

Climate Change and Health: International Policy Challenges

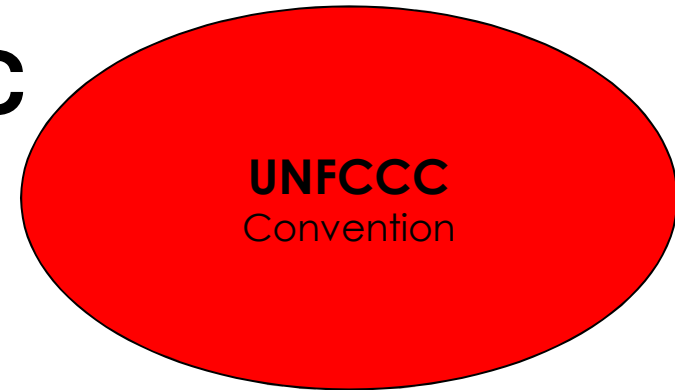
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Training on Climate Change Related Health Impacts
Republic of Mauritius
14-18 May, 2012



THE UNFCCC



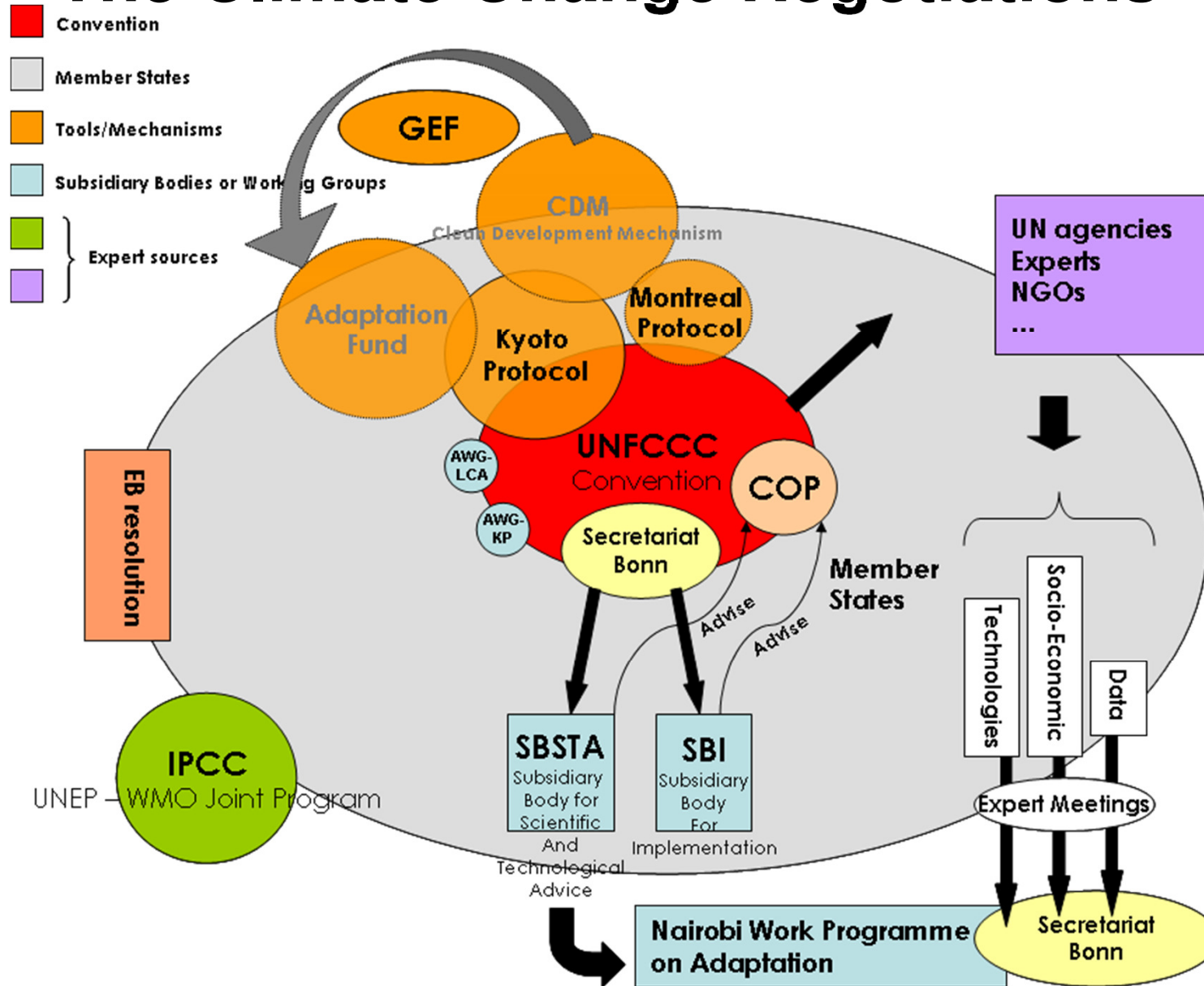
What is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?

