# Tackling climate change

- a new task for the health sector

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#### How Much More Warming Can We Expect? 2090s: A1B (medium) emissions scenario



#### 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5



Source: IPCC, Fourth Assessment Report, 2007

#### **Global carbon dioxide emissions overshoot**

Total CO2 emissions from fossil-fuels (million metric tons of C)



(Adapted from Marland et al., 2007)

### **Climate policy: lessons from tobacco control**



Source: Nilsson M, Beaglehole R, Sauerborn R. Climate policy: lessons from tobacco control, *Lancet* 2009; **374**: 1955-56



# "Climate change is the greatest global health threat of the 21<sup>st</sup> century"

#### **UCL Lancet Commission**





#### Source: Adapted from Patz et al. 2000

#### **Cartogram: Emissions of greenhouse gases**



Countries scaled according to cumulative emissions in billion tonnes carbon equivalent in 2002. Source: Patz, Gibbs, et al, 2007

#### Cartogram: Health impacts of climate change



WHO regions scaled according to estimated mortality (per million people) in the year 2000, attributable to the climate change that occurred from 1970s to 2000.

Source: Patz, Gibbs, et al, 2007: based on McMichael et al 2004











# Mitigation and Adaptation

Managing the Unavoidable

# Health co-benefits of mitigation

- Household energy
- Urban transport
- Electricity generation



# Why should the health sector care?

- Health systems are a source of GHG emissions
- Have appropriate skills
- Are role models
- To engage is aligned with promoting health
- To protect human health



# Policy – at all levels

 broad **International level**  structured UNFCCC, WHO, EU, Intl. org • continuos National level Governments, authorities Foundations, funds NGO:s, networks etc Control Treaties, Research & development legislation, and methods and techniques, and action educate and inform, report programs influence public opinion systems **Regional/local level** 

Regional and local governance systems, NGO:s, health systems, unions, employers, citizens Programs for

mitigation and

adaptation

# Strategies from the health sector

- Stress co benefits on health from mitigation
- Reach over professional and disciplinary boundries
- Reduce emissions from the health sector
- The health perspective motivation for change





#### **Thanks for your attention!**

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