



Governing for health in a changing climate: Working together for impact

Marisol YGLESIAS GONZALEZ,
Technical Officer Climate Change Adaptation and Health

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WHO and climate change: Why governance matters?

- Mandate of WHO: “...the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health”
- Climate change is a health crisis
- Governance is the backbone for coordinated, multisectoral action
- Support through the European Environment and Health Process (EHP) and its Task Force (EHTF)



Increase in annual mean temperature



Changing rainfall patterns



More intense and frequent natural disasters

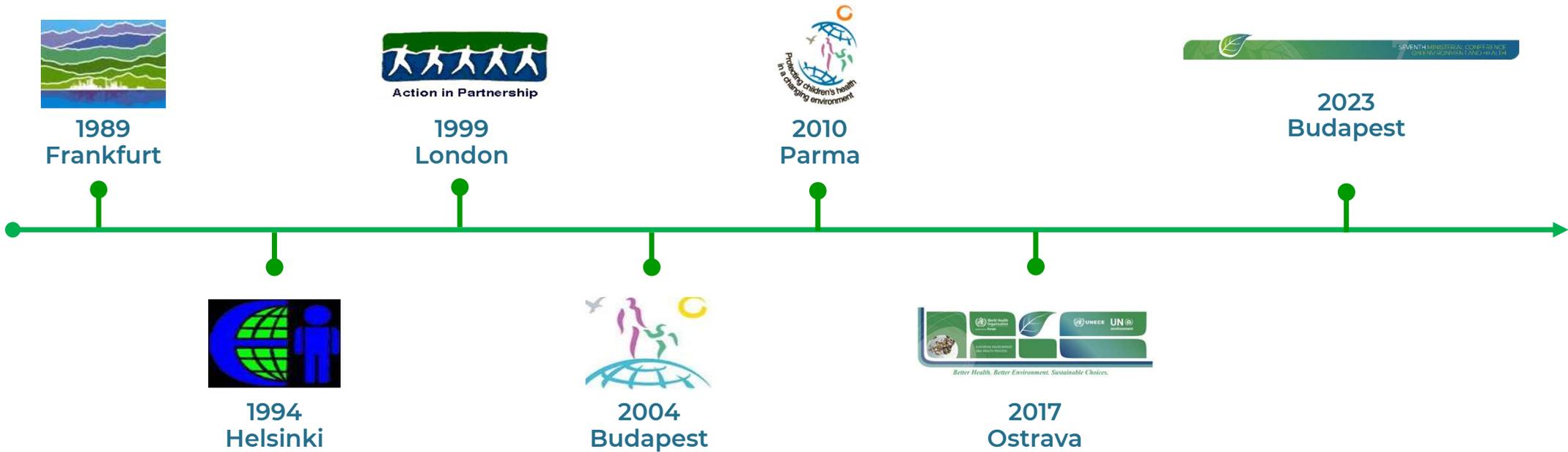


Droughts and desertification



Increase in glacier melt

A slow but steady policy evolution



A slow but steady policy evolution



The ***Declaration of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health: Budapest, Hungary 5–7 July 2023 (Budapest Declaration)*** (11) commits governments to urgently act on climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Pledges include protecting health through mitigation and adaptation measures, promoting just transitions, reducing environmental health inequalities and integrating environmental sustainability into health systems and policies.

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly Resolution *Climate change and health* (12) from 2024, calls on Member States to strengthen climate-resilient and sustainable health systems, integrate health in climate action and climate in health policy, reduce health sector emissions and mobilize finance. It also requests that WHO develop a results-based Global action plan aligned with the Paris Agreement (13), embed climate across all technical work and support countries through capacity-building, technical guidance and advocacy.

The GAP (4) from 2025 is structured around three action areas: i) leadership, coordination and advocacy; ii) evidence and monitoring; and iii) country-level action and capacity-building. It sets global targets for integrating health into climate agendas, creating robust evidence and building climate-resilient, low-carbon health systems. The GAP emphasizes equity, One Health and multisectoral collaboration, with tailored actions for Member States, WHO and stakeholders.

These are echoed in the *COP28 UAE Declaration on climate and health* (14), signed at 28th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference by 144 countries, including many from the European Region, which recognizes the urgent need for climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems.



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT
AND HEALTH PROCESS

WELCOME

**TO THE SEVENTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH**

ACCELERATING ACTION FOR HEALTHIER PEOPLE, A THRIVING PLANET, A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

5-7 JULY 2023 Budapest, HUNGARY

Budapest Declaration: outline

Declaration

- ✓ Preamble
- ✓ Our commitments
- ✓ Promoting partnerships for joint action

Annex 1

“Roadmap for Healthier People, a Thriving Planet and a Sustainable Future 2023–2030”
(commitments and accelerators)

Annex 2

EHP Partnerships Terms of Reference



Offers a set of actions Member States can implement to reduce the health consequences posed by climate change, environmental pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Proposes steps to strengthen governance, cross-sectoral cooperation, human resources, knowledge and research.

Establishes the “EHP Partnerships” as a new, voluntary and flexible mechanism to accelerate uptake of new approaches, promote peer-to-peer support, share knowledge and experiences, provide a platform for communities of practice and increase opportunities for “twinning”.

What it entails for governance?

- A commitment to integrate health across climate policy.
- A blueprint for health systems with governance that aligns procurement, infrastructure, workforce and service delivery with resilience and decarbonization goals.
- Launch of the EHP Partnerships
- A practical Roadmap 2023–2030: from governance reforms and financing options to human resources, knowledge and tools



Key messages from meeting “Strengthening health sector governance for climate action”

- Institutionalize climate and health inside the health sector
- Make the case with data to unlock financing and policy support.
- Make cross-sectoral collaboration routine – not exceptional



Conclusion

- **Momentum is growing**, but must be sustained.
- The **Pan-European Commission on Climate and Health** will deliver a high-level *call to action* to policymakers by mid-2026.
- The upcoming **WHO European Programme of Work 2026–2030** reinforces climate-health as a core priority.
- Together with platforms like the **EHP Partnership**, these efforts are shaping the leadership and tools needed for **climate-resilient, low-carbon health systems**.





World Health
Organization
European Region

European Centre for
Environment and Health
Bonn, Germany

THANK YOU!

 euceh@who.int

 WHO_Europe #ECEHBonn

 WHOEurope

 WHOEurope

 WHOEurope

Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn, Germany

@gehapromo - stock.adobe.com

Success factors and indicators

- Political momentum from Frankfurt to Budapest to COP28.
- 53 Member States committed to the Budapest Declaration
- 11 Member States have joined the EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action
- 21 Member States have a National Heat-Health Adaptation Plan
- More to come with...
 - the upcoming 2025 Health and Climate Change Global Survey in which 38 countries have participate
 - The Global Programme of Work
 - Monitoring framework for the Budapest Declaration (policy action)

