Statement on climate change and health

156th session of the WHO Executive Board

Pillar 3: One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being

22. Climate change and health

4 February 2025

Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

Environmental factors contribute to nearly 23% of global deaths. Climate change, pollution, and toxic chemicals exacerbate non-communicable diseases.

The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) recognizes climate action as a health priority. We advocate for sustainable prescribing, reducing pressurized inhaler use, promoting active transport, and leveraging natural health assets.

Strong primary care builds resilient communities. To address health challenges related to climate change and reduce healthcare's environmental impact, we must accelerate education and training for family doctors and primary care teams.

We urge WHO and policymakers to support primary care in adopting climate-conscious strategies, equipping and training its workforce, advancing research and fostering cross-sector collaboration.

Investing in primary care today means protecting people's health and securing a healthier future.

Thank you.