

HCWH Europe oral statement for WHO RC67 - Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on the Health 2020 policy framework

Tuesday 12th Sept., 10:30 – 16:00

Health Care Without Harm Europe is pleased to see the WHO "Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" address climate change as the public health issue that it is. This roadmap calls for the need to strengthen health systems to be better prepared to respond to health emergencies, such as those caused by the adverse impacts of worsening climate change.

To reduce the burden of disease from environmental exposures, the Roadmap calls for the need to empower people through education and training. We agree this is crucial, especially when talking about the healthcare setting; considering the important role that health professionals play in a hospital's emergency response systems.

At HCWH Europe, our members are hospitals, health systems, regional and local authorities, and we work to educate and empower the healthcare sector to reduce its climate footprint, to protect both human and environmental health.

We are encouraged by the work carried out by the WHO over the years, calling on national governments to treat climate change as a public health threat, and we would like to affirm our commitment to working with all relevant stakeholders, including national ministries, regions, and local authorities to build low-carbon and resilient hospitals and health systems across Europe.