



Brussels, 30 October 2009

**To: UNFCCC National focal points**

**Concerning: Input to international climate talks in Barcelona, 2 – 6 November 2009**

**Dear Sir/Madam**

**Strengthen the health dimension in current UNFCCC negotiating text**

Leading health organizations, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and Climate and Health Council (CHC), together with some of the world's largest medical, nursing and health organizations are calling on world leaders to take bold action to address climate change. This is crucial to avoid what could become a global public health crisis.

HCHW, HEAL and CHC welcome the fact that health is now mentioned in the negotiating drafts. We strongly encourage you to ensure that these health references are retained and strengthened in the texts, and, as it is clear that what's good for the climate is good for health, we ask you to make additional changes to the texts to promote inclusion of health co-benefits, as follows:

**1. Retain the health references in the following texts**

- Non-paper No. 33<sup>1</sup> (*Contact group on **shared vision** for long-term cooperative action*), **paragraph 13 page 3 and paragraph 3 page 11**
- Non-paper No. 17<sup>2</sup> (*Subgroup on **mitigation** under paragraph 1 (b) (iv) of the Bali Action Plan*), **paragraph 1 (a)**
- Non-paper No. 31<sup>3</sup> (*Contact group on enhanced action on **adaptation** and its associated means of implementation*), **paragraph 1 and Annex IV (o)**

**2. Introduce CHANGES to add “promotion of health co-benefits” in the following texts**

- Non-paper No. 28<sup>4</sup> (*Contact group on enhanced action on **mitigation** and its associated means of implementation*), **paragraph 22 (xi) (Addition, new)**
- Non-paper No. 30<sup>5</sup> (*Subgroup on mitigation under paragraph 1 (b) (v) of the Bali Action Plan*), **paragraph 6 (h)**

<sup>1</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto\\_protocol/application/pdf/33sv23102009.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/application/pdf/33sv23102009.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigation1bvnp17081009.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigation1bvnp17081009.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto\\_protocol/application/pdf/31adap201009v6.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/application/pdf/31adap201009v6.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigationnp28091009.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigationnp28091009.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigation1bvnp30091009.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/mitigation1bvnp30091009.pdf)

## **Why are we asking for these references to health?**

Climate change will affect our individual health, public health and health care systems worldwide. The costs of unchecked climate change on health necessitate significant reduction in carbon emissions for wealthy nations. In Europe alone, the estimated annual public health savings resulting from a 20% reduction in carbon emissions (from 1990 levels) by 2020 would be 52 billion Euros each year from 2020<sup>6</sup>.

This figure would be significantly higher if health co-benefits globally were taken into account in climate change policy developments and outcomes. The latest science suggests that a reduction in greenhouse gases by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 is the minimum required to keep global warming well below the dangerous 2°C level.

Our four, clear recommendations for the Copenhagen treaty are set out in the "Prescription for a Healthy Planet" (see attachment). They are: the protection of public health, strong targets on emission reductions, the promotion of clean energy, and a mandate for major funding for developing countries to address the climate crisis. A fair, ambitious and binding agreement is needed in Copenhagen to protect and promote public health while contributing to increased economic prosperity and well being of communities worldwide.

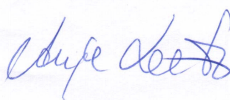
The dual commitment by wealthier countries of an ambitious emissions reductions target and a substantial financial commitment to support mitigation and adaptation in developing countries are necessary to reaching an agreement in Copenhagen. A significant portion of this funding should be allocated to strengthen and prepare the healthcare sector to cope with the effects of climate change.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that health becomes a cornerstone of international and EU climate change policy.

Sincerely,



**Genon Jensen**  
Executive Director  
Health and Environment Alliance  
(HEAL)



**Anja Leetz**  
Executive Director  
Health Care Without Harm Europe (HCWHE)



**Mike Gill**  
Co-chair  
Climate and Health Council (CHC)

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<sup>6</sup> European Commission Impact Assessment,  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/pdf/climat\\_action/climate\\_package\\_ia\\_annex.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/pdf/climat_action/climate_package_ia_annex.pdf)