

Statement by

THE PLANETARY ASSOCIATION FOR CLEAN ENERGY

High-Level Segment of the Substantive Session

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The 2009 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR)

on

Current global and national trends

and their impact on

social development, including public health

from 6 to 9 July 2009

at the Palais des Nations, Geneva

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I speak on behalf of the *Planetary Association for Clean Energy*

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There are serious public health concerns about the consequences to physical and mental human health from exposure both at home, at work and in many public places to man-made sources of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from devices such as mobile phones, Wi-Fi / WiMAX / Bluetooth, routers, antenna sites, broadcast towers and high-voltage power lines and grids.

There is a need to establish whether there is a link between wireless technologies and modification of DNA in humans, animals or plants, accelerated population aging, Alzheimer's, psycho-social behavioural problems, neurodegenerative diseases, fertility and reproduction problems, immune systems disorders, insomnia and electro-hypersensitivity and between the use of mobile phones and certain types of cancer, including brain, auditory nerve, and parotid gland tumours. Other impacts include: acceleration of corrosion of strategic infrastructures, for example of buildings, bridges, pipelines and nuclear power stations.

We call on the World Health Organisation to publish the results from the Interphone study that has been awaited since 2006 and benefited from an exemplary protocol and from the involvement of no less than 12 countries. As the wireless technologies have evolved since 1998 there is a need for an independent secretariat mechanism for the interdisciplinary determination of

the health consequences on the general population of these wireless technologies and for a major investigation to be carried out into the biological effects on human, animal and plant organisms. Such an investigation and resulting report requires the need for a fair representation of all stakeholders involved, for transparency and effective oversight in order to assess the scientific integrity to help forestall possible conflicts of interests or fraud in the research sector.

Until these studies have been carried out, we would like to see the application of the *Precautionary Principle* in nurseries, schools, colleges, universities and other public places frequented by children, teenagers and in public areas such as libraries, hospitals, public transport and playgrounds. In Luxembourg the Government has opted to apply the precautionary principle and their population is protected almost 14 times more securely from electromagnetic fields than other European citizens.

In the light of continuously evolving wireless technologies and the findings of new medical studies we encourage solutions based on dialogue and negotiations involving UN agencies like World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), as well as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other UN agencies, governments, industry stakeholders, NGOs, consumer and residents associations. Industry stakeholders can already influence certain factors, for example the distance between a given site and the transmitters, the height of the site in relation to the height of the base station, or the direction of a transmitting antenna in relation to living environments in order to better protect the people and also the animals living close to such facilities. For example, the Austrian authorities have installed base stations above ground level so as to enable the emission frequency to be shared more equally.

While there is no doubt that many wireless devices have brought improvements to quality of life the continuing uncertainties about possible health risks and scientific studies to date have raised concerns that the public is not sufficiently protected from the adverse physical and mental health effects of these technologies.

Thank you, Mr. Chair

Presented by **Vita de Waal**,
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