

144th session of the WHO Executive Board (24 January - 1 February 2019)

Agenda Item:

5.6 Health, environment and climate change

Statement:

PSI appreciates the opportunity to address the EB on this item of discussion.

We consider the Draft global strategy on health, environment and climate change as well thought out and timely.

Without prejudice to the paper's wide ranging grasp of the existential problem of climate change, we are of the view that its sense of urgency will be enriched with reference to the findings of the The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report special report on "Global Warming of 1.5C"

We share the view that "the current situation and the challenges ahead call for a transformation in the way we manage our environment with respect to health and well-being." This requires the global strategy to integrate the harnessing of culture, especially of indigenous people, which contribute to humankind's striking sustainable balance with nature.

Building the case for adequate funding allocation requires rigorous evidence-based assessment as the draft global strategy avers. However, funding of action on environmental health and climate change will equally have to take into consideration inequalities in wealth across regions.

The principle of social and generational justice would also require that countries and companies contributing to global warming pay their fair share of taking action to mitigate climate change.

PSI urges member states to fully support the draft global strategy and its textual strengthening towards World health assembly 72.