Air Pollution and Health

Recent developments: World Health Resolution and Global Platform on Air Quality and Health

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First World Health Assembly Resolution on Air Pollution and Health

7 million deaths a year due to household and ambient air pollution
The resolution:

- **key role health authorities** in raising awareness about the potential to save lives and reduce health costs, if air pollution is addressed effectively.

- Need for strong **cooperation between different sectors** and integration of health concerns into all national, regional and local air pollution-related policies.

- It urges Member States to **develop air quality monitoring systems and health registries** to improve surveillance for all illnesses related to air pollution;

- It urges Member States to strengthen international **transfer of expertise, technologies and scientific data** in the field of air pollution.
Asks the WHO Secretariat:

• To **build capacity to implement** the "WHO air quality guidelines" and "WHO indoor air quality guidelines;"

• Regularly update the WHO guidelines

• **Compile and analyse** data on air quality, health

• Conduct **cost-benefit assessment of mitigation** measures;

• disseminate **evidence-based best practices** on effective indoor and ambient air quality interventions and policies related to health

• Advance **research** into air pollution’s health effects and effectiveness.

• **Propose a road map for an enhanced global response** by the health sector that reduces the adverse health effects of air pollution.
to create, enhance and update, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and programmes a public information tool of WHO analysis, including policy and cost-efficiency aspects, of specific and available clean air technologies to address the prevention and control of air pollution, and its impacts on health;

raise awareness of the public health risks of air pollution and the multiple benefits of Improved air quality, in particular in the context of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

collaborate, as appropriate, with relevant international, regional and national stakeholders, to compile and analyse data on air quality, with particular emphasis on health related aspects of air quality.
Global Platform on Air Quality and Health

• To ensure best estimates of human exposure to air pollution will continue to be regularly available for Burden of Disease estimates, as well as to ensure accountability, transparency and wide access of these results worldwide.
• Established in January 2014,
• A wide collaboration with international agencies including UNECE, WMO, UNEP, JRC, IIASA, World Bank, space research agencies (e.g. NASA, JAXA), as well as national agencies and research institutions.
• Yearly meetings to update on progress and results.
• Task forces to provide improvements in methods and outputs from one year to the next.

First year

– improvements in data integration and statistical fusion, (using data from monitors, atmospheric transport models and satellite remote sensing).
– First database of source apportionment studies (n=500)
Second year:

- Data fusion: Global air quality data as a result of fusion from various data sources, report on progress and work ahead,
- Emission sources information, including from emission inventories and source apportionment
- Exposure-risk relationship: Integrated dose-response functions that relate levels of air pollution indoors and outdoors to a range of diseases, report on progress and work ahead.
- Surface monitoring: key air pollution indicators to be monitored, minimum data sets for health purposes; systematic data collection and display;
- Automated Data acquisition, portable monitors etc. quality of outputs form different sources,
- Household air pollution: exposure assessment, progress in IAP data, availability of exposure data from Europe

New task forces proposed:

- Data fusion and synthesis – further improvements
- Models for integrating Household and Ambient Air Pollution exposure estimates
- Guidance on the collection of ground measurement data.
- Guidance on source apportionment studies.
Establishment of a web-based resource providing access/ web linkage to:

- Results from the platform – methods, tools, results
- Tools for estimating health impacts from air pollution at local level (currently developed by EURO)
- Exposure-response functions
- Air quality databases:
  - WHO ambient air quality in cities,
  - WHO household air pollution database,
  - Joint ambient/ household air pollution (future)
- Analysis of trends.
- Burden of disease estimates.
- Awareness raising and communication tools.
- Collection of cost-effective interventions/ best practices to address air pollution and health.
Thank you