
World Health Organization
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5.6 Health, environment and climate change

Thank you Chair,

Israel welcomes the draft global strategy on health, environment and climate change and the focus on small island developing states that are facing unique challenges.

The effects of climate change on health are vast and described well in the report before us (144/5), as are the linkages to other policy areas and the tendency to have narrow plans to face climate related challenges.

The report touches upon many important issues relating to health and environment in different levels. In light of the huge tasks and action needed, the decision to focus on a unique group of states is welcomed.

It is important to focus WHO's efforts on the subject in a well-defined cooperation and in line with the "one UN" efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities at the country level. It must be taken into account that adopting a unified approach to mitigate environmental hazards such as air pollution, endocrine disruptors and pesticides, will facilitate efforts to address climate change impacts on health conditions at the country level.

We believe there are needs to be defined in coordination within WHO on this issue, relating to strengthening of national health systems, Public health preparedness and response, and Implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

We see the WHO's important role in terms of the ability to convene, coordinate and give guidance to countries as they face these challenges.