



**Oral statement by EuroHealthNet at the 67<sup>th</sup> session of WHO Regional Committee for Europe on the outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health”  
(agenda item 5b)**

Our living patterns in Europe must change radically as they are damaging global ecosystems, depleting our natural resources and generating pollution at a wide scale. The negative effects of our sedentary lifestyles, overconsumption of processed foods, and stressful way of living can also be seen in the rising levels of non-communicable diseases. The link between health equity, environment and our way of living is clear.

EuroHealthNet welcomes the Ostrava Declaration and calls for specific actions across Europe to enhance the conditions for more healthier and sustainable living patterns. The WHO should also find ways to mitigate climate change as well as improve health, across sectors. In addition to green health systems, we must ensure adequate green spaces, good conditions for active travel, and energy efficient housing. For food consumption we need to work with producers along food chains. Effective policy and regulations remain essential to change unhealthy, unsustainable approaches used by industries to produce and promote their products.

At the same time, the WHO and member states need to step up action in a world where innovation, information and technology are moving fast. For example, much can be done to implement the circular economy to also achieve positive health equity impacts. The WHO can guide and lead on this and how commercial determinants of health can be addressed.

Improving health literacy is key to enable people to make healthy choices. But it must go hand-in-hand with sustainability literacy. For example, improved literacy about how our food is produced can stimulate better food choices bringing multiple local and global benefits.

EuroHealthNet and its member institutions are building evidence to inspire policies for sustainable moving, consuming and living, through a major EU initiatives called INHERIT. We congratulate WHO on the outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. We are ready to work in cooperation with Member States and WHO Europe to help achieve these common goals.