



SHEM STATEMENT FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

The Sustainable Health Equity Movement salutes the 193 Member States of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). We recognize UNEA as the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment and its unique role in setting priorities for global environmental policies, international environmental law, and leadership for intergovernmental action.

We respectfully direct this message to offer a reflection and a proposal for action in the wake of the pandemics and the world recovery of this tragedy that had revealed the intricate interconnections of all sectors and the importance to act together on the environmental, health, and social determinants of health to avoid or mitigate the similar crisis in the future.

SHEM represents approximately twenty (20) million public health professionals, doctors, and nurses in the frontlines of this pandemic, scientists from the all-knowledge areas, as well as representatives of grassroots movements and advocacy groups that participate in more than 200 global, regional, and national public health and healthcare professional organizations, as well as academies of science and medicine, and grassroots organizations from around the world.

On behalf of SHEM membership, we respectfully offer the following reflections for UNEA 5:

Examine and adopt a resolution on the most pressing issues regarding the intertwined causes of environmental justice, social exclusion, and health inequities revealed during the pandemic. We considered of relevance that UNEA 5 launch a call for concerted and effective action by the member states to promote changes to avoid the existing systemic discrimination and promote a better and healthy physical and social environment for all, protecting nature and people's global public goods.

Recommend to the UN Secretary-General to hold a High-Level Meeting on "Complex-determination and an integral and collaborative response to the COVID-19 syndemic", during UNGA 77, recognize that COVID-19 is best characterized as a syndemic, meaning a synergy of several diseases with social and environmental macro-processes which requires multiple, multisectoral, and transformative measures in a whole-of-government/whole-of-society approach

Given the urgent need to roll back the catastrophic global warming, and the absence of reference in the SDG 2030 Agenda and COP-NDC commitments, we call for the dynamic analysis and guidance on the threshold of carbon emissions *per capita* globally, and the dissemination of such "ethical threshold" to help change production and consumption patterns contributing to progressive and catastrophic global warming. The SHEM and its wide membership with its wide scope scientific, academic, professional and advocacy grassroots base, volunteers to support in the analysis, the means to measure and the dissemination of the above.

We offer our cooperation and collaboration from our secretariat and of the SHEM's network to work with the UNEA and UNEP secretariat and the member states on the further elaboration and implementation of any suitable proposition to be taken before the UNEA political and strategic plan of action.