- International treaty to address challenges of climate change
- 192 countries have ratified
- Entered force on 21 March 1994
- The Kyoto Protocol

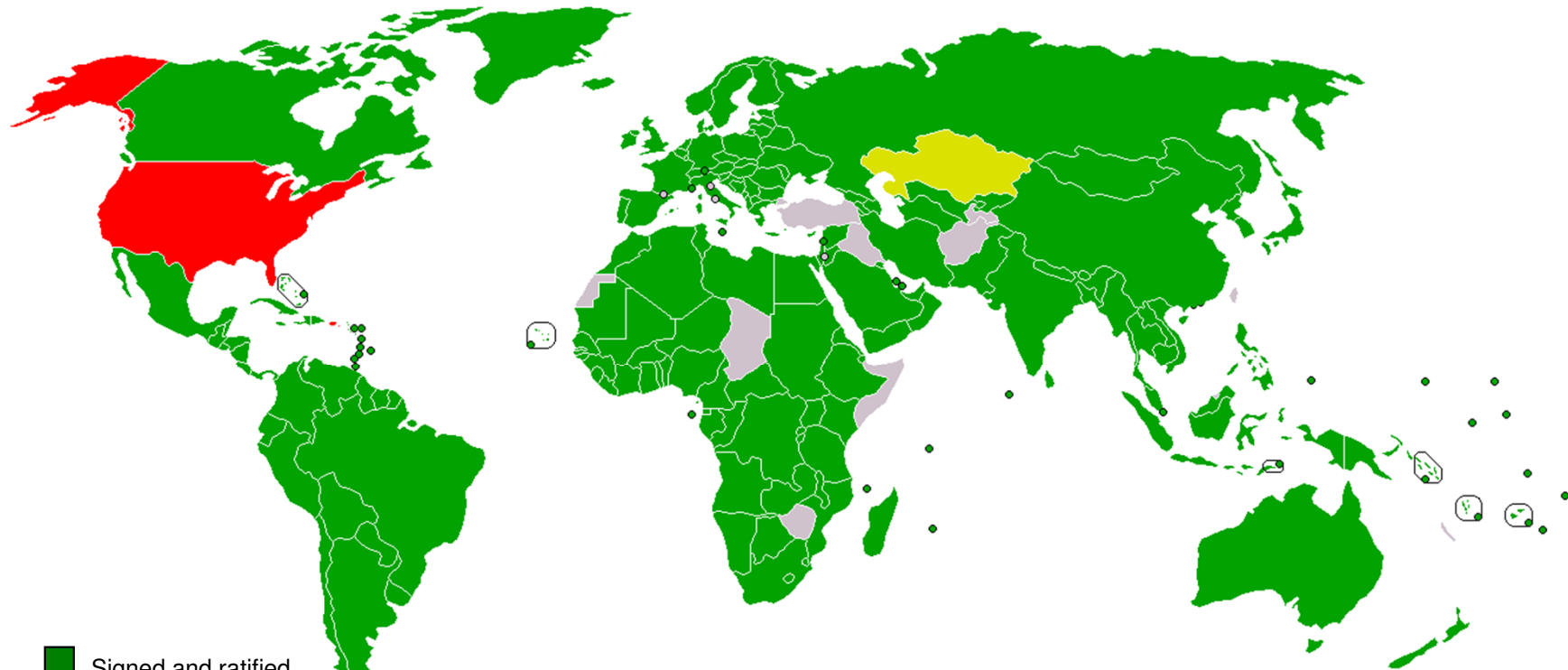
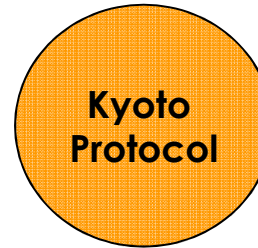
The Convention





- Recognizes the global, shared problem
- Provides a framework for discussion
- Supports first steps: Reporting, assessment, planning
- Establishes principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities"
- Covers both mitigation and adaptation

