



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

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**Regional Committee for Europe**

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## **Resolution**

### **Declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling WHO Regional Committee for Europe resolution EUR/RC60/R7 on the future of the European Environment and Health Process (EHP) and other resolutions on environment and health;<sup>1</sup>

Recalling resolution EUR/RC62/R4, adopting Health 2020: a European policy framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being,<sup>2</sup> in which creating supportive environments and resilient communities is one of four priority areas;

Recalling the adoption of Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>3</sup> which established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the targets under SDG 3 and other targets tackling the broader health determinants, in particular those related to the environment;

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<sup>1</sup> Resolutions EUR/RC49/R4 and EUR/RC54/R3 on environment and health, which endorsed the outcomes of the third and fourth ministerial conferences on environment and health, held in London, United Kingdom, and in Budapest, Hungary, in 1999 and 2004, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> Document EUR/RC62/9.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Noting that the commitments under the Declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health<sup>4</sup> support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, as well as World Health Assembly resolutions that address environment and health issues;<sup>5</sup>

Aware of the need to further strengthen efforts to attain the targets of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in Parma, Italy, in 2010, while addressing emerging environment and health challenges;

Welcoming the cooperation and synergy between the EHP and relevant international processes towards the achievement of the health and environment-related SDGs, notably the follow-up to the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, held in Batumi, Georgia, on 8–10 June 2016, and the third meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the theme “Towards a pollution-free planet”, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 4–6 December 2017;

Welcoming the strengthening and formalizing of the links between the EHP and the governing bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and WHO;

Understanding that this resolution replaces and supersedes previous Regional Committee resolutions on environment and health, namely, resolutions EUR/RC49/R4, EUR/RC54/R3 and EUR/RC60/R7;

1. THANKS the European Environment and Health Task Force and the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board for their roles in steering the EHP in the WHO European Region between the fifth and sixth ministerial conferences on environment and health and the Government of the Czech Republic, the Moravian-Silesian Region and the

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<sup>4</sup> Declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. Ostrava: WHO Regional Office for Europe, 15 June 2017 (Declaration, accessed 9 August 2017).

<sup>5</sup> Declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Annex 1, Appendix 1, entitled “Overview of international commitments of relevance to the European Environment and Health Process”, contains a list of relevant WHO resolutions.

City of Ostrava for hosting the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in Ostrava on 13–15 June 2017;

2. RECOGNIZES the work of the WHO Regional Office for Europe as the secretariat of the EHP since 1989 and of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn, Germany, in providing expertise and technical assistance to Member States, partners and the general public towards the implementation of the commitments made through the EHP and globally;
3. ENDORSES the Declaration;
4. URGES Member States:<sup>6</sup>
  - (a) to implement the Declaration, to develop, as appropriate, national portfolios of actions on environment and health by the end of 2018, in the form of stand-alone policy documents or a part of other texts, as tools to strengthen the national implementation of the commitments made under the Declaration, including the two annexes, and to make a marked improvement in health and well-being in the European Region through the adoption and implementation of evidence-based environmental and health policies, taking into account the precautionary principle;
  - (b) to actively participate in and to use the EHP as an intersectoral, international and inclusive process and platform for the implementation of the environmental and health-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in line with the provisions of Annex 2 to the Declaration;
  - (c) to pursue the targets of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in Parma, Italy, on 10–12 March 2010;
  - (d) to advance the coherent implementation of existing commitments and partnerships at the regional and global levels, in particular those resulting from the EHP and from relevant resolutions of the World Health Assembly and the Regional Committee for Europe,<sup>5</sup> as well as conventions and related international instruments jointly implemented by the environment and health sectors;
  - (e) to allocate the necessary means, within their capacities, for the achievement of the objectives of the EHP and of the Declaration;

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<sup>6</sup> And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

5. CALLS on international institutions and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, including civil society institutions and professional associations, to support the implementation of this resolution;
6. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to pursue the aims and to promote the values of the Declaration, taking into account the principles in paragraph 3 of Annex 1;
  - (b) to work with Member States, regions and cities, through strategic partnerships and networks, across the policies of all sectors and to integrate the environmental determinants of health and well-being into the public health agenda, particularly in the area of noncommunicable diseases;
  - (c) to take account of, and to develop synergy with, existing international initiatives in this area, including those led by the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme;
  - (d) to continue to act as the secretariat of the EHP, as set out in the Declaration and Annex 2 on institutional arrangements for the EHP, and in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme;
  - (e) to report annually to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and, at its request, to the Committee on Environmental Policy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the progress of the EHP and its achievements;
  - (f) to support the implementation of the commitments made at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health from the WHO programme budget, while making every effort to mobilize voluntary contributions to that end.