced across international borders as a result of adverse effects of climate change or climate change related natural disasters;

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2. CALLS UPON the global community, private sectors, academic institutions, the healthcare sector and other relevant stakeholders:

(1) to strengthen education and awareness on climate change and health among healthcare professionals and the general population and to engage healthcare providers in regular planning and training sessions preparing for climate change and environmental risks, natural disasters, and pandemics;

(2) to promote the decarbonization of difficult-to-abate sectors, such as industry and aviation which contribute to climate change;

(3) to develop international financial instruments and alternative policy approaches to advocate funding allocation to research innovative methods improving environmental health and to reduce costs of climate change mitigation to pursue improved accessibility and a clear delivery strategy for climate-related funding for developing nations;

(4) to promote health in all sectors policy, such as implementing health and climate change in decision-making processes and enhancing investment in resilient infrastructure and sustainable finances;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to facilitate and contribute to the exchange of technical assistance, capacity building and cooperation on a local, regional and global scale in support of national efforts, actions and measures to address the adverse effects of climate change;

(2) to encourage the consideration of the health impacts of climate change by all the United Nations climate and environmental agencies and the main bodies of the United Nations in order to put public health in the forefront of all climate negotiations;

(3) to emphasize the importance of funding environmental projects in countries that struggle with development and implementation and to encourage Member States to contribute to the Clean Investment Funds and Green Climate Fund;

(4) to provide support for initiatives addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change on human health especially in low and middle income countries and the most affected regions.

DISCLAIMER

These resolutions have been drafted by the Youth Delegates during the first Global Model WHO held from 10-19 February 2023. Any information or suggested actions contained in resolutions drafted by student delegates participating in the 2023 Global

WHA 1.8

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