

A World Health Assembly Resolution on Health and Climate Change

31 August, 2023

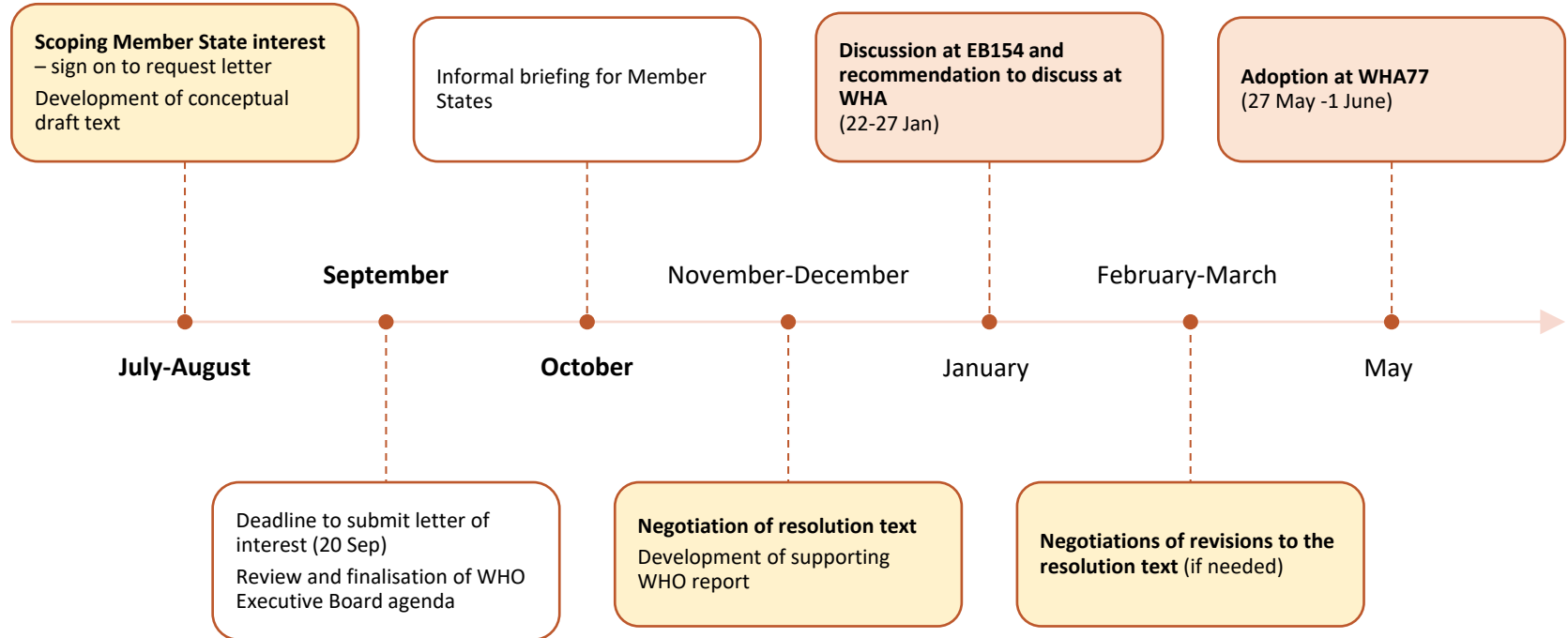
Background

- Why now?
 - The last resolution on climate change and health was in 2008 - impacts have progressed - and understanding of intersections has increased
 - Early indications of interest and support from some Member States from mid-2022
 - Increasing momentum on health in the UNFCCC space - opportunity to match with attention to climate in the WHA space
- Informal and open group of NGOs, academic organisations, and funders coordinating since August 2022 on what should be reflected in the resolution and outreach to Member States

Current status

- Netherlands announced intention to take forward resolution at WHA77, is leading on the development of an initial concept note
- Expressions of interest / support from Member States including Malawi, Maldives, Kenya, UK, Germany, Bangladesh, Canada, Brazil, Guyana, Namibia
- Concept note developed with input from interested civil society organisations, group is growing in size, more are welcome

Anticipated timeline



Emerging priorities, gaps and possible tensions

- Likely strong focus on low-carbon and resilient health systems - WHO has been focussed on this
- Need emissions reductions (mitigation) and increased resilience (adaptation) across sectors - not seeing this come through as prominently
 - The effects that are seen in the health sector are primarily dependent on actions taken in other sectors - clean air, physical activity, nutrition security, safe shelter
 - 95% of emissions are generated from outside the health sector - absolutely need crosssectoral engagement and health in all policies
- Likely tensions around fossil fuel phase out, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities (CBDR-RC)

Actions proposed for WHO

- Quantify the health impacts of climate change
- Support Ministries of Health to engage for healthy climate decisionmaking across sectors
- Support Member States to build health systems which are resilient to climate change and also sustainable
- Support Member States to understand the role of health in UN climate negotiation
- Report regularly on progress made in health and climate action

Actions proposed for Member States

- Develop national climate change and health strategies that include emissions reductions and adaptation measures across sectors
- Coordinate between government departments
- Health case for just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy
- Develop climate resilient and sustainable health systems
- Consult with civil society, local and Indigenous communities - especially those who are most impacted, and who have knowledge of solutions

Ways to engage

- Mailing list and monthly calls - please email jess.beagley@climateandhealthalliance.org to be added
- Sign on welcome, have just integrated a round of comments and will re-circulate to the mailing list early in September
- Please do share comments on the concept note - it will be updated again later this year