

Statement by WHO at the Global Stocktake (GST) Annual Dialogue on 6-7 June 2024 of SB60

WHO, together with members of the global health community at SB60 would like to highlight that the effects of climate change on health, and the health opportunities of ambitious climate action, are unquestionable and supported by scientific evidence. In order to safeguard the human right to health and to a healthy environment, health should be explicitly integrated into future rounds of the GST, in accordance with article 4.1.f of the Paris agreement.

Without urgent mitigation action, the limits of adaptation in all countries will soon be exceeded, resulting in widespread health losses and damages. A just and equitable transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, in line with the need to reduce emissions by at least 43% by 2030 compared to 2019, will prevent these health harms and maximise the health co-benefits of mitigation action, including among else the reduction of air pollution responsible for over 7 million deaths annually.

The majority (91%) of NDCs now incorporate health considerations. With regard to adaptation 60% of NDCs refer to climate-sensitive health risks or outcomes. However, less than a third of NDCs allocate climate finance to health actions while international funding for climate and health remains critically low.

Following the initiative of the WHO, the UK Government and partners at COP26, 84 countries have so far joined the **Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)** committing to build climate resilient and low carbon sustainable health systems, while over 40 development partners, technical expert and private sector groups support these goals, in accordance with the decisions of CMA 5.

The first ever COP28 Health Day, and the accompanying Declaration on Climate and Health endorsed by 150 countries, as well as the newly adopted WHA77 Resolution on Climate Change and Health demonstrate the global commitment to address climate-related health impacts, aligned with international agreements and mandates . COP29 still remains critical for resolving pending issues on finance, system transformations, strengthening support on adaptation and resilience, and protecting the most vulnerable communities.

The health sector and health community stand ready to support in this endeavour emphasising that climate crisis is a health crisis and an existential threat.

I thank you.