

The role of Health care in addressing climate change given the current science and political agreement

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Introduction

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)

- **Health Care Without Harm**
 - ✓ international coalition
 - ✓ 484 organisations
 - ✓ 53 countries
- Objective: transform the health care sector so it is no longer a source of harm to people and the environment
- Some examples: alternatives to incineration, elimination of PVC and mercury, 'green' procurement, climate change, etc ...
- Website : www.noharm.org



The science

Some examples

“ Warming in the climate system is unequivocal ” IPCC 2007

Speech by IPCC Working Group I

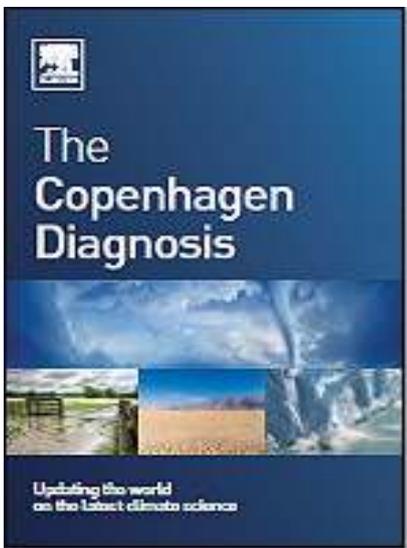
Co-Chair, Cancun 2010:

“ this **finding still stands** and has been **confirmed** by numerous scientific studies and publications in peer-reviewed literature since ”



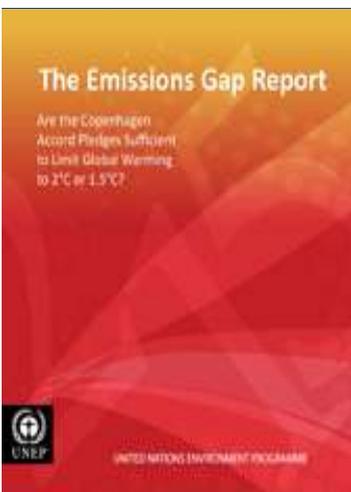
The Lancet, 13 May 2009:

Climate change is,
“the biggest threat of the 21st
century”



The Copenhagen
Diagnosis, 2009

“Global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels in 2008 were **40% higher than those in 1990**... Every year of **delayed action** increase the chances of exceeding **2°C** warming.”

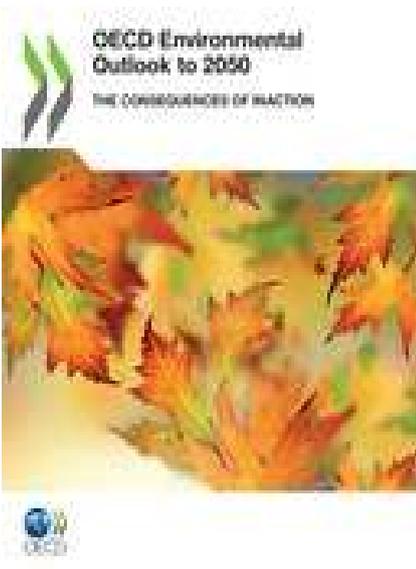


UNEP The Emissions Gap Report, 2010

“ *levels of 44 Gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent (GtCO₂e) in 2020 would be consistent with a “likely” chance of limiting global warming to 2° C*”

If all current pledges implemented, emissions in 2020 could be lowered to 49 GtCO₂e in 2020, **leaving a gap of 5 GtCO₂e** .
 “...this is also almost **60 per cent of the way towards reaching the 2° C target.**”

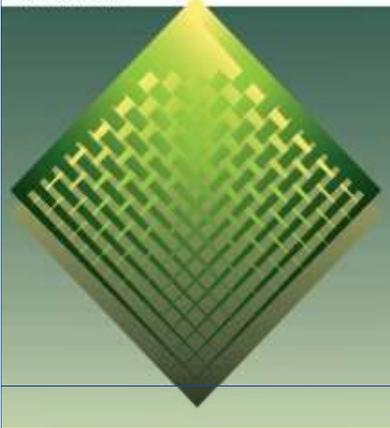
“ Studies show that it is feasible to bridge the remaining gap through **more ambitious domestic actions...**”



OECD Environment Outlook to 2050

“Urban **air pollution** is set to become the top environmental cause of mortality worldwide by 2050....The number of premature deaths from exposure to **particulate air pollutants leading to respiratory failure could double from current levels to 3.6 million every year globally**, with most occurring in China and India.... OECD countries are likely to have one of the highest rate of premature death from **ground-level ozone in 2050**, second only to India ”

- **High burden of disease** from exposure to hazardous chemicals, etc....



