WHO briefs for parliamentarians

**BAQ 2023**

*Ambition to Action: Clean air for health and the climate*

Dr Akeem Ali, Head, WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health
15 November 2023, Manila
WHO briefs for parliamentarians on realizing the co-benefits of action on climate and the environment

Purpose: To inform parliamentarians about the health co-benefits from addressing climate change and environmental issues

Expectations:
• Immediate action
• Long-term vision
• Community focus

How you can contribute:
• Engagement: actively participate in discussions and initiatives focusing on climate change, environment, and health
• Collaboration: work together with stakeholders to implement cross-sectoral strategies that address these interconnected challenges
• Communication: share and disseminate the information within your networks to broaden impact
WHO briefs for parliamentarians on realizing the co-benefits of action on climate and the environment

WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health has launched a new series of briefs for Parliamentarians on the co-benefits of action on climate change and the environment.

Briefs are available on topics such as:

• Air pollution
• Chemical safety
• Climate change
• Climate-resilient and environmentally Sustainable Primary Health care facilities
• Water, sanitation and hygiene in healthcare facilities
WHO briefs for parliamentarians on realizing the co-benefits of action on climate and the environment

QR code for Parliamentary Briefs

Each brief includes:

• Talking points
• Concrete actions
• Examples of co-benefits including cost saving and improved health outcomes
• Win-wins for other sectors and economic progress
WHO parliamentary brief - Air Pollution

FIVE BENEFITS FOR HEALTH

1. Improved outdoor air quality - reducing the current 1.6 million deaths per year in the Western Pacific.
2. Improved household air quality – reducing the 475,000 deaths per year in the Western Pacific.
3. Reduced incidence of stroke, heart disease, chronic and acute respiratory diseases, lung cancer, low birth weight and stillbirths.
4. Reduced health inequities and effect on social determinants of health.
5. Increased physical activity.

FIVE “WIN-WINS” FOR OTHER SECTORS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS

1. Reduce emissions associated with household solid fuel combustion.
2. Reduce emissions from fossil fuel consumption and other sources of outdoor pollution.
3. Contribute to sustainable development, including poverty alleviation and social and economic outcomes for women and girls.
4. Improve energy efficiency and access to clean energy.
5. Reduce economic costs – health costs of air pollution are estimated to absorb 7.4% of global GDP.

OTHER SECTORS THAT MAY BE INVOLVED

- Environment
- Planning
- Industry
- Waste
- Transport
- Finance
- Energy
- Housing
- Agriculture
- Forestry

BAQ 2023
15–17 Nov, Manila
WHO parliamentary brief - Air Pollution

Key reasons for immediate action:
• 2 million deaths in the Western Pacific in 2019 from ambient and household air pollution
• 99% of the global population breathe air exceeding WHO limits
• Many air pollutants contribute to climate change

Lawmaking:
• Be informed about legal frameworks for AQ
• Advocate for legislation aligning with WHO guidelines and interventions supporting clean energy transition

Budgeting:
• Prioritize activities with potential health co-benefits
• Redirect funds from polluting subsidies to clean energy incentives

Representation and Leadership:
• Understand and communicate the health risks of air pollution to constituents
• Promote govt leadership in energy efficiency
• Engage in regional and global dialogues on AQ

Oversight and accountability:
• Ensure governance mechanisms to mitigate industry manipulation (e.g. creation of anti-corruption agencies)
• Mandate responsible entities to provide updates to parliament

Actions for parliamentarians to consider