

Ref.: C.L.19.2025

Baseline assessment survey on air quality actions to protect health

The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and has the honour to inform them of the progress made with regard to the updated road map for an enhanced global response to the adverse health effects of air pollution adopted by the Director-General at the 156th session of the Executive Board in January 2025.¹ The updated road map included provisions on expanding the knowledge base, measuring progress, institutional capacity-strengthening, leadership and coordination. It also proposes a voluntary target to address the health impacts of air pollution from 2025 to 2030, to progress towards the achievement of 2021 WHO Air Quality Guidelines (AQG) and their interim targets for particulate matter.

WHO would also like to recall resolution WHA68.8 (2015),² urging Member States to contribute to the collection and utilization of data relevant to the health outcomes of air quality, and to ensure that health concerns are integrated into relevant policy processes.

WHO would also like to report on the success of the Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health (c.f. C.L.46.2024) which took place in Cartagena, Colombia at the end of March 2025.³ As part of the conference, Member States were invited to pledge to achieve a 50% reduction in the health risks from anthropogenic air pollution by 2040 as well as to commit to key actions to achieve that target. WHO invites Member States still considering joining the pledge and committing to other concrete actions for clean air and better health to do so by filling the form at: <https://breathelife2030.org/commit-clean-air/>.

In order to better understand where Member States stand in their journey to the attainment of the voluntary target, as well as the 2021 WHO Air Quality Guidelines and their interim targets for selected pollutants,⁴ **WHO is hereby inviting Member States to participate in a survey to assess air pollution action from the health and other sectors.** Please note that this survey is the first step towards a joint monitoring framework by the United Nations system, namely WHO, the World Meteorological Organization, and the United Nations Environment Programme, while

¹ https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB156/B156_24-en.pdf.

² Resolution WHA68.8 “Health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution”, (http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA68/A68_R8-en.pdf).

³ <https://web.cvent.com/event/61ed4b57-38c5-4b6a-8560-7f0e56ce1d27/summary>.

⁴ World Health Organization. (2021). WHO global air quality guidelines: particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide. World Health Organization. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345329>.

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exploring the inclusion of others relevant entities. The results of this survey will lead to a better understanding of where Member States are, so as to inform how the United Nations system can improve advice and guidance on managing the health consequence associated with air pollution.

Member States are invited to disseminate the survey within the Ministry of Health and/or relevant governmental bodies, such as meteorological, environmental, energy, education or industry agencies. Multiple entries per country are allowed and will be reconciled. The responses to the questionnaire will be compiled in aggregated form and analysed by WHO. The deadline for submitting the completed online questionnaire is **31 July 2025**. The assessment survey is accessible here in its English version at:

<https://extranet.who.int/dataformv6/index.php/332797?lang=en>

Questions and comments on the survey can be sent to Mr Abraham Mwaura, Project Officer, HQ/Air Quality, Energy and Health at airpollution@who.int. Upon request, translations of the assessment survey in Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian are also available in a digital format (PDF).

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 16 June 2025