



## EFPIA White Paper on Climate Change

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### Executive Summary

The pharmaceutical industry is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of patients while operating sustainably and therefore wants to contribute to a healthy environment and demonstrate leadership in doing what's necessary to prevent climate disruption.

The driving motivation of the pharmaceutical industry is to improve human health and wellbeing. We all need to ensure that the impact of climate change on health is better understood so that we can form and execute our response by understanding the interface between people, health and the environment. We are committed to contribute responsibly to progress in regard to science-based CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction targets.

This White Paper highlights the commitment made by the EFPIA companies to:

- Establish climate change policies/strategies based on materiality and impact for individual companies;
- Develop actions that support science-based CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction targets;
- Contribute to increased energy efficiency and aim to use more energy from renewable sources;
- Strive to harmonize GHG reporting based on recognized calculation methodologies and publicly disclose CO<sub>2</sub>e performance.

## 1. Climate Change: An Overview

Since 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), has regularly published reports and papers which indicate that climate change is increasingly impacting the earth's physical, biological and human systems.

In addition, the World Health Organization documented the fact that this change has the potential to affect human health in a number of ways, including, but not limited to; altering the geographic range and seasonality of certain infectious diseases, disturbing food-producing ecosystems, sea level rise and increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes.

At the United Nations' **Climate Change Conference (COP21)** in Paris in December 2015, 195 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – pledged to curb emissions, strengthen resilience, and joined forces to take common climate action and reached the Paris Agreement.

Following the adoption of this agreement United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said government representatives made history "...the Paris Agreement is a monumental triumph for people and our planet".

The agreement covers all the crucial areas identified as essential for a landmark conclusion:

- Mitigation - reducing emissions fast enough to achieve the temperature goal (i.e. limit global temperature rise below 2°C compared to the pre-industrial level).
- A transparency system and global stock-take – accounting for climate action
- Adaptation – strengthening ability of countries to deal with climate impacts
- Loss and damage – strengthening ability to recover from climate impacts
- Support - including finance, for nations to build clean, resilient futures
- Ability to strengthen further, if required (i.e. consideration to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C)

EFPIA welcomes the agreement reached at the COP21 meeting.

## 2. Why Do We Care About Climate Change?

The pharmaceutical industry is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of patients while operating sustainably and therefore wants to contribute to a healthy environment and demonstrate leadership in doing what's necessary to prevent climate disruption.

The driving motivation of the pharmaceutical industry is to improve human health and wellbeing. We all need to ensure that the impact of climate change on health is better understood so that we can form and execute our response by understanding the interface between people, health and the environment.

The pharmaceutical industry is generally considered a medium-impact sector (FTSE4Good) with regard to CO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>1</sup> emissions and EFPIA member companies, research driven pharmaceutical companies, do typically not belong to the high energy consuming companies. Nevertheless, we are committed to contribute responsibly to progress in regard to CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction targets.

### 3. Approach

Our industry encourages appropriate use of a risk based approach to environmental challenges and undertakes initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility by supporting:

- The principles in UN Global Compact regarding climate;
- United Nations' Sustainability Development Goal 13, aiming for urgent action to be taken to combat climate change and its impacts;
- The Paris Climate Accord approved at COP21 by supporting the long-term goal to hold the increase in global average temperatures well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C;
- Adoption of a global framework (based on COP21) to address CO<sub>2</sub>e challenges under which all major emitting countries are committed to emission reduction goals.

### 4. Commitment

Towards that end, EFPIA member companies are committed to:

- Establish climate change policies/strategies based on materiality and impact for individual companies;
- Develop actions that support science-based CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction targets;
- Contribute to increased energy efficiency and aim to use energy from renewable sources;
- Strive to harmonize GHG reporting based on recognized calculation methodologies and publicly disclose CO<sub>2</sub>e performance.

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<sup>1</sup> CO<sub>2</sub>e includes all greenhouse gases as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

## 5. Partnering

To make the above commitment even stronger EFPIA will partner with stakeholders to ensure that:

- Public policies are clear and stable, allow for flexible and predictable approaches to achieve emission reduction targets;
- Public policies address the links between climate change, water scarcity and public health risks;
- The broader healthcare community is engaged in developing future climate policies.