



## World Health Profession Alliance WHPA

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### Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly

#### **Agenda item 14.6: Health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution**

Honourable Members of the World Health Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, the World Dental Federation and the World Medical Association, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance WHPA and represents collective views of more than 26 million healthcare professionals globally.

The WHPA welcomes the draft resolution and applauds the WHO's leadership in providing evidence, guidance and technical support to the health sector while simultaneously engaging other sectors to reduce the health impacts of air pollution.

Air pollution is responsible for more than 7 million premature deaths every year - and is one of the most avoidable causes of morbidity and mortality globally as well as a major contributor to the NCD epidemic. Moreover, the devastating burden of air pollution disproportionately affects low and middle-income countries and vulnerable populations. It is, therefore, critical that the WHO and member states continue to resolutely support a health-in-all policies approach and multi-sectoral coordination to reduce air pollution including further development and dissemination of clean energy technologies. The WHPA further urges the WHO and member states to adopt a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation strategy including clear health benchmarks, targets and reporting mechanisms as described in the Secretariat's report.

Given both the direct health effects of air pollution and the contribution of pollutants to climate change which have profound health implications, the WHPA would like to highlight the urgent and continued need for unprecedented commitments from member states to ambitious greenhouse gas emissions targets and active health sector engagement in international climate change negotiations on the road to COP21 in Paris.