



**ESMO Statement  
for the  
WHO Executive Board Meeting  
22 January – 27 January 2024**

**Agenda item 22: Climate change, pollution and health**

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology, representing more than 35,000 cancer professionals from 172 countries, welcomes the Director-General's report on the 'Impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health'.

As medical oncologists, preventing cancer by improving air quality is a key concern for us. Scientific evidence - presented at ESMO Congresses in 2022 and 2023 – clearly demonstrates links between [air pollution and lung cancer in non-smokers](#) as well as between [air pollution and the incidence of breast cancer](#).

Therefore, we urge the Member States to legislate to align their air quality standards with the WHO's recommendations, in particular the annual limit value for fine particulate matter, and significantly reduce the incidence of the aforementioned cancers.

Thank you.