

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE COALITION

**World Health Organization – UN Environment – World Meteorological Organization-
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**



*Coordination Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland
October 29, 2018*

WHY CREATE A GLOBAL COALITION ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE?

HOW THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS OUR HEALTH

People are exposed to risk factors in their homes, work places and communities through:

AIR POLLUTION
including indoors and outdoors

INADEQUATE WATER, SANITATION and hygiene

CHEMICALS
and biological agents

RADIATION
ultraviolet and ionizing

COMMUNITY NOISE

OCCUPATIONAL RISKS

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
including pesticide-use, waste-water reuse

BUILT ENVIRONMENTS
including housing and roads

CLIMATE CHANGE

“Inter-Ministerial Meeting on Health, Environment and Climate Change”

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
22nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Marrakech, 15 November 2016



- Over two dozen Ministers and high level officials from both the health and environment sectors signed up to the “Marrakech Declaration for Health, Environment and Climate Change” – noting the absence of a global mechanism to bring together Ministries and relevant actors to better address risks.
- Meeting participants called for the WHO, the UN Environment Programme, the WMO, and UNFCCC to establish a global coalition between Ministries of Health, Ministries of Environment, and other stakeholders, to drive forward actions that will protect and promote health, while also reducing harmful impacts on the environment and climate.

Coalition on health, environment and climate change

Annual World Health Assembly
Geneva, Switzerland, May 2018



In response to this mandate, at the World Health Assembly in May 2018, the heads of WHO, UN Environment and WMO launched the Health, Environment and Climate Change Coalition.

Next steps are needed to shape and further operationalize the coalition.



*WHERE ARE THE
OPPORTUNITIES?*



1. The Paris Agreement as a public health treaty

- ***AGREEMENT PREAMBLE:*** *Recognizing also* that when developing policies and taking action to address climate change, Parties should promote, protect, respect, and take into account their respective obligations on all human rights, **the right to health....;**
- ***ENHANCED ACTION PRIOR TO 2020 :*** *Recognizes* the social, economic and environmental value of voluntary mitigation actions and their co-benefits for adaptation, **health** and sustainable development....;

2. Gaining health "co-benefits" of environmental action, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Climate measure

Co-benefit for health



Generating electricity from renewable sources and using clean fuels for cooking and lighting

Reduction in indoor and outdoor air pollution and its multiple health effects

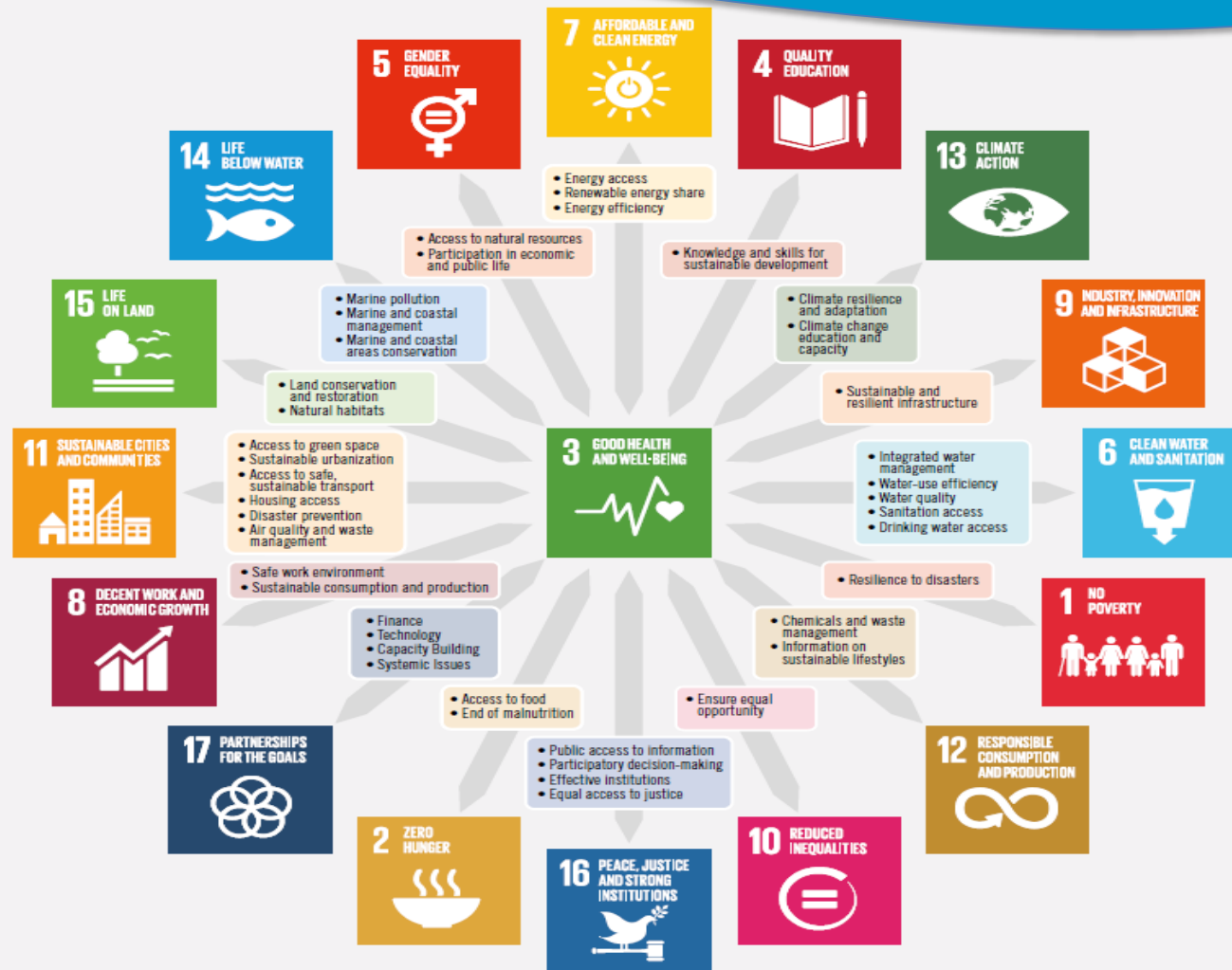
Increasing "active transport" (e.g. cycling)

