

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

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Member State information session

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



World Health  
Organization

# 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

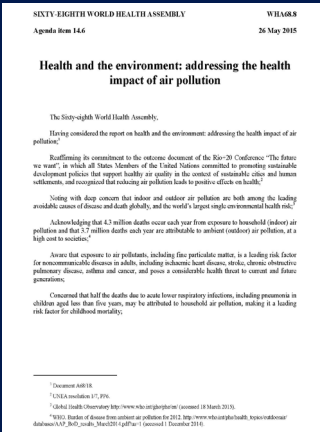
- Monday 22 July, 2024 @ 9h CET – in-person MS consultation



# 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?
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# 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:**

- Objectives should include **disease reduction** target & time-frame
- 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.)
- **Indoor/outdoor connection** should not be treated as separate entities but rather the interconnections highlighted, i.e. outdoor contributes to indoor and vice-versa
- 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:**

- AP and NDCs under Paris Agreement
- SDGs & co-benefits of AP mitigation for climate action & public health
- Noncommunicable Disease connections with environmental degradation & climate change
- Economic connections – “cost of inaction”

- **Key Opportunities to reference:**

- COP 28 Ministerial declaration
  - WHA resolution on climate change & health
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# Feedback received

- Duration/timeline of road map (i.e. 2030)
  - Some MS suggested looking beyond 2030 considering long-term nature and commitment required, perhaps at least 5 years beyond
  - 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
  - Some MS suggest general reference to 2050 could be made to demonstrate a pathway for action
- Specific targets:
  - Specific targets support clear goals and measuring progress but perhaps *qualitative/process* targets rather than quantitative targets will represent a more common goal
  - Health burden targets should be considered for inclusion
  - 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

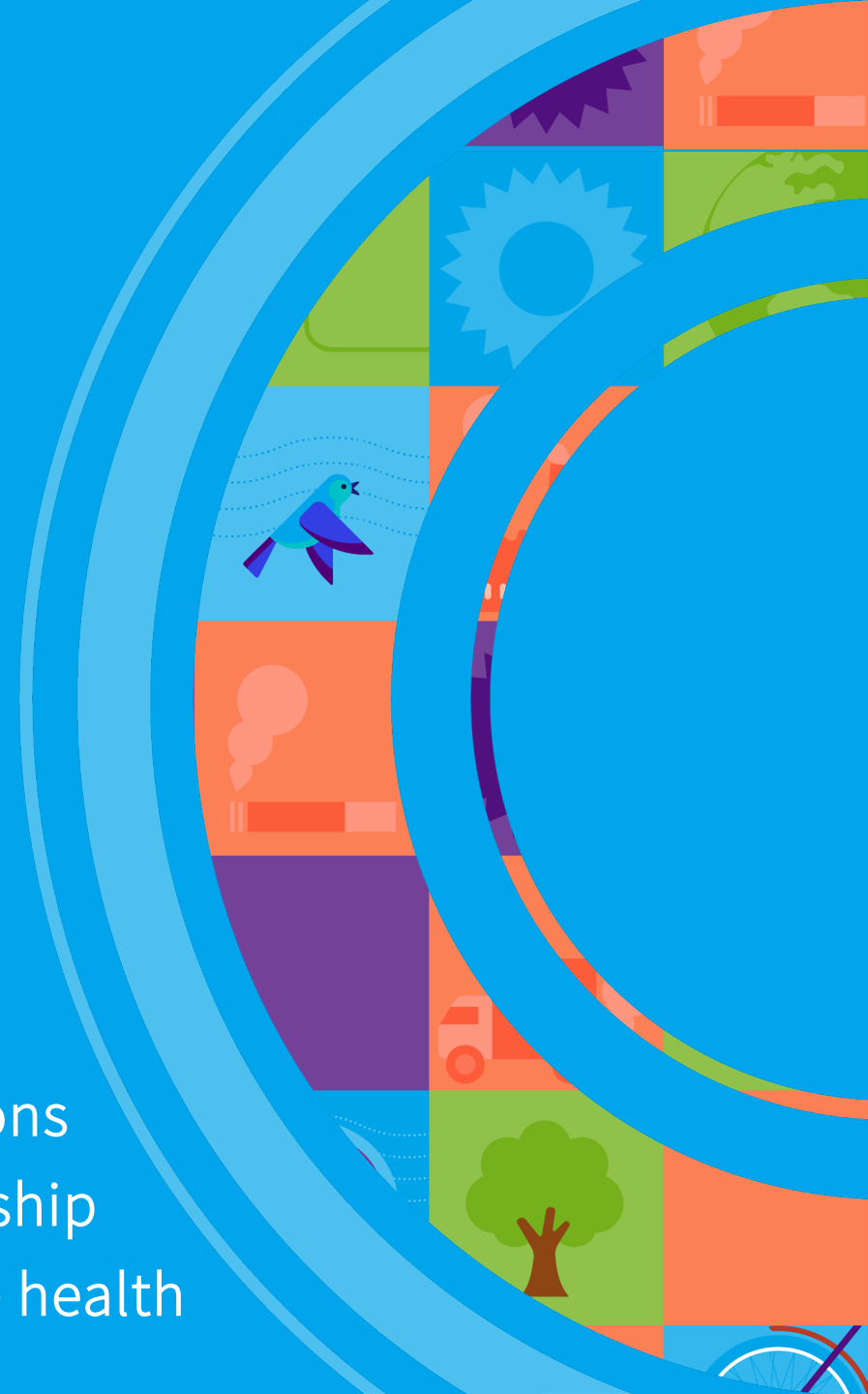
*Accelerating action for clean air, clean energy access and climate change mitigation*

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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