



Til: Ærede Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Generalsekretær i De Forente Nasjoner (UN)
Ærede Dr. Margaret Chan, Generaldirektør i Verdens Helseorganisasjon (WHO)
De Forente Nasjoners medlemsstater

Internasjonal appell: Forskere oppfordrer til beskyttelse mot eksponering fra ikke-ioniserende elektromagnetiske felt

Vi er forskere engasjert i studiet av biologiske og helsemessige effekter av ikke-ioniserende elektromagnetiske felt (EMF). Basert på fagfellevurdert publisert forskning, er vi alvorlig bekymret for den allestedsnærværende og økende eksponering for EMF generert av elektriske og trådløse enheter. Disse inkluderer, men er ikke begrenset til apparater som sender ut radiofrekvent (RF) stråling, som for eksempel mobiltelefoner, trådløse telefoner og deres basestasjoner, Wi-Fi, antenner for kringkasting, automatiske strømmålere, og baby-monitorer, samt elektrisk utstyr og infrastruktur som brukes til levering av strøm, og som genererer ekstremt lavfrekvente elektromagnetiske felt (ELF EMF).

Det vitenskapelige grunnlaget for våre felles bekymringer

En lang rekke nyere vitenskapelige publikasjoner har vist at EMF påvirker levende organismer ved nivåer langt under de fleste internasjonale og nasjonale retningslinjer. Effektene omfatter økt kreftrisiko, cellulært stress, økning i mengden med skadelige frie radikaler, genetiske skader, strukturelle og funksjonelle endringer i reproduksjonssystemet, lærings- og hukommelsessvikt, nevrologiske lidelser, og negative effekter på menneskers generelle trivsel. Skadene er heller ikke begrenset til mennesker, da vårt kunnskapsgrunnlag i økende grad viser skadevirkninger også for plante- og dyrelivet.

Disse funnene rettferdiggjør vår appell til De forente nasjoner (FN) og alle FNs medlemsstater om å oppfordre Verdens helseorganisasjon (WHO) til å utøve sterkt lederskap når det gjelder å fremme utviklingen av mer beskyttende EMF-retningslinjer, oppfordre til skadeforebyggende tiltak, og lære folk flest om helserisikoen, - særlig risiko for barn og fosterutvikling. Ved ikke å handle, unnlater WHO å oppfylle sin rolle som verdens ledende folkehelseorgan.

Utilstrekkelige internasjonale retningslinjer for ikke-ioniserende EMF

De ulike organene som setter sikkerhetsstandarder har ikke klart å innføre nødvendige retningslinjer for å beskytte allmennheten, særlig barn som er mer sårbare for virkningene av

EMF.

Den internasjonale kommisjonen for beskyttelse mot ikke-ioniserende stråling (ICNIRP) utga i 1998 "Retningslinjer for å begrense eksponeringen fra variable elektriske, magnetiske og elektromagnetiske felt (opptil 300 GHz)"¹. Disse retningslinjene følges av WHO og en rekke land rundt om i verden. WHO oppfordrer alle nasjoner til å følge de internasjonale retningslinjene for å fremme internasjonal harmonisering av standarder. I 2009 sendte ICNIRP ut en uttalelse der de stadfester sine retningslinjer fra 1998, fordi den vitenskapelige litteratur publisert etter dette tidspunkt etter deres mening "ikke har gitt holdepunkter for skadevirkninger ved eksponering under de grunnleggende restriksjonene, og derfor ikke gir grunnlag for en umiddelbar revisjon av retningslinjene for begrensnig av eksponering for høyfrekvente elektromagnetiske felt."² ICNIRP står fortsatt ved denne påstanden, selv om det vitenskapelige kunnskapsgrunnlaget i stadig større grad viser det motsatte. Fordi de internasjonale retningslinjene ikke dekker langtids eksponering og lavintensitetseffekter, er det vår oppfatning at de er utilstrekkelige for å beskytte folkehelsen.

WHO tok i 2002 i bruk klassifiseringen fra International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) om ekstremt lavfrekvente elektromagnetiske felt (ELF EMF)³. Klassifiseringen av radiofrekvent stråling (RFR) ble tatt i bruk i 2011⁴. Klassifiseringen sier at EMF er *mulig kreftfremkallende for mennesker (gruppe 2B)*. Til tross for IARCs konklusjoner, fortsetter WHO å hevde at det ikke er tilstrekkelig kunnskapsgrunnlag til å rettferdiggjøre en reduksjon av de kvantitative eksponeringsgrensene.

Siden det er uenighet om en begrunnelse for å sette standarder for å unngå negative helseeffekter, anbefaler vi at FNs miljøprogram (UNEP) innkaller til, og finansierer en uavhengig tverrfaglig komité for å vurdere fordeler og ulemper ved alternativer til dagens praksis som i vesentlig grad vil kunne redusere menneskelig eksponering for RF- og ELF-felt. Drøftingene i komitéen bør gjennomføres i full åpenhet og på en upartisk måte. Selv om det er viktig at industrien deltar og samarbeider i denne prosessen, må industrien ikke få anledning til på en utilbørlig måte å påvirke arbeidet eller komitéens konklusjoner. Komitéen bør avlevere sine vurderinger til FN og WHO, som grunnlag for skadeforebyggende tiltak.

I fellesskap ber vi også be om at:

1. barn og gravide kvinner beskyttes;
2. retningslinjer og regulatoriske standarder styrkes;
3. produsenter blir oppfordret til å utvikle sikrere teknologi;
4. virksomheter med ansvar for produksjon, overføring, distribusjon og overvåking av elektrisitet opprettholder nødvendig strømkvalitet, og benytter et ledningsnett som minimaliserer skadelig jordingsstrøm;
5. befolkningen blir informert om den potensielle helserisikoen fra elektromagnetisk energi og forklart hvordan det er mulig å begrense skade;

1 <http://www.icnirp.org/cms/upload/publications/ICNIRPemfgdl.pdf>

2 www.icnirp.org/documents/StatementEMF.pdf

3 <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol80/>

4 <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol102/>

6. medisinske fagfