
World Health Organization
WHA 71 – 21 May 2018

Committee A
Health, environment and climate change (A71/10)

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Thank you Chair,

We thank the Secretariat for preparing the documents under the agenda item of health, environment and climate change. Israel finds this issue to be of top importance not just nationally, but on the regional and global levels as well. Our region is particularly vulnerable to climate change, desertification and extreme weather conditions, which pose a serious risk to all people.

Health, environment and climate change are inextricably linked to the human condition. Lack of action on this front inhibits our ability to reach other, seemingly unrelated health goals, and eventually the SDGs.

We recognize the complexity of working in this particular field. Health systems must work alongside relevant government agencies, as well as cooperate with the private and non-profit sectors, in order to achieve durable, significant results. This is evident in all the aforementioned documents, on the adverse effects of air pollution and biodiversity and human health.

The multiplicity of actors and components involved when speaking of health, environment and climate change pose a major challenge to policy makers, and we value the work the WHO is doing alongside Member States to achieve our goals. WHO leadership on the normative level, as well as strengthening regional and global monitoring and reporting mechanisms, are necessary for our assured success.

Time is against us. With every day that passes with inaction, irreversible damage is caused to our planet. We look forward to continuing work on this critical subject with the WHO, as we find ways to make both us - and our planet – healthier.

Thank you very much