UNDP Human Development Report 2011:

health and income
development in the so-called
developing countries are
hindered by inaction on climate
change and environmental
degradation and destruction



The Politics

Some examples and possible opportunities



COP17/CMP7
UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Durban COP 17 agreement: main issues

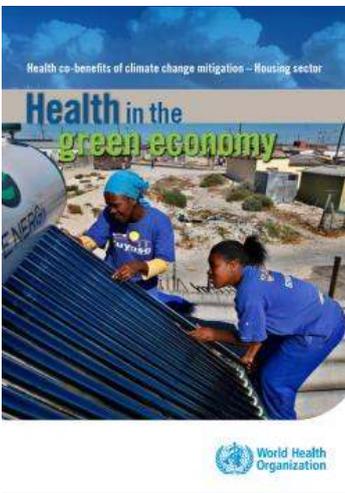


- International legal agreement before 2015
- Second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol, 1 Jan 2013
- Qualified emissions reductions targets/reduction objectives by May 2012
- Launch Green Climate Fund; Adaptation Committee and a Technology Mechanism, in 2012
- Common but differentiated responsibilities
-

2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for all



“... take advantage of the Year to **increase awareness** of the importance of addressing energy issues (...), **access** to affordable energy, **energy efficiency** and the sustainability of energy sources and use, for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the **Millennium Development Goals**, sustainable development and the **protection of the global climate**, and to **promote action** at the local, national, regional and international level”

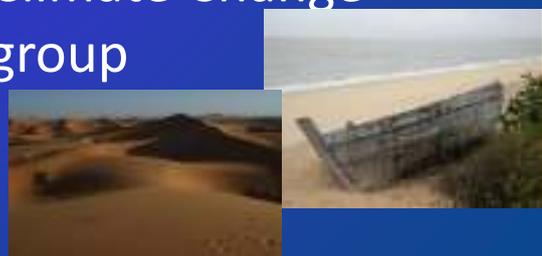


Rio+20 - opportunity?

- Focuses on "green economy" and "institutional frameworks" for sustainable development and poverty eradication
- Draft conference text, [The Future We Want](#), "draft zero": ongoing until June, a series of regional and international consultations and negotiations to finalize text
- WHO contribution: *Health in the green economy*

More examples...opportunities?

- COP 18 in Qatar: 26 November to 7 December 2012
- EU "20 – 20- 20 targets"; And in keeping with the 2°C objective, GHG reductions of 80-95% by 2050 compared to 1990, in the context of necessary reductions according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by developed countries as a group
- What is happening in your country?



SAVE THE DATE

DEC. 4, 2011

Durban, South Africa
Tropicana Hotel



The First Global Climate and Health Summit, takes place parallel to the COP 17 climate negotiations. It aims to bring together key health sector actors to discuss the impacts of climate change on public health and solutions that promote greater health, as well as economic equity between and within nations.

PARTNERS:

World Health Organization
World Medical Association
Public Health Association of South Africa
International Council of Nurses
International Federation of Medical Students Associations
groundWork, South Africa
Health and Environment Alliance, Europe
Climate and Health Alliance, Australia

CO-ORGANIZERS:

Health Care Without Harm
Climate and Health Council
World Federation of Public Health Associations
Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine
University of KwaZulu-Natal

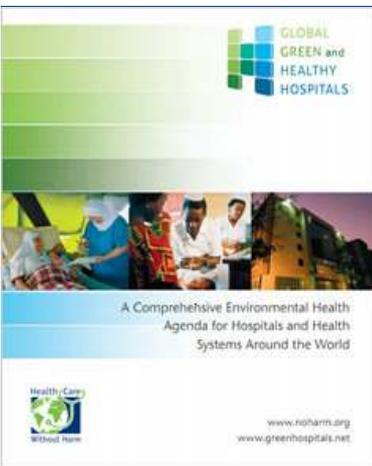


For more information, and to register contact: globalclimate@hcwh.org



Durban Health Sector CALL TO ACTION

- Educate and engage
- Mitigate and Adapt
- Local and National Advocacy
- Global Advocacy



Global Green and Healthy Hospitals initiative:

- Network of over 2,500 hospitals from five continents
- global framework for hospitals and healthcare systems to promote greater sustainability and environmental health in the health care sector, strengthening health systems globally and contribute to improved public health
- TEN Goals: Leadership, Chemicals, Waste, Energy , Water, Transportation, Food, Pharmaceuticals, Buildings, Purchasing

Hospital in Action: E.g. New Karolinska Solna Hospital, Sweden



- (for 2015), 800 beds; cost 1.3 billion EUR
- Innovative elements: aim for ZERO carbon emissions: all construction, operational material to be energy efficient; energy from renewable source - district heating (biomass), cooling by sea-water; indoor air quality - environmentally sustainable constructing materials and products, life-cycle approach
- Designed to meet three main environmental certifications: ISO 14001, US LEED, EU Green Building code

Hospital in Action: E.g. Barts and The London NHS Trust (BLT)



- 750,000 patients/year; 8000 staff
- Innovative elements: Board-Level sign-up to Strategy, Green Travel Plan, Sustainability; Carbon reduction target 10% by April 2011 (2007) baseline
- Invested in over 10 initiatives: insulation, lighting, power optimisation, air conditioning repairs, boiler house repairs/refurbishments, ...
- Total investments £1.2M
- Total annual monetary savings £800K
- Total annual CO2 savings 5898tonnes
- 2011: reduction of 43% on 2007 baseline



Key messages

Actions for Health Care Sector

- Prompt decision-makers and sector to **Act NOW**: the sooner action is taken to reduce emissions the better for health
- Strengthen collaboration, **advocacy, mobilization, education** -> Rio+20, COP 18, EU, other...
- Ensure **health co-benefits included** in national and international climate policy cost-benefit assessments, debates and outcomes
- Improve exchange and sharing of **good practice, expertise and strategies on mitigation and adaptation** -> join the GGHH initiative



Thank you for listening

HCWH www.noharm.org

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