

**Statement to the 136th Session of the WHO Executive Board  
on agenda item 7.2 Health and the environment: Climate and health: outcome of the WHO  
Conference on Health and Climate**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity of addressing the distinguished EB on behalf of MMI and PHM.

There is overwhelming evidence that global warming is a real and imminent threat for human kind, with immense destructive potential. Clearly, if we are to avoid its projected catastrophic effects, international and national policies on fossil fuel consumption must be instituted within the next decade. Bold targets and policies are essential within the next 5 years to achieve a rapid and dramatic reduction in fossil fuel use.

Given the health implications of global warming, we urge WHO to take a strong leadership role on this issue. WHO's effective role can be ensured only if it shuns dependence on the private sector and significantly enhances its financial capacity by lifting the freeze on ACs and by increasing the untied fund component of its budget.

The revised WHO WP on Health and Climate is deficient in important areas:

While a focus on mitigation strategies is important, the document is deficient in advocating strategies for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change.

Secondly the document does not address some of the key driving forces of climate change. For example, FTAs promote the international supply chain and relocating polluting industries to LMICs. WHO should advocate for a fundamental shift in energy, transport and agriculture policies to stop the evolution of climate changes and its consequences.

Finally it is important that WHO ensures that less developed countries have access to alternatives and are supported to build local climate resilience, before the enforcement of mandatory regulations on green house gas emissions. Transfer of capacity, technology and finances to less developed countries is crucial in order to ensure that countries who experience the worst effects of climate change are meaningfully enabled to adopt adaptation strategies.

Thank you.

***The statement will be delivered by Katrien De Troeyer***