



STATEMENTS SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF GLOBAL HEALTH COUNCIL (GHC) TO THE SIXTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Meeting:

Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly (A68/1)

Agenda Item:

14.5 Contributing to social and economic development: sustainable action across sectors to improve health and health equity (follow-up of the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion)

Statement:

Chairperson, Honorable Ministers, distinguished delegates, colleagues:

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of Global Health Council and International-Lawyers.Org. Recognizing that 2015 is a seminal year for international action on climate change, we welcome WHO's constructive involvement in the health issues related to climate change.

We note with satisfaction that numerous States have proposed that health be mentioned in the preamble and operative paragraphs of the climate change agreement to be finalized in Paris by December of this year under the auspices of the UNFCCC.

We welcome WHO's work on its Workplan on climate change and health, the elements of which were presented to the Executive Board in January, and we look forward WHO's further engagement with both States and civil society to further develop the elements into a comprehensive and focused Workplan with concrete actions for enhancing the ability of States to adapt to climate change.

WHO has an important role to play in reporting on the adverse effects of climate change on health. The Atlas of Health and Climate from 2012 is a good practice that we hope will be repeated and elaborated upon. Equally, WHO's technical support to States on means of adaptation for health challenges can help States adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

We also welcome WHO's engagement in the Health and Climate Summit that has been held on the side-lines of the last several meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We urge the strengthening of WHO's engagement in the Health and Climate Summit that we understand will be held in Paris at COP21 in December 2015.

Finally, we urge WHO to engage in the debate on climate finance by discussing with the Green Climate Fund and its Member States the creation of a spending stream for health under the adaption window of the Green Climate Fund.

Thank you.