

## **HCWH Europe oral statement for WHO RC67 - Improving environment and health in the context of Health 2020 and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health**

**Tuesday 12th Sept., 16:30 – 18:00**

The Ostrava Declaration was signed at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in June 2017, and called for, among other things: “Building [the] environmental sustainability of health systems, and reducing their environmental impacts...”

HCWH Europe has been working with the healthcare sector for 20 years to reducing its environmental footprint. We know that health systems can achieve a triple win in this regard: protecting the health of staff and patients, protecting the environment, and saving money at the same time.

Assisting health systems to change tendering criteria in their procurement processes, reducing waste, saving water, phasing out mercury based instruments, and switching to renewable energy are just a few examples of successful interventions that have been carried out all over the world.

Our Global Green and Healthy Hospitals programme currently has 820 members in 48 countries on 6 continents, representing the interests of over 25,700 hospitals and health centers. We see this extensive network as a clear way of building environmental sustainability of health systems and stand ready to work with member states, regions, and health systems to implement the Ostrava Declaration.