



## Recommendations concerning international climate change talks, Barcelona 2-6 November, 2009

### Bringing the health dimension into current UNFCCC negotiating text

As leading health organizations representing thousands of individuals and organizations globally, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and Climate and Health Council (CHC) welcome that health is now mentioned in the negotiating drafts, and believe it is a powerful new dimension that effectively contributes to the original aims of the UNFCCC to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent dangerous climate change. In essence, what is good for climate is good for health.

Climate change will affect individual health, public health and health care systems in communities worldwide. The latest science suggests that a reduction in greenhouse gases by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 is the *minimum* required to keep global warming well below the dangerous 2°C level. This would significantly improve people's health, reduce rising healthcare costs and protect our fragile ecosystems. Moreover, the co-benefits of tackling climate change will offset much of the costs according to the IPCC statement<sup>1</sup>.

In Barcelona, we are strongly encouraging negotiators to ensure that these health references are retained and strengthened. Some of the world's largest medical, nursing and public health organizations are calling on world leaders to take bold action to address climate change, and have endorsed the Prescription for a Healthy Planet (back page), which urges the world's governments to negotiate a strong, binding agreement to avert what could become a global public health crisis.

HEAL, HCWH and CHC ask UNFCCC negotiators to take into account the following recommendations in specific UNFCCC texts<sup>2</sup>.

#### 1. Retain the health references in the following texts

- Non-paper No. 33<sup>3</sup> (Contact group on **shared vision** for long-term cooperative action), **paragraph 13 page 3 and paragraph 3 page 11**
- Non-paper No. 17<sup>4</sup> (Subgroup on **mitigation** under paragraph 1 (b) (iv) of the Bali Action Plan), **paragraph 1 (a)**
- Non-paper No. 31<sup>5</sup> (Contact group on enhanced action on **adaptation** and its associated means of implementation), **paragraph 1 and Annex IV (o)**

#### 2. Introduce CHANGES to add "promotion of health co-benefits" in the following texts

- Non-paper No. 28<sup>6</sup> (Contact group on enhanced action on **mitigation** and its associated means of implementation), **paragraph 22 (xi) (Addition, new)**
- Non-paper No. 30<sup>7</sup> (Subgroup on mitigation under paragraph 1 (b) (v) of the Bali Action Plan), **paragraph 6 (h).**

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Prescription for a Healthy Planet web site: [www.climateandhealthcare.org](http://www.climateandhealthcare.org).

<sup>1</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report – Chapter 8 – Human Health; <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/wg2/ar4-wg2-chapter8.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Our focus is on the non-papers, which form part of the documents under discussion by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA).

<sup>3</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto\\_protocol/application/pdf/33sv23102009.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/application/pdf/33sv23102009.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigation1bivnp17081009.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigation1bivnp17081009.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto\\_protocol/application/pdf/31adap201009v6.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/application/pdf/31adap201009v6.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigationnp28091009.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigationnp28091009.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigation1bvnp30091009.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigation1bvnp30091009.pdf)