

Statement of I.R. Iran on “Climate Change & Health”

We would like to express our appreciation to WHO Secretariat for providing the document EB154/25 on climate change and health. We are grateful for the technical support offered by WHO in assisting member states in addressing the consequences of climate change.

Mr. Chairman;

Considering its geographical location, the I.R. Iran is significantly affected by climate change, including sand and dust storms, heatwaves, droughts, vector-borne diseases, water scarcity, and floods. Iran has committed to establishing a resilient health system to cope with climate changes by 2035.

Excellency;

Regarding the development and expansion of climate-related programs, Iran, as the first country in the Eastern Mediterranean region, collaborated with the WHO regional and country offices to create a 5-year strategic framework (2023-2027) focusing on environmental and occupational health issues related to climate change. Regarding evidence generation and monitoring, despite unilateral coercive measures, Iran has assessed climate resilience and environmental sustainability in healthcare centers, thus became the first country in the region to develop innovative strategies for climate resilience and environmental sustainability in those centers. Additionally, we have pioneered the creation of an innovative toolbox for climate resilience and environmental sustainability with the aid of WHO. However, the country requires financial and technical support from WHO for implementation of the two frameworks mentioned above.

The country has assessed carbon footprints in selected healthcare facilities and actively strives to enhance its capacity for calculating carbon footprints in all healthcare centers. It aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions in the health sector by 2060. Furthermore, Iran recently made legislation in its seventh national development plan (2024-2029), emphasizing climate change management with a health-oriented approach.

According to our experience, there are some action areas, which need further WHO support technically and financially. Those are:

1. To build robust capacity in generating evidences for setting policies, and developing climate change programs

2. To develop evidence-based policies, strategies and interventions, including innovative and local solutions
3. To conduct assessments including vulnerability assessments
4. To strengthen monitoring and surveillance systems

Thank you