The Climate Change Negotiations



The Kyoto Protocol

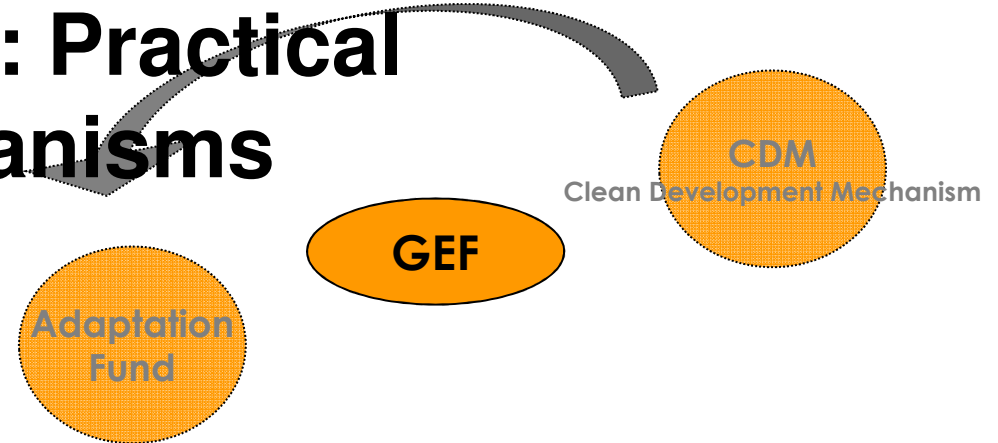


-  Signed and ratified
-  Signed, ratification pending
-  Signed, ratification declined
-  Non-signatory

- Reaffirms responsibility of all countries
- Sets GHG targets for industrialized countries

Map taken from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_protocol

UNFCCC: Practical Mechanisms



- **Kyoto protocol**
 - Reaffirms responsibility of all countries
 - Sets GHG targets for industrialized countries
- **Emissions Trading/ Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)**
 - Allows countries to "buy" emissions reduction elsewhere.
- **Adaptation funds**
 - 2 % of CDM to be available for developing countries
 - Supplemented by voluntary funds

The Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)

The Nairobi work program on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change:

- **Assists all Parties, particularly developing countries including LDCs and SIDS**

- To improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation
- To make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions

- **Has nine areas of work**

- Climate-related risks and extreme events
- Adaptation planning and practices
- Socio-economic information
- Methods and tools
- Data and observations
- Economic diversification
- Research
- Climate modeling, scenarios and downscaling
- Technology for adaptation



NWP Implementation and Health

- **Sectoral adaptation priorities for health**
 - Carry out research, surveys, and outreach
 - Develop a general health strategy across agencies
 - Enhance campaigns on climate change and health for children
 - Develop programmes and training to empower the health community
 - Develop STRATEGY for climate-related risks in health sector
 - Utilize traditional knowledge
- **Three modes of implementation**
 - Activities mandated by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)
 - Further the outreach of mandated activities
 - Catalyze new and innovative action
 - NWP Partner organizations, institutions, experts and communities
 - Action Pledges- action by partners to engage with and enhance the work of the program

NWP: World Health Organization's Call for Action

- **WHO pledges to carry out the following specific actions**
 - **Strengthening of health systems**
 - **Outreach and advocacy**
 - **Monitoring, surveillance and forecasting**
 - **Health development**
 - **Research and knowledge**
 - **Partnerships**

National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)

- **NAPAs provide important way to prioritize urgent adaptation needs for LCDs**
- **NAPAs draw on existing information and community-level input to identify adaptation projects required now.**
- **Aim to enable these countries to cope with the immediate impacts of climate change.**

The Bali Action Plan

- **The Bali Action Plan identified adaptation as one of the five key building blocks (shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financial resources) for a strengthened future response to climate change now, up to and beyond 2012**

The UN System Coordinated Action on Climate Change

THE CEB CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FRAMEWORK

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM CHIEF EXECUTIVES BOARD FOR COORDINATION (CEB) HAS INITIATED A PROCESS OF ALIGNING ITS STRENGTHS TO ACHIEVE A COORDINATED ACTION-ORIENTED APPROACH TO THE GLOBAL AND MULTIFACETED CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO INTENSIFY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANDATES AND BUILD ON THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN DOING SO TO SUPPORT THE PROCESS FOR A GLOBAL AGREEMENT FOR THE POST-2012 PERIOD WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC). THE UN SYSTEM IS DETERMINED TO PROVIDE COORDINATED SUPPORT TO THE EFFORTS OF MEMBER STATES AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE NOW, UP TO, AND BEYOND 2012. TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IS BRINGING TO BEAR, IN A WAY PERHAPS NEVER ACHIEVED BEFORE, THE COLLECTIVE STRENGTHS OF ALL ITS ENTITIES AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO THIS CHALLENGE.

