

77° World Health Assembly

Item 15.4

Climate change and health

National Statement - Italy

Chair, Director-General,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Italy fully aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The climate change is a challenge, with widespread current and predicted future health impacts worldwide. This crisis is taking a heavy toll through the direct and indirect effects of extreme weather events, heat waves, outbreaks of vector-borne diseases, already measurable in terms of mortality and morbidity, including non-communicable and communicable diseases.

At this regard, we welcome the inclusion of the Climate and change agenda in the “Strategic objectives and joint outcomes” of the 14th General Programme of Work, and the launch of the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health.

Our National Health Service has attempted to mitigate the effects of climate change, but more action is needed. This means identifying climate-related health risks early and investing in prevention, preparedness and response, as well as seeking innovative solutions to reduce negative climate and health impacts, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We recall Italy's commitment to promote the One Health approach to risk management, recognizing the interconnection between human, animal and ecosystem health. In particular the Ministry of Health is implementing the project 'Health, Environment, Biodiversity and Climate', within the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, in order to strengthen and improve the prevention and response of the National Health Service to acute and chronic diseases associated with environmental and climate risks.

We are committed to scale up our efforts and contribute to both mitigation and adaptation by informing mitigation policies by providing evidence on the health co-benefits of action in all sectors; evaluating strategies to contain the environmental footprint of the health system; further strengthening climate resilience of the health system through locally-tailored preparedness plans; raising awareness of the health implications of the climate crisis in the medical community. Finally, we encourage the organization of dedicated information campaigns with the purpose to raise the awareness concerning this topic.

Thank you.

(338 words)