



World Health  
Organization



République  
Gabonaise



United Nations  
Environment Programme

**First Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Conference in Africa**  
**Health Security through Healthy Environments**

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**ADVANCE COPY**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**29 August 2008**

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To countries:

Countries should within the next two to three years:

A. Establish a health-and-environment strategic alliance to influence sectoral policies for sustainable development that impact on the existing investment framework and resource allocation criteria, and that lead to tangible outcomes and mutual benefits in the short-, medium- and long-terms;

B. Develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks, including a set of indicators to monitor country progress and programme performance;

C. Implement the following priority actions;

1. Undertake a systematic process of assessing, updating and mainstreaming health and environmental policies and actions into national development plans;
2. Adopt and apply the 'three ones' principle (one coordination mechanism, one national strategic plan and one monitoring-and-evaluation framework) to issues related to health and environment linkages;
3. Strengthen the coordination of relevant activities being carried out by various levels of government, especially municipalities, the private sector and civil society;
4. Develop intersectoral activities for the mitigation of health effects of environmental risks;
5. Periodically assess national institutional capacity for the efficient management of health-and-environment challenges;
6. Monitor and evaluate country performance, especially on the enforcement of existing environment and health policies and laws;
7. Establish mechanisms for the identification and monitoring of new and emerging environmental threats and ensure their inclusion in emergency preparedness and response plans;
8. Ensure that national focal points for conventions and international agreements form a component part of national intersectoral coordination mechanisms;

9. Promote inter-country collaboration;
10. Increase joint health-and-environment community education and communication activities, including integration into school curricula;
11. Strengthen national and regional institutional and professional capacities on assessment and management of risks entailed by economic and development processes;
12. Incorporate harmonized health-and-environment impact assessments and responses into development projects;
13. Coordinate scientific and technical reviews by health-and-environment experts to define priorities and identify knowledge gaps;
14. Support applied research on health-and-environment linkages, particularly at the local level, and ensure dissemination of results.

To partners:

1. WHO and UNEP should provide coordinated guidance and technical support to countries especially to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate national action plans in support of the health-and-environment strategic alliance;
2. Civil society organizations and the private sector should participate in the planning and implementation of national action plans in support of the health-and-environment strategic alliance;
3. The African Union, regional economic communities, United Nations organizations, development banks and donors should endorse and promote the health-and-environment strategic alliance;
4. The above partners should aim to mobilize the necessary technical and financial resources for effective implementation of national action plans so as to promote the mutual interests and benefits of health and environment in support of sustainable development.

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