THE FIRST STAGE OF THIS WIDE RANGING INITIATIVE WAS PRESENTED AT THE 2007 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN BALI, INDONESIA — 13TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC (COP 13) AND 3RD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP 3) — IN DECEMBER 2007, WHICH ADOPTED THE BALI ROAD MAP. THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CEB INITIATIVE AIMS AT CONSOLIDATING THE DELIVERY OF RESULTS BY THE UN SYSTEM ENTITIES. THIS PUBLICATION PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE BY THE TIME OF THE 2008 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE — COP 14 AND CMP 4 — IN POZNAN, POLAND IN DECEMBER 2008. THE UN SYSTEM'S EFFORTS WILL BE INTENSIFIED ON THE WAY TO THE 2009 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE — COP 15 AND CMP 5 — AT THE END OF 2009 IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK.

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, WITH ITS ESTABLISHED STRUCTURES, COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS AND COLLECTIVE EXPERTISE, REMAINS AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE PARTIES IN IMPLEMENTING EXISTING, AS WELL AS FUTURE AGREEMENTS.

The Global Environment Facility or GEF

- **A global partnership among 178 countries to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives**
- **Represents the designated financial mechanism for the UNFCCC (among others)**
- **GEF supports projects in Climate Change Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation**

International Climate Change Agreements Are Key but.....

- **Limitations on mitigation actions**
- **Kyoto Protocol inadequate to meaningfully reduce climate change, so far**
- **Possible mitigation measures have very different health implications**
- **No obligations for developing nations that will become large emitters in near future**
- **Problems with adaptation**
- **Funding from rich nations is voluntary and complex to access**
- **Health is poorly represented in plans**

Health in the Climate Change Negotiations

- **Health should be central**
 - **Main reasons for concern (e.g. disasters, food shortage, displacement disease) are health and wellbeing issues**
 - **Most energy and environment decisions (e.g. choice, use of fuel sources) have major direct health implications**
 - **Addressing climate change = sustainable development = health protection**



We Need More on Health at the UNFCCC



COP14, Poznan, Poland, December 2008:
WHO supported youth representatives
enact the importance to include health as a
main dimension in climate change
negotiations



UNFCCC Convention Addresses Health

UNFCCC text definition

“Adverse effects of climate change: *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.***”

