

## Statement

### **Panel 1: Tackling the determinants of noncommunicable diseases and mental health and well-being through multisectoral and effective governance and collaborative action;**

The EnvMed Network is a nonprofit organization engaged in establishing Environmental Medicine, focusing on the chemical etiology of diseases.

Given the increasing amount of harmful chemicals in the environment and the growing scientific evidence of correlations with chronic diseases, we are committed to reduce environmental exposures, promoting research into health links and treatments, better aligning medical care with these findings, and facilitating patient access to analysis.

In 2019, exposure to selected chemicals resulted in an estimated 2 million deaths and 53 million disability-adjusted life years lost, with a disproportionate impact on populations in vulnerable situations, especially children, pregnant women, and communities in low- and middle-income countries. The exposure to these chemicals is usually unintentional.

The latest calculation of the burden of disease is considered an underestimation due to limited data and scientific evidence on the health impacts of many chemicals. A significant portion of these deaths were attributed to lead exposure and related cardiovascular diseases. Adding in new data and data on other chemicals, the burden of disease will likely be comparable to air pollution and smoking.

Within the EU, more than 1.8 million children are born annually with methylmercury exposures above the adjusted safety limit and a recent analysis estimated the costs of the burden of disease attributable to endocrine-disrupting chemicals at €157 billion a year.

We have advocated for chemical exposure to be recognized in this resolution and encourage UN Delegations to commit to the inclusion of hazardous chemicals as a risk factor for NCDs by 2030 at the latest.

In the European Union (EU), 282 million tons of industrial chemicals were produced in 2017. Of these, 75% were hazardous to health.

Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments should commit to reduce harm from chemicals by promoting effective interventions to address chemicals or groups of chemicals of public health concern, such as lead, mercury, cadmium and highly hazardous pesticides, and to protect children's environmental health;

The Global Framework on Chemicals, for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste, for a safe, healthy and sustainable future, encourages the transition to safer chemical alternatives, responsible management in sectors like industry, agriculture, and healthcare, and improved transparency and access to information about chemicals and associated risks.

Everyone on this planet should be able to live and work without fear of falling sick or dying from chemical exposure.