Reduction in traffic pollution; increase in physical activity & overall level of health

Improving climate resilience, energy access and sustainability of health facilities

Reduced impacts of extreme weather, improved healthcare outcomes, improved efficiency

3. Environment and Health in the Sustainable Development Goals



ADDED VALUE OF A GLOBAL COALITION ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coalition Goal and Objectives

Goal: to stimulate and strengthen collaborations across sectors and departments and with stakeholders at all levels which can promote more integrated and evidence-based policy- and decision- making to address issues at the interface of environment, climate, and health.

1. To promote coherent health and environmental governance and policies, promoting the accelerated delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. (e.g. policy function)
2. To support the generation, synthesis, and accessibility of information and knowledge to enhance awareness and decision-making about the environmental risks factors to human health (e.g. scientific function)
3. To raise awareness of the environmental risks factors to human health, and encourage actionable policy and community actions that protect health and promote the co-benefits of environmental protection. (e.g. communication function)
4. To support concrete collaborative actions which add value to existing initiatives that promote human health and well-being *and protect the* environment (e.g. capacity strengthening and country action function)

For the moment, the Coalition gathers WHO, UN Environment, WMO and UNFCCC

Joint Action Plan on Air Quality by WHO, UN Environment, WMO and CCAC



DELIVERING ON AIR QUALITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

A World Health Organization, UN Environment, World Meteorological Organization
partnership, supported by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition

COMBATTING AIR POLLUTION: A PRIORITY FOR HEALTH, CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In order to address more efficiently the challenges that countries and cities face because of air pollution, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with the support of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), are joining forces to deliver their services in an integrated and complementary manner to improve air quality and consequently, the health and well-being of citizens worldwide.

A cooperation between WHO, UN Environment and WMO, supported by the CCAC, captures the strengths and expertise of the different organizations to better monitor air quality and its impacts on health and the environment, and provide improved tools to policy makers and practitioners to implement effective interventions and validate their results.

The objective of this partnership is to raise awareness of the health impacts of poor air quality and of the solutions available to prevent and reduce air pollution. Furthermore, we will support countries and cities to take action in mitigating the sources of pollution and greenhouse gases so as to improve public health and well-being, and contribute to reducing climate change.

The Coalition began mapping relevant priorities and programmes, existing joint work, and agreed to an initial focus on Air Quality. Together with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, a joint Action Plan outlining five areas of joint or complementary work on Air Pollution was launched in May 2017.

Based on initial achievements to address air pollution, the Coalition will also be one of the key partners contributing to the delivery of the UNEA3 Implementation Plan to address pollution.

DELIVERING ON AIR QUALITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

5 Action Areas for Air Quality

1. Identifying and mapping of air pollution and its sources and health impacts to enable impactful action
2. Communicating and advocating at all levels
3. Providing effective responses to acute air pollution episodes
4. Supporting science-based solutions and building capacity to act in health, environment and economic sectors.
5. Implementing solutions in sustainable development

Key Questions to be addressed in the development of the Coalition

How do we ensure the coalition:

- Supports relevant work of your organization?
- Leverages and maximizes the efforts and the commitments of the existing environmental regional processes and helps address gaps in your countries' work on health protection from environmental risks; domestically and internationally?
- Provides added value to the health, environment and climate change agenda? Improves coherence across the global sustainable development agenda?
- Is more than just a talking shop – actually supporting actions and implementation?

Today's Objectives

- Share regional agendas and priorities on health, environment and climate change;
- Present ongoing activities of UN agencies and key actors on health, environment and climate change;
- Gather interest from potential new partners of the Coalition;
- Hear about expectations;
- Identify potential areas of collaboration on health, environment and climate change and possible joint deliverables;
- Discuss and agree on how to make full use of the Coalition as a coordination mechanism on health, environment and climate change.

THANK YOU

