



International-Lawyers.Org



Geneva, Switzerland, 3 February 2015

STATEMENT ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH  
AGENDA ITEM 7.2 (EB136/16)

The World Council of Churches and International-Lawyers.Org appreciate the opportunity to present a statement on Climate and Health Agenda Item 7.2 (EB 136/16).

We welcome the WHO's continued engagement in climate change related activities, especially the August 2014 WHO Conference on Health and Climate. We hope to improve the quality of this engagement, focusing on the four objectives of the WHO Workplan on Climate Change and Health as presented in the Report by the Secretariat (WHO Doc. EB136/16).

We welcome Objective 1's reference to strengthening partnerships as a statement of commitment to greater engagement with civil society. We would have liked to see clearer reference to technical support to States and the coordination of scientific evidence (of the impacts of climate change on health), mentioned in Objective 3, as the first priority of the WHO.

Of further importance is for WHO to clearly identify the adverse effects of climate change on health, especially regarding the most vulnerable populations. This is a *conditio sine qua non* for effective adaptation, Loss-and-Damage, and mitigation action. We encourage the WHO to actively participate in alerting the world to the impacts of climate change especially on those populations which are likely to be most adversely affected.

It is noted that numerous States called for greater action on climate change during the 134 Executive Board sessions and the 67<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly and there is growing urgency for global climate action. We ask WHO to become more visible in its participation in global climate forums and in the effort to ensure effective climate action that is consistent with the best available science and the existing international obligations of States reflected in the UNFCCC. Thus, we look forward to a public consultation on the WHO Workplan on Climate Change and Health during the early part of 2015.

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