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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action
under the Convention**

Thirteenth session

Cancun, 29 November 2010—*

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Preparation of an outcome to be presented to the Conference of the Parties
for adoption at its sixteenth session to enable the full, effective and
sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term
cooperative action now, up to and beyond 2012**

**Ideas and proposals on the elements contained in
paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan**

Submissions from intergovernmental organizations

Addendum

1. In addition to the two submissions contained in document FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/MISC.9, two further submissions have been received.
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced** in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

* To continue for as long as necessary, as per document FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/3, paragraph 25.

** These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/MISC.9/Add.1

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UNFPA SUBMISSION ON MESSAGES RELATED TO THE LINKAGES BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND POPULATION DYNAMICS

The Critical Role of Population Dynamics and Data in Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability and Enhancing Adaptation

1. To better assess vulnerability and plan for adaptation, it is essential to know **who** is vulnerable, **where** they live, and **what** people and governments can do to build resilience; incorporation of population dynamics will help to answer these questions. The results of the negotiation process should create a framework that puts people on maps, together with geography, infrastructure and climate related risks, in that way bridges social and physical approaches to adaptation. In the immediate term, understanding who and where people are will contribute to better disaster preparedness and response plans. In the longer term, understanding the dynamics of population and how populations are projected to change over time will help policy makers shift from responding to today's threats to anticipating and planning for tomorrow's.
2. Including population dynamics¹ in climate change response will help to make the process of urbanization more sustainable and developmental. It will help to ensure that migration is more anticipatory and adaptive, and to minimize displacement. It will help disaster risk reduction programmes better target people's well-being, livelihoods and immediate needs, as a necessary step in helping them build resilience and adaptive capacity.
3. Population dynamics are not just about numbers. Whether in strengthening the empowerment of women, helping people have greater choice about their lives in areas from reproductive health to mobility, or helping create more secure livelihoods for the urban poor, interventions that are based in and account for population dynamics help individuals, households and communities build resilience and better adapt to the impacts of climate change.
4. We know how to integrate population dynamics into adaptation programmes and policies. **Demographic data** are at the core of better knowledge about vulnerability and better planning for adaptation and resilience, and must be integrated into knowledge management platforms for climate change. The 2010 round of censuses, together with data from household surveys, will provide a foundation for understanding vulnerability and adaptation for the next decade. But data should be released quickly, at the smallest possible geographic scale, so that they can be linked to remote sensing data and climate projections to generate greater understanding of who is at risk and how to improve adaptation.
5. In conclusion, the negotiations should establish frameworks for vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation responses that include the analysis of demographic data and knowledge of demographic dynamics.

¹ Population dynamics include the change in population size, distribution by age and sex, spatial distribution and urbanization, density, composition of households and family and the factors that generate these results: fertility, mortality, migration and family formation patterns. These dynamics are critical for responding to climate change, and particularly for generating adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change.

**SUBMISSION BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION TO THE
THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE AWG-LCA ON PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE
BALI ACTION PLAN**

Introduction

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) welcomes the opportunity to submit additional information, views and proposals to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) under the Convention for consideration by the Parties at the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP-16) in Cancun, Mexico, December 2010.

Background

2. The Honorable Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh recently observed that it was necessary for the countries of WHO's South-East Asian Region (SEAR) to express their views collectively at COP-16 in relation to jointly-held concerns about the impacts of climate change on human health. Accordingly, a high-level meeting was organized jointly by WHO and the Ministry of Health in Dhaka, 19-21 October 2010. Ten of 11 SEAR countries were represented, these being Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor Leste. Participants included four Ministers of Health, one Minister of Environment and senior officials of ministries of health and environment from the countries concerned.

3. WHO also supported a preceding meeting of parliamentarians from the region in Thimphu, Bhutan, 5-7 October 2010 to discuss the protection of human health from climate change. Parliamentarians attended from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

4. The COP-16 related outcomes of the meetings are as follows:

- a) A Parliamentarians' Call for Action on Protecting Human Health from Climate Change in the South-East Asia Region (copy attached).
- b) A Dhaka Declaration (copy attached).
- c) Participation of each of the Ministries of Health concerned in their respective government delegations to COP-16 and subsequent climate-change negotiations to ensure that health concerns are included in the negotiation process.
- d) Intended reference to the Dhaka Declaration in interventions made by SEAR countries at COP-16, and subsequent climate-change negotiations.

The Dhaka Declaration

4. South-East Asia is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the most vulnerable SEAR populations being the poor, marginalized, and those living on small islands, in low-lying and coastal areas, in mountainous regions, in water-stressed areas and in urban slums.
5. The United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) explicitly recognizes the adverse impact of climate change on human health (cf. Article 1 which defines adverse effects of climate change).
6. The Declaration draws attention to Article 4 (f) of UNFCCC which urges Parties to formulate policies and actions to minimize the adverse effects of climate change on economy, public health and the quality of the environment.
7. Despite explicit reference to health issues in the original UNFCCC text, health issues and health co-benefits of mitigation policies have not been sufficiently emphasized at Conferences of Parties to the UNFCCC thus far.
8. The Dhaka Declaration commits WHO Member States of the SEA Region to a range of actions related to human health concerns in the context of climate-change and urges WHO to advocate and follow up the Declaration.

Negotiations under the AWG-LCA related to the Dhaka Declaration

9. Given the strong connections between climate change, environmental degradation and human health, WHO wishes to recall Article 1 of the UNFCCC, which defines adverse effects of climate change as "changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare".
10. WHO agrees with the text that states that developing country Parties are faced with urgent and severe long-term challenges from the impacts of climate change, including those on human health, as per paragraph 5 of the shared vision in Chapter I.
11. Furthermore, WHO agrees with the text that states that enhanced action on adaptation should take into consideration vulnerable groups and communities and ecosystems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant public health and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate, as per paragraph 6 of the shared vision.
12. We believe, in addition, that there is a need to take the particular vulnerability of countries in South-East Asia affected by floods into account, and that this should be reflected in the text.

Contact Points

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Parliamentarians' Call for Action on Protecting Human Health from Climate Change in the South-East Asia Region

We, the Parliamentarians of Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region, participating in the Regional Conference of Parliamentarians on Protecting Human Health from Climate Change, appreciate the efforts being made by countries and development partners in the South-East Asia Region to address the challenges posed by global warming and climate change. We are concerned that the health risks from climate change are real and increasing, and knowledge and understanding of the impacts of climate change on human health have not reached many segments of society, including those most affected. We are also concerned that extreme weather events, increasing in frequency and intensity in the Region, can overwhelm the already overstretched health sector's capacity to respond, and also jeopardize the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular the health-related goals. Furthermore, we take cognizance of the findings of the World Health Report 2002 that the WHO South-East Asia Region has experienced high morbidity and mortality resulting from climate change.

RECOGNIZING that recent research has shown increasing rates of global greenhouse gas emissions, temperature rise, and sea level rise, indicating that climate change has proceeded faster than anticipated;

AWARE that the most vulnerable populations in the SEA Region are the poor and those living on islands, in mountainous regions, in water-stressed areas, in urban slums and in plain, tribal and coastal areas;

MINDFUL that climate change will have an adverse impact on food production, livelihoods and economic productivity;

RECOGNIZING that climate change will amplify the existing major public health risks in the Region, necessitating urgent accelerated actions to strengthen health systems and especially the capacity of programmes aimed at reducing climate-sensitive diseases;

UNDERSTANDING that developed countries are mainly responsible for greenhouse gas emissions that will affect the developing countries, which are least responsible for emissions and therefore developed countries should provide technological and financial support for mitigation and adaptation measures to developing countries;

AWARE that the measures to reduce output of greenhouse gases will also result in public health co-benefits, and thereby indirectly reduce the cost of mitigation;

NOTING the need for improving the capacity of the health sector in the Region for research and strengthening of the health workforce to adequately address the challenges from climate change;

ACKNOWLEDGING the strategic role of primary health care to support local communities in becoming more resilient to climate change;

REITERATING commitment to World Health Assembly resolution WHA 61.19, on climate change, and to the regional framework for action to protect human health;

RECALLING the New Delhi Declaration on the impact of climate change on human health by the health ministers of the South-East Asia Region;

CONCERNED that there is an urgent need for more emphasis on health-related issues at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations;

Call up on all Member States:

- To increase awareness of the health consequences of climate change;
- To strengthen health and education systems capacity and infrastructure to provide protection from climate-related risks and accelerate ongoing programmes aimed at reducing climate-sensitive diseases;
- To ensure that adequate resources and appropriate technologies are available to protect health from climate change, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, children, disabled, elderly people and indigenous populations;
- To develop and support policies that will substantially reduce greenhouse gases;
- To ensure that health concerns are addressed in decisions related to climate change taken in other sectors;
- To promote applied research and pilot projects to assess the scale and nature of the vulnerability of health to climate change with special consideration for indigenous populations;
- To advocate for consideration of health protection as one of the criteria for judging successful mitigation at the UNFCCC-Conference of Parties;
- To enact necessary legislation and strengthen the existing legal mechanism to effectively achieve the aforementioned objectives; and
- To periodically share legislative experiences and concerns related to climate change among all parliamentarians of the South-East Asia Region.

We, the Parliamentarians from Member States of the South-East Asia Region, pledge our full support towards the realization of our Call for Action in the interest of regional solidarity on legislative and policy actions to promote health in the WHO South-East Asia Region.

Thimphu, Bhutan, 7 October 2010

Dhaka Declaration

South-East Asia Regional Health Concerns for Climate Change Negotiations

We, the Member States of the WHO South-East Asia (SEA) Region, a highly vulnerable region in the world to the effects of climate change, appreciate the efforts being made by countries and partners in the Region to protect human health from climate change. However, much greater efforts and timely actions are needed at national, regional and global levels to increase resilience and adaptation of the vulnerable populations to minimize the health impacts of climate change.

RECOGNIZING that the observed rise in global temperature, receding glaciers and rising sea levels are due to increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as a result of human activities;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the adverse effect on human health due to climate change is one of the biggest challenges of the twenty-first century that would also impact achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

MINDFUL that climate change will further impact adversely on human health by way of reduced food security, degradation of air and water quality, and disrupted ecosystems and livelihoods;

AWARE that the most vulnerable populations in the SEA Region are the poor, marginalized and those living on small islands, in low-lying and coastal areas, in mountainous regions, in water-stressed areas and in urban slums;

NOTING that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) explicitly recognizes the adverse health impact of climate change on human health;

FURTHER NOTING that the UNFCCC, through its article 4 (f) urges parties to formulate policies and actions to minimize the adverse effects on economy, public health and the quality of the environment;

CONCERNED that health issues and health co-benefits of mitigation policies have been poorly represented at the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC;

RECOGNIZING the need for improving the capacity of the health sector in the Region for research and the strengthening of health systems to adequately address the challenges from climate change;

REITERATING our commitment to the World Health Assembly resolution WHA 61.19, on climate change and health, and to the regional framework for action to protect human health;

RECALLING the New Delhi Declaration (2008) on the impact of climate change on human health by the health ministers of Member States of the WHO SEA Region and the Regional Parliamentarians' Call for Action to Protect Human Health from Climate Change (2010);

REALIZING that there is an urgent need to give greater emphasis to health-related issues at the UNFCCC negotiations and similar international forums in future.

We, the Member States of the WHO SEA Region, commit ourselves to ensure that the following health concerns are effectively invoked at all negotiations related to climate change:

- (1) Consider human health as the central issue in climate policy;*
- (2) Ensure that references to health remain prominent in the negotiating text;*
- (3) Consider health interventions an integral part of adaptation policy and planning;*
- (4) Encourage effective participation of the health sector in discussions on climate issues;*
- (5) Consider health protection/promotion in the policy on mitigation measures;*
- (6) Consider the health co-benefit of mitigation measures as an economic benefit that would partly offset the total costs incurred by health due to the adverse impact of climate change;*
- (7) Demand that resources mobilized internationally are also channeled towards adaptation by the health and environment sectors;*
- (8) Ensure that appropriate technologies are available to protect health from climate change, especially for vulnerable groups; and*
- (9) Promote research to assess the scale and nature of the vulnerability of health to climate change with special consideration for vulnerable populations.*

We, the delegates to the South-East Asia Regional High Level Preparatory Meeting for the Sixteenth UNFCCC Conference of Parties held in Dhaka from 19-21 October 2010 urge:

All Member States as well as the WHO Director-General and the Regional Director, South-East Asia to continue to provide leadership and specific climate change-related technical guidance to collectively raise the health concerns while deciding climate change-related policies at national and international forums. We also urge them to jointly advocate and effectively follow-up on all aspects of this Dhaka Declaration.