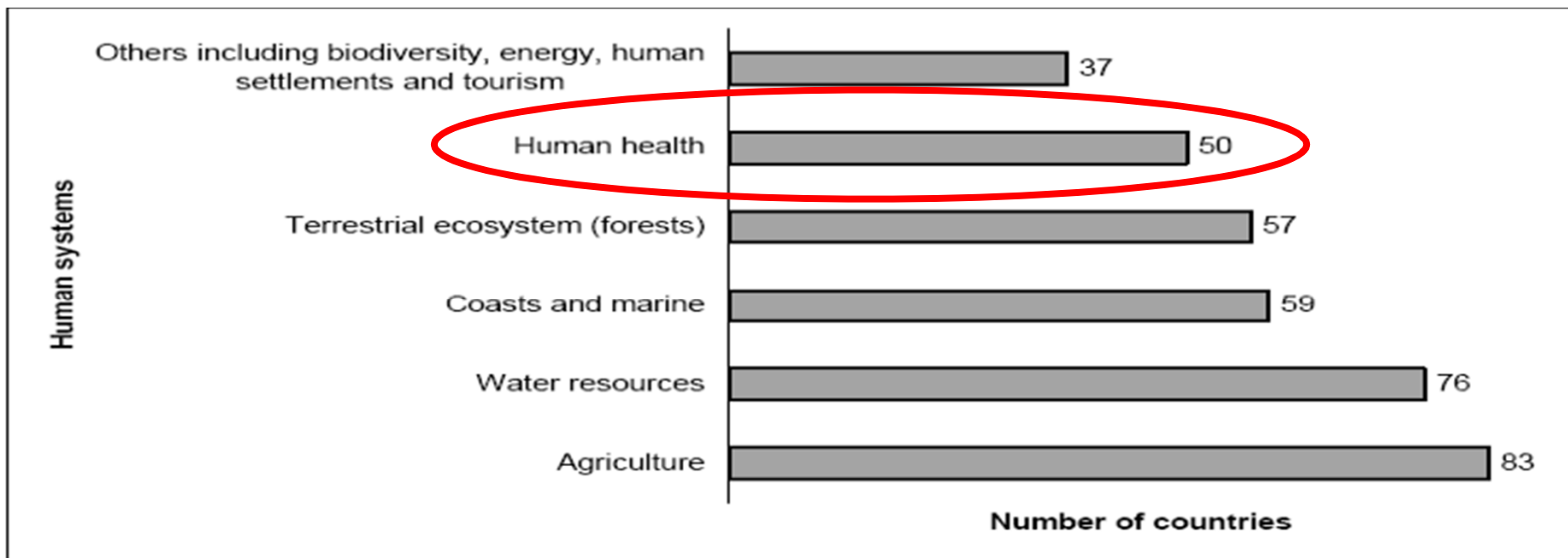
UNFCCC COMMITMENTS

- Paragraph 1 (f): All Parties...shall “**take climate change considerations into account, to the extent feasible, in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods, for example impact assessments, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimizing adverse effects on the economy, on **public health** and on the quality of the environment, of projects or measures undertaken by them to **mitigate or adapt to climate change****”
- Paragraphs 4, 8 and 9: developed countries’ responsibilities to assist developing countries to **adapt to climate change**, with **particular attention to the LDCs**.

Article 4.1 (f)

- Takes climate change considerations into account, to the extent feasible, in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods, for example impact assessments, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimizing adverse effects on the economy, on public health and on the quality of the environment, of projects or measures undertaken by them to mitigate or adapt to climate change.

Health is One of the Top Priorities Identified in UNFCCC National Communications



Current Representation of Health in Climate Change Mechanisms and Funding Support

■ Health

- Is identified as a priority in 32 out of 38 (84%) UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs) from the poorest countries**
- Is the focus of 31 of 430 (7%) projects submitted for NAPA funding**
- Has received ~ \$2.5 million of \$1.3 billion (0.2%) of support granted under the UNFCCC**
- Is represented by ~20 of the 10,000 participants (0.2%) in the Climate Change Conference of the Parties**

World Health Assembly and Climate Change

122nd Session

Climate change and health

EB122.R4

Agenda item 4.1

24 January 2008

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on climate change and health,¹

RECOMMENDS to the Sixty-first World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixty-first World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA51.29 on the protection of human health from risks related to climate change and stratospheric ozone depletion and acknowledging and welcoming the work carried out so far by WHO in pursuit of it;

Recognizing that, in the interim, the scientific evidence of the effect of the increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases, and of the potential consequences for human health, has considerably strengthened;

Noting with concern the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the effects of temperature increases are already being observed on some aspects of human health; that the net global effect of projected climate change on human health is expected to be negative, especially in developing countries, small island developing States and vulnerable local communities which have the least capacity to prepare for and adapt to such change, and that exposure to projected climate change could affect the health status of millions of people, through increases in malnutrition, in death, disease and injury due to extreme weather events, in the burden of diarrhoeal disease, in the frequency of cardiorespiratory diseases, and through altered distribution of some infectious disease vectors;

Noting further that climate change could jeopardize achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including the health-related Goals, and undermine the efforts of the Secretariat and Member States to improve public health and reduce health inequalities globally;

WHO Global Action Plan 2009

Aim: Support health systems in all countries, identify strategies & actions, share knowledge & good practices

Four objectives for WHO:

- Advocacy and awareness raising
- Engage in partnerships with other UN agencies and other sectors at national, regional and international levels
- Promote and support the generation of scientific evidence
- Strengthen health systems to cope with the health threats posed by climate change

Planned outputs:

- Enhance capacity for assessing and monitoring the health vulnerability, risks and impacts due to climate change
- Identify effective strategies and actions to protect human health and particularly the most vulnerable groups
- Share knowledge and good practices on health system actions

Discussion

Questions?

Thoughts?

Concerns?

Suggestions?



Acknowledgements

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- **Some material was modified from the WHO “Training course for public health professionals on protecting our health from climate change (2009).”**
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