Consultation on update to WHO Road map on air pollution (WHA69/18)

Member State information session

22 July 2024, 9:00-11:00 CEST
Agenda

- Opening remarks - Maria Neira
- Background: 2015 Resolution on air pollution and health (WHA 68.8)
- Updating Road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution (WHA 69/18)
- Global conference on air pollution and health – 25-27 March 2025
- Closing and next steps
Update on Member States consultation

Previous consultations

- Monday 4 March, 2024 – introduction to roadmap
- Friday, 21 June, 2024 – first virtual MS consultation; sent out template for MS feedback

Today’s consultation

- Monday 22 July, 2024 @ 9h CET – in-person MS consultation
Health and environment: addressing the health impacts of air pollution

2015 WHA Resolution on Air Pollution and Health (WHA 68.8)

2016 Road map for enhanced global response to air pollution (A69/18)
WHA 68.8 – Health and environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution

• Provides background & global context of health risk
• Identifies key opportunities and needs of health sector engagement
• “Asks” for Member States including
• “Asks” for Director General
  • Proposes a ‘road map’ for resolution implementation
Feedback for Secretariat

I. Structure

• Does the current structure need updates?
• Are there missing sections of the roadmap?
• Do the four categories of action make sense? (i.e. Expanding knowledge base; Monitoring and reporting; Global leadership and coordination; and Institutional capacity strengthening.)
• Should the appendix figures be updated and included in the updated road map?
• Any other types of diagrams, visualisations or mapping that should be included?

II. Content

• Are there any key topics not covered?
• Any key opportunities for interlinkages to be highlighted (e.g. NDCs)?
• Do we want specific targets? Is the level of ambition appropriate?
• Should the roadmap look forward beyond the 2030 agenda?
Feedback received

- 10 countries have provided written feedback (as of 16/7/25)
  - Some requests to extend period for MS feedback
  - Feedback on overall structure, MS indicate:
    - In general, previous structure is satisfactory, with some requests:
      - Expand background text with reference to 'triple crisis'
      - Clear articulation of health benefits of actions
      - Need to identify roles for regional cooperation in AQ management
    - Four categories of action are sufficient
    - Clear appreciation for annexes (overall theory of change & by action category) but requests to update them and in some cases expand
Feedback received

- **Overall structure:**
  - ‘Expanding knowledge base category’
    - Greater inclusion of AP risk for vulnerable populations & differential impacts on subpopulations (e.g. gender, age, income, urban/rural);
    - Advancing science on AP interactions with climate change and cumulative health effects
  - ‘Monitoring and reporting’:
    - Highlight the need to monitor/report on subpopulations, in relation to hot spots and where susceptible and vulnerable populations reside
    - Consideration of management of health protective messaging in some geographic regions/populations
Feedback received

- **Overall structure:**
  - Annexes/figures:
    - Greater reference to low-cost sensors/citizen science in Annex figure
    - Suggested to have greater reference/visualization depicting main sectors causing AP and possibly paired with health effects
    - Add diagrams on causation of air pollution
Feedback received

• Content:
  o Objectives should include disease reduction target & time-frame
  o Other co-benefits of actions on air pollution (e.g. “win-wins”) are missing and should be highlighted (e.g. reduction in traffic reduces noise pollution, road accident risk, increase green spaces/biodiversity, physical activity, etc.)
  o Indoor/outdoor connection should not be treated as separate entities but rather the interconnections highlighted, i.e. outdoor contributes to indoor and vice-versa
  o Greater reference to transboundary nature of air pollution including with reference to wildfires, sand/dust storms, energy transition impacts, etc

  Additional reference should be made to:
  ▪ 5x5 NCD agenda
  ▪ Biodiversity
  ▪ One Health
  ▪ Sustainable consumption/production
  ▪ Linkages to NDCs
  ▪ Climate change & AP linkages
Feedback received

- Additional reference should be made to:
  - Personal-level interventions
  - Indoor air quality including ventilation, building materials, moisture/mold, how to set indoor air quality standards for public spaces
  - Emerging key-pollutants – ultra-fine particulates, black carbon, ozone
  - Advancing health sector engagement in transboundary conventions/regional AP issues
  - Urban planning in AQ management and Healthy Urban Planning
  - Maritime, shipping and aviation--- polluting sector with minimal mention for which WHO/UN could pragmatically advance regulations/treaty/cooperation
  - Need for greater evidence of (i.e. expanding knowledge base)
  - Need for enhanced data disaggregation
Feedback received

• **Interlinkages to be highlighted:**
  o AP and NDCs under Paris Agreement
  o SDGs & co-benefits of AP mitigation for climate action & public health
  o Noncommunicable Disease connections with environmental degradation & climate change
  o Economic connections – “cost of inaction”

• **Key Opportunities to reference:**
  o COP 28 Ministerial declaration
  o WHA resolution on climate change & health
Feedback received

• Duration/timeline of road map (i.e. 2030)
  o Some MS suggested looking beyond 2030 considering long-term nature and commitment required, perhaps at least 5 years beyond
  o Some MS suggested that too long of perspective softens 'urgency' and a need to balance, as well as introduces changes in government which can slow processes and encourage MS to show progress
  o Some MS suggest general reference to 2050 could be made to demonstrate a pathway for action

• Specific targets:
  o Specific targets support clear goals and measuring progress but perhaps qualitative/process targets rather than quantitative targets will represent a more common goal
  o Health burden targets should be considered for inclusion
  o Level of ambition is correct
Additional Feedback – Open Discussion

- Are there any other comments?
  - Structure
  - Content
- Floor is open for discussion
WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health

Accelerating action for clean air, clean energy access and climate change mitigation

25-27 March 2025*
Cartagena, Colombia

*With pre- and post-conference sessions on 24 and 28 March

- Health evidence – Setting the scene
- Sustainable solutions – Powerful policies and interventions
- Governance (including finance) and health sector leadership
- Advocacy and awareness raising – Mobilizing beyond the health sector
Feedback received – Conference Pledge

Draft pledge language:

“Reduce air pollution for health protection through actions that advance countries and cities toward the WHO air quality guidelines targets”

General feedback on pledge:

- Achieving WHO guidelines is very challenging for some regions and differential pledge based on geography or other characteristic may be needed
- Pledge will require cross-government consultation and agreement
- Multi-sectoral consultation would be required for commitments, as well as addressing root causes/social determinants of air pollution
- Greater focus on ‘health-based’ language in pledge (e.g. add “and prepare health sector to respond to health effects associated with air pollution”)
- Greater reference to adaption and health-systems resilience in conference aims, title and objectives, as well as SDGs
Feedback received – Conference Pledge

• **Time Frame**
  - Some MS suggested 2030 is not a long enough horizon to achieve the pledge
  - Some felt this was a reasonable horizon

• **Categorization, and frequency of reporting for pledge commitment**
  - Broad categorization helps facilitate process and concrete actions. Specific examples within each category would also be helpful
  - Once a year reporting seems feasible but…caution not to overburden reporting requirements to prevent resources going to action was made by some MS
Next steps…

- Timeline for feedback extended to 6 September 2024
- Secretariat incorporates updates to the Roadmap
- Submit draft roadmap (October 2024) in relation to Agenda item 19, EB156 (Feb 2025)
- WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health (March 2025)
  Revised air pollution roadmap introduced WHA 78 (May 2025)
Thank you!

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