WHO’s activities – 2018 update

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-Range on Transboundary Air Pollution – 12 December 2018
FIRST WHO GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH
IMPROVING AIR QUALITY, COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE – SAVING LIVES

30 October – 1 November 2018
WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
Very high participation

Leaders from national and city governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, philanthropy, research and academia gathered 900 participants.
CLEAN AIR FOR HEALTH: Geneva Action Agenda

First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health – summary report

1 November 2018

WHO has developed this document to highlight a range of issues presented during the Conference. This document does not reflect intergovernmental agreement or consensus, nor decisions reached by the attendees.

The outcomes of the conference call for enhanced action on a number of points.
Participants recommended an aspirational goal of reducing the number of deaths from air pollution by two thirds.

Reaching the recommended goal can result in significant reductions in global healthcare spending every year. Effective interventions are feasible. To reach the goal and avoid this health crisis, bold and prompt action is needed.

Engagement of the global health community, particularly the health authorities, is key to reduce the burden of disease from air pollution. Addressing air pollution requires multi-sectoral efforts that build upon synergies between human health, climate change and growth priorities. Reduction of air pollutants will lead to reductions in the concentrations of short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon, contributing to climate change mitigation.

For Ministries of Finance, dealing with air pollution can create opportunities for increased revenues, for example through the use of environmental fiscal instruments, and reduction of healthcare expenditures.
Some elements of the Geneva Action Agenda (I)

Scale up efforts and **mobilize action globally** – scale up BreatheLife campaign.

Massively implement solutions to **burn less** in any form – reduce open burning, fuel burning in transport, cooking and heating and other processes.

Strengthen action to **protect the most vulnerable populations**, in particular children.

Greatly increase access to **clean energy and technologies in Africa** and other populations in greatest need.

Support cities for improving urban air quality.

**Enhance education**: target children, medical professions, patients, and the general population.

**Strengthen Universal Health Coverage** to engage and implement actions that prevent air pollution.
Some elements of the Geneva Action Agenda (II)

Enhance joint action between finance, health and environmental sectors, and other key sectors.

Protect additional at-risk populations: The elderly, people with medical conditions, workers at high exposures.

Make voluntary commitments.

Enhance gender equity through access to clean fuels and technologies in homes. Improving access to clean fuels will greatly boost gender equity.

Monitor, not only air pollution, but also actions and progress towards improvement.

Continue building the evidence, in particular on costs-saving and cost-effective solutions.

Build key partnerships for shared global response and efficient local action.
WHO commitments

Dr. Tedros expressed WHO commitments on five key points, including:

- Working towards universal electrification of health facilities with sustainable energy by 2030 to support universal health care access.
- Establish a new multi-stakeholder Global Energy-Health Platform of Action to achieve power of health workers to be agents of change.
- Equipping health workers to be agents of change, equipping them with the capacity and tools to educate their patients and decision-makers about the health effects of air pollution, and to have their say in shaping mitigation policies.
- Scaling up WHO’s own Air Pollution programme, globally, regionally and in countries, including through establishment of a Trust Fund with other partners on climate, environment and health, which could access climate and environment finance directly.
- Strengthening institutional mechanisms, including exploration of an air quality convention.
Global Platform on Air Quality and Health

Priorities

- Refinement of exposure measurements
- Effectiveness of face masks, air filters
- Effects of desert dust on health
- Effects of re-suspended particles on health
- Effects of biomass burning on health
- Low cost air quality sensors
- Household and ambient air pollution relationship
- Household energy: Enhanced monitoring of use and health impacts through surveys and others
Sustainable Development Goals

Air quality in cities
Clean energy access
Mortality from air pollution
In 2016, over 3 billion people primarily used polluting fuels for cooking.

In 2016, 91% of the world population is lives in an environment that does not comply with WHO AQG.

In 2016, 7 million deaths attributable from household and ambient air pollution.
Defining “Clean” Energy for Health
WHO Guidelines for indoor air quality: household fuel combustion

Summary of Guideline Recommendations

- Address ALL household energy end-uses
- Provides performance PM & CO targets for fuels & stove/lamp combinations
- No unprocessed coal use, avoid kerosene
- Prioritize the healthiest or ‘cleanest’ options in the transition to clean household energy
- Synergies with climate change mitigation
Clean Household Energy Solutions Toolkit (CHEST)

Information & tools to transition to clean energy in the home
Development and application of analytical tools to support the assessment of the health and economic impacts of interventions in key sectors, including transport, household energy, green space and land-use, solid waste management (open source, flexible, evidence-based tools).
BREATHE LIFE

A global campaign to protect our health and climate by improving air quality

• For Cities, regions or countries: 52 have joined the network (Nov 2018), solutions
  - London, Washington DC, Santiago, Manchester, Aburrá Valley, Jalisco State, Mongolia

• For the General public: information on risks, air quality levels

• For the Health professionals: information on risks for patients, actions

Launched Oct 2016 at UN HABITAT III Conference

breathelife2030.org
Thank you