**Agenda Item:**
11.4 Health, environment and climate change

**Statement:**

Global Health Council, supported by NCD Child and Pathfinder International, support WHO’s roadmap for a global response to air pollution. It is a major risk factor for NCDs in children, adolescents, and adults. Indoor air pollutants adversely affect newborn lung development. We request that WHO invest, at the national and regional levels, to reduce air pollution, thereby reducing NCDs and disabilities that result from indoor and ambient contaminants. In addition, we request WHO and Member States to:

- Establish national accountability frameworks to address air pollution and its sequelae, as specified in SDG 3, 7, and 11.
- Consider specific risks for children when monitoring air pollution exposures when establishing thresholds in air quality, with specific attention to locations such as schools, households, and recreation sites. We support the plan to update WHO’s Air Quality Guidelines for ambient air pollution by 2020.
- Encourage multi-sectoral engagement to prevent sequelae of pollution as it relates to transportation, agriculture, industry, water and sanitation. Challenges of each region should be a priority for WHO, to ensure reliable monitoring and reporting is accessible to all sectors, within all countries.
- Increase awareness at all levels through the BreatheLife campaign, community-based actions.
- Provide adequate funding for national and regional monitoring, sensitization, and active reduction in environmental pollutants.

Additionally, we recognize that Population-Health-Environment (PHE) programs protect the conservation of natural resources that are often the main sources of survival and livelihood for rural communities, while simultaneously addressing health needs, in particular sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), of these communities. We acknowledge there is a vast body of learning from the PHE community and encourage WHO and Member States to further multi-sectoral collaboration in this area.