

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
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Air Pollution – The Silent Killer

Every year, around

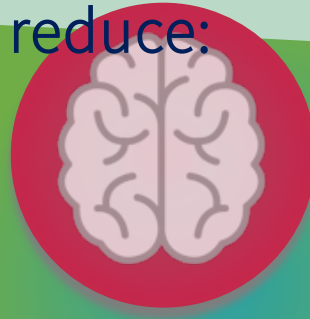
**7 MILLION
DEATHS**

Are due to exposure to both outdoor and household air pollution

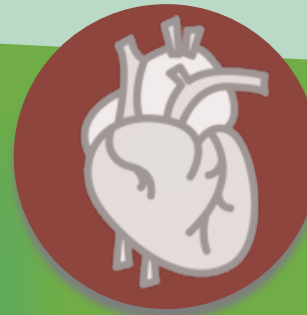


Air pollution, mainly arising from **inefficient energy** use, is a major environmental risk to health.

By reducing air pollution levels, countries can reduce:



Stroke



Heart disease



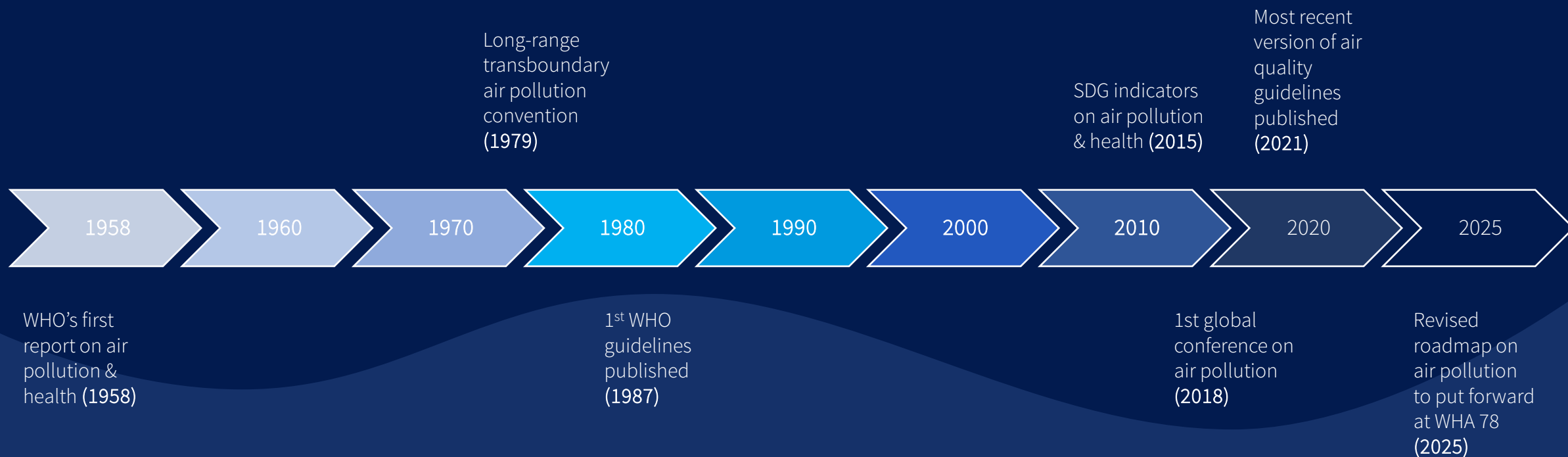
Lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia and asthma

WHO's supporting actions for clean air for public health



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:



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

SIXTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
 Agenda Item 14.6
 26 May 2015

Health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution

The Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly,
 Having considered the report on health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution¹

Reaffirming its commitment to the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference: "The future we want", in which all States Members of the United Nations committed to promoting sustainable development policies that support healthy, as quality in the context of sustainable cities and human settlements, and recognized that reducing air pollution leads to positive effects on health;

Noting with deep concern that indoor and outdoor air pollution are both among the leading avoidable causes of disease and death globally, and the world's largest single environmental health risk;

Acknowledging that 4.3 million deaths occur each year from exposure to household (indoor) air pollution and that 3.7 million deaths each year are attributable to ambient (outdoor) air pollution, at a high cost to societies²;

Noting that exposure to air pollutants, including fine particulate matter, is a leading risk factor for noncommunicable diseases in adults, including ischaemic heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and cancer, and poses a considerable health threat to current and future generations;

Concerned that half the deaths due to acute lower respiratory infections, including pneumonia in children aged five and under, may be attributed to household air pollution, making it a leading risk factor for childhood mortality;

¹ Document E1016.
² WHO. Global burden of disease from ambient air pollution in 2012. http://www.who.int/airquality/amboburden/AAP_2012_en.pdf (Accessed 13 March 2015).

World Health Organization
 SIXTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
 Provisional agenda item 13.3
 6 May 2016

Health and the environment

Draft road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution

Report by the Secretariat

1. In May 2015, the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA68.R.1, in which the Director-General was requested, inter alia, to propose to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly a road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution. In response to this request, an early version of the draft road map was considered by the Executive Board at its 139th session.¹ A revised and elaborated draft road map is provided in the present report (see Annex 1), and includes a proposed monitoring and reporting framework with indicators and objectives to track progress.

2. The initial period covered by the proposed road map and its related actions is 2016–2019, at the end of which the road map will be updated to incorporate results from monitoring, feedback, and evaluation, and submitted to the Health Assembly by the Secretariat. In addition, it will be aligned with priorities included in the biennial general programme of work.²

3. In response to the urgent need that had been identified for the health sector to respond to the effects on health associated with air pollution, the Health Assembly through resolution WHA68.R.1, inter alia, noted with deep concern that indoor and outdoor air pollution are both among the leading avoidable causes of disease and death globally, and the world's largest single environmental health risk, and acknowledged that 4.3 million deaths occur each year from exposure to household (indoor) air pollution and that 3.7 million deaths each year are attributable to ambient (outdoor) air pollution, at a high cost to societies. In addition, the Health Assembly, inter alia, understood that the root causes of air pollution and its adverse impacts are predominantly socioeconomic in nature, and the recognition of the need to address the social determinants of health related to development in urban and rural settings, including poverty eradication, as an indispensable element for sustainable development and for the reduction of the health impact of air pollution. Furthermore, the Health Assembly, inter alia, recognized that in order to contribute to national policy choices that protect health and reduce health inequities, the health sector would need to engage in cross-sectoral approaches to health, including addressing health in all policies approach.

¹ See document EB131/17 and its annexes (draft of the Executive Board at its 139th session, 10th meeting, 14 November 2015) (EB131/17/Annex/2).

² Following on from the "World Health Organization Framework for 2016–2019: the biennial general programme of work" (document E1016) (2015 WHO/2016/2).

[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

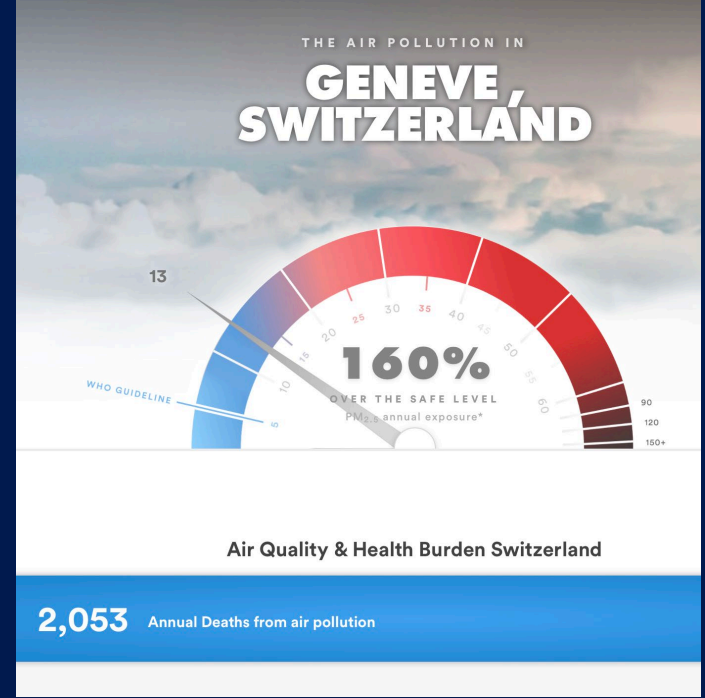




BREATHELIFE

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**

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**
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Thank you!

Dr Ailan Li, ADG HEP

Dr Maria Neira, HEP/ECH

**Ms Heather Adair-Rohani,
HEP/ECH/AQE**

