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**First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health:
Improving Air Quality, Combatting Climate Change – Saving Lives,
30 October–1 November 2018, WHO headquarters, Geneva**

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to invite them to the First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health: *Improving Air Quality, Combatting Climate Change – Saving Lives*. The conference will take place at WHO headquarters, Geneva from 30 October to 1 November 2018.

The conference is organized in collaboration with UN Environment, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Over 90% of the world's population lives in settings exceeding WHO Air Quality limits, and 7 million unacceptable annual deaths are linked to polluted air, while solutions exist that would reduce polluting emissions from transport, energy, waste, housing and industrial sectors.

The conference will bring together global, national and local partners to share knowledge and mobilize action for cleaner air and better health globally. New evidence on health impacts of air pollution; methods of monitoring pollution and health exposures; and tools for assessing and implementing effective interventions will be presented. The discussions will focus on interventions that improve air quality, slow climate change and promote health, and action at the household, urban, national and global levels will be promoted.

The **first two days** of the conference will present **evidence, gaps and solutions**, and will be targeted at practitioners and other technical and political representatives from the health sector and sectors relevant to the discourse. The **third day** will be a **high-level action day** which will highlight several outcomes, including a **plan of action** and an **overall goal** to reduce the 7 million deaths per year due to air pollution, which would contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 3, 7, 11 and 13. The objectives of the high-level action day will be to agree on a concise **outcome document** and on next steps for scaling up action to combat air pollution and climate change.

Interpretation will be provided in the six official languages.

Member States are requested to nominate up to two ministerial representatives. In the event that the Minister is not able to attend, it is strongly encouraged that these nominations be at the highest possible level. Considering the theme of the Conference, it would be appreciated to have at least one nominee from the health sector. Participation from other relevant sectors such as environment, energy and transport is also welcome. The name(s) of the delegate(s) nominated

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should be sent by email to aphconference@who.int by 27 July 2018. Upon receipt of the nominations, WHO will send instructions on the registration.

To facilitate a wider participation in the meeting, and in accordance with resolution WHA50.1, special consideration will be given to delegates from countries which are classified as “least developed countries” by the United Nations. Depending on the availability of funds, every effort will be made by the organizing partners to cover economy class air travel to Geneva by the most economical route as well as accommodation for the duration of the Conference for one delegate per least developed country. Member States who wish to ask for travel support should send an email to aphconference@who.int by no later than 27 July 2018, including a copy of the letter from their Government indicating the name, affiliation and contact details of the participant to be supported.

The participation of Member States is essential to the successful outcome of this important event.

The documentation for the conference, including a conference brochure, programme structure, provisional agenda, policy briefs, as well as organizational arrangements will be posted at www.who.int/airpollution/events/conference/en/ in due course.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 1 June 2018