Road map for health sector response to improve air quality, energy access and health

Member State Information session

04 March 2024, 14:30-15:30
Agenda

• Opening remarks
  Dr Ailan Li, ADG HEP

• Ongoing WHO efforts;

• Timeline for updating the WHA69.18 road map; and

• Preparatory work for 2nd Global conference on air pollution and health
  Dr Maria Neira, HEP/ECH
  Ms Heather Adair-Rohani, HEP/ECH/AQE
Air Pollution – The Silent Killer

Every year, around 7 MILLION DEATHS are due to exposure to both outdoor and household air pollution.

Air pollution, mainly arising from inefficient energy use, is a major environmental risk to health.

By reducing air pollution levels, countries can reduce:

- Stroke
- Heart disease
- Lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia and asthma
WHO’s supporting actions for clean air for public health

Knowledge, Evidence & Measuring Progress

Institutional Capacity Building & Technical Support

Leadership & Coordination
Examples of WHO efforts and timeline

**WHO consolidates evidence and strengthens the capacity of the health and other sectors take action to protect public health from air pollution:**

- **1958**: WHO’s first report on air pollution & health
- **1960**: Long-range transboundary air pollution convention (1979)
- **1970**: 1st WHO guidelines published (1987)
- **1980**: SDG indicators on air pollution & health (2015)
- **1990**: 1st global conference on air pollution (2018)
- **2000**: Most recent version of air quality guidelines published (2021)
- **2010**: Revised roadmap on air pollution to put forward at WHA 78 (2025)
- **2020**: 2025
- **2025**: 2025
Impact of 2021 WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines

- EU directives/air quality standards
- US EPA limits on PM
- COP28: Ministerial declaration
- Tools to support AQGs implementation
2015 WHA Resolution on Air Pollution and Health

2016 Road Map for enhanced global response to air pollution
[A69/18] Road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution (2016-2019)

- Enables the health sector to take a leading role in raising awareness of the impacts of air pollution on health and of opportunities for public health.
- Requests the road map be updated to incorporate results from monitoring, feedback and evaluation, and aligned with priorities included in WHO GPWs
BREATHE LIFE
Clean Air. Healthy Future

- Campaign launched in 2016 at Habitat III
- 12 members joined at announcement including: Ecuador, Chile, Colombia, Mexico & Nepal
- Today 79 countries, regions and cities have joined network; reaching 492 million people
WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health

Accelerating solutions for air quality, clean energy access and climate mitigation

- Share latest evidence & raise awareness
- Take stock of progress since 2015 WHO resolution
- Showcase opportunities of triple-wins for health, air pollution, and climate change
- Mobilize health workers for action on air pollution
- Drive multi-sectoral cooperation
- Leverage health argument for action & commitments by health & other sectors
Science and Policy Snapshots (SPS)

Series of briefs for the 2nd WHO Conference on Air pollution, energy access and health to provide background information for Member States

Who will contribute?

- UN agencies, programmes, development banks
- National agencies and institutes
- WHO Collaborating Centers
- WHO Experts groups: GAPH-TAG, SAG, GARD
- Key stakeholders (e.g. medical associations)

Air quality, energy access, climate change and health

- **Exposure** to air pollution
- **Health effects** of air pollution – NCDs, child health, vulnerable populations
- Linkages between health, air pollution and climate change
- Air quality **monitoring**, modelling & forecasting for health (e.g. SDGs)
- **Sectoral interventions** for public health protection of air pollution
- **Health and economics costs** of air pollution
- **Legislation** & international **treaties** on air pollution
- **Risk communication** and public health responses to emergencies

GAPH-TAG: Global Air Pollution and Health – Technical Advisory Group; GARD: Global Alliance on Respiratory Diseases; NCD: Non communicable diseases; SAG: Scientific Advisory Group on Air Pollution and Health; SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
Next steps for WHO Air Quality, Energy & Health (2025-2030)

- WHO Secretariat to review, consult and revise road map to put forward at WHA 78 to reflect:
  - New and updated evidence, tools, and resources
  - Opportunities for health sector engagement
  - Global priorities and initiatives, including climate change
  - Progress on previous road map and identify areas where further work is needed
- Consultations with MS, UN agencies, WHO’s Scientific Advisory Group – establishment of an informal “Friends of Clean Air for Health” working group?
- Leverage the Breathelife Campaign to drive commitments for AP conference & beyond
- Establishment of a tracking framework for monitoring action & commitments, in partnership with other UN agencies
Thank you!

Dr Ailan Li, ADG HEP
Dr Maria Neira, HEP/ECH
Ms Heather Adair-Rohani, HEP/ECH/AQE