

Thematic Working Group on NCDs and the Environment

Terms of Reference

The Health, Environment and Climate Change Coalition (HECCC) serves as the primary platform and acts as the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (UNIATF) thematic working group on NCDs and the environment.

Background

An “Interministerial Meeting on Health, Environment and Climate Change”, was convened on 15 November 2016 by the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Health, of Morocco, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), and UN Environment. Gathering at the UNFCCC COP22 climate conference in Marrakech. Over 20 Ministers and high-level officials from both the health and environment sectors signed a Declaration for accelerated action on Health, Environment and Climate Change.

In response to the lack of absence of a global mechanism to bring together ministries of health and environment to drive forward actions that will protect and promote health, while also reducing harmful impacts on the environment and climate, the heads of WHO, UN Environment and WMO launched the Health, Environment and Climate Change Coalition at the annual World Health Assembly in May 2018.

The Coalition has begun with a joint focus on Air Quality, together with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, outlining five areas of interest based on the respective agencies current work and mandate.¹ Based on these 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.²

In October of 2018, the WHO, in collaboration with the HECCC partners, organised the First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health in Geneva.

Objectives

- Under the stewardship role of WHO, the thematic working group will provide a platform for UN and non-state actors to effectively collaborate on NCDs and the environment, with specific focus on Air Pollution.
- Support countries and cities in tackling air pollution and NCDs.

¹ Delivering on Air Quality, Climate Change and Health, <http://www.who.int/phe/delivering-air-quality.pdf?ua=1>

² Member States adopted a Ministerial Declaration as a key outcome of the 3rd UN Environment Assembly (UNEA3) in December 2017 under the overarching topic “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”, which calls for the development of an implementation plan to address pollution. The Implementation Plan will be submitted to Member States for consideration by the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly.

Coordination and ways of working

The thematic working group is in the first instance non-resource intensive, to enable maximum participation. Meetings primarily take place remotely or face to face on occasion of the specific events where most participants were meeting face to face for other purposes.

The focal point for HECCC parthenships and resource mobilization is Marina Maiero

The focal point and Coordinator for air pollution and other technical issues is Nathalie Roebbel

Members of the Thematic Working Group on NCDs and Environment

HECCC current and future members, currently WMO, UNEP, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFCCC, World Bank, NCD Alliance and GCHA NGO. The UNIATF Secretariat is also a member.

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