

**Statement of the I.R. Iran on**

**"Climate change, health and environment: a regional framework for action, 2023–2029"**

**Mr./Madam Chairperson,  
Excellences, ladies and gentlemen**

We want to express our appreciation to the secretariat for creating the draft Climate Change, Health, and Environment: Framework for action 2024-27. We are grateful for the technical support provided by WHO/EMRO to assist member states in addressing the consequences of climate change.

**Mr. Chairman;**

The IR. Iran, is unfortunately affected by climate change as one of the greatest threats to health. The country is affected by sand and dust storms, heatwaves, drought, water scarcity, and floods as the main direct and/or indirect consequences of climate change.

While promoting environmental sustainability, we are committed to build a robust health system that can withstand the impacts of climate change. Healthcare facilities are the health system's front line for provision of equitable life-saving services to the communities, at all times, especially during crises. Climate resilient health systems are capable of anticipating, coping with, responding to, recovering from and adapting to climate-related shocks and stress, so as to bring about sustained improvements in population health, despite an unstable climate.

**Excellency;**

The Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran, has collaborated with WHO regional and country offices to create a 5-year strategic framework (2023-2027) to tackle environmental and occupational health issues, with a primary focus on climate change and health. In order to implement this framework, the Ministry requires financial and technical assistance from WHO/EMRO, as well as other international partners.

Despite unilateral coercive measures, Iran is one of the first regional states, which has taken steps to evaluate the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of its healthcare facilities then formulated strategies to strengthen climate resilience and advance environmental sustainability, which includes 10 national key strategic directions and 43 operational interventions. During 2020-21, a customized tool was developed, drawing upon the WHO's guidance and operational framework for constructing climate resilient health systems. The implementation of these initiatives is planned to be completed by 2035.

Another line of the country's successful activities is enhancing the capability to calculate the carbon footprint of healthcare facilities. The I.R. Iran is resolute in making substantial progress towards attaining net zero carbon emissions in the healthcare sector by the year 2060.

We agree to adhere to the regional framework of action, but also propose the addition of the following paragraph to the countries' obligations:

"To build national capacity to generate required evidence-informed policies and plans for climate change by developing national profiles, conducting vulnerability assessments, and strengthening surveillance and monitoring systems".

We also call upon the Regional Director to provide technical support to countries in conducting assessments, developing evidence-based policies, strategies, and interventions, which may include innovative and locally sourced solutions.

**Madam/Mr. chair, thank you for the floor.**

**Deputy for Public Health**

**Ministry of Health & Medical Education**

**The Islamic Republic of Iran**