



საქართველოს შრომის, ჯანმრთელობის
და სოციალური დაცვის მინისტრი
**MINISTER OF LABOUR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA**



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№ 01/29443

18 / May / 2018

Mr. Genon K. Jensen
Executive Director
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

Dear Dr. Jensen,

I would like to express our gratitude for sharing your concern on clean air in the European Region and for provided information related to the engagement of health sector in the activities to decrease health impact of polluted air in Europe.

Strategic priority on the health impacts of climate and environmental change, aimed at reducing the estimated 12.6 million deaths each year from environmental risks, through the WHO support for implementation of the public health response to environmental and climate change, provision of evidence-based policy options and advocacy, effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations, professional groups and other organizations.

The analysis shows that 23% of global deaths (and 26% of deaths among children under five) are due to modifiable environmental factors. Stroke, ischemic heart disease, diarrhea and cancers head the list. People in low-income countries bear the greatest disease burden.

The environment influences the health of people in many ways – through exposure to various physical, chemical and biological risk factors such as unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and hygiene, outdoor and indoor air pollution, lead, climate change, chemicals, urban environment, UV and ionizing radiation.

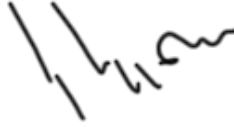
According to the WHO estimates (2012) **21% of the overall disease burden** and **25% of all deaths in Georgia** are attributable to environmental risk factors. Non-communicable diseases comprise the largest share among the total global burden in Georgia and are caused 94% of all deaths. In terms of the number of years of life lost (YLLs) due to premature death in Georgia, ischemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, and COPD are the highest ranking causes. In terms of DALYs in Georgia, dietary risks, high systolic blood pressure, and high body-mass index are the leading risk factors. Assessment of the health impacts of climate and environmental change and management of the health related risks are the objectives of the National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP) of Georgia, development of which is conducted by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia with technical assistance of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health Bonn office.

The EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA) is part of a new generation of Association Agreements with Eastern Partnership countries and is a concrete way to activate the potential of EU-Georgian relations, focusing on support to core reforms, on economic recovery and growth, governance and sector cooperation. According to the AA, in 2015, National Action Plan (NAP) for fulfilment of AA corresponds to commitments in the field of Health, Environment and Climate Change. Therefore, Georgia fully supports WHO to fulfil global efforts to promote healthy environments through well-established, cost-effective interventions, namely development of comprehensive global strategy on health, environment and climate change.

Looking forward to our future mutually beneficial cooperation.

Sincerely,

Minister

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Sergeenko', is positioned between the 'Minister' text and the 'David Sergeenko' text.

David Sergeenko