



World Health Professions Alliance WHPA

Executive Board 136th Session

Agenda Item 7.2: Health and the Environment: Addressing the Impact of Air Pollution

Honourable Chairman, Honourable Members of the World Health Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy and the World Dental Federation, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), representing over 26 million healthcare workers in 130 countries.

WHPA acknowledges that climate change and environmental pollution bear direct impact on populations' health and supports WHO's efforts to facilitate member states' action in addressing air pollution and subsequent health issues.

Healthcare workers are the front-line responders to the consequences of ill health as a result of environmental pollution, dealing with a myriad of problems ranging from cardiovascular diseases to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cancers, as well as respiratory infections and asthma in young children.

However, healthcare workers' role is not limited to clinical settings. They also work as educators in academic institutions and hospitals, raising next-generation healthcare professionals and preparing them to deal with the challenges of global health and the determinants of health, including environmental health. Healthcare professionals, as leaders in their communities, are also prominent advocates, working through their professional associations at the national and global levels to promote health and prevent disease.

Bearing these in mind, WHPA would like to encourage WHO to highlight the important role of healthcare professionals in addressing the challenge of environmental pollution and encourage member states to seek active involvement of healthcare workers and national professional associations in the planning and development of strategies to mitigate the impact of environmental pollution on health.

Thank you for your attention.

World Health Professions Alliance WHPA
c/o World Medical Association
13, Chemin du Levant
01210 Ferney-Voltaire
France

Phone: 0033 (0) 450 40 7575
Fax: 0033 (0) 450 40 5937
Email: whpa@wma.net
www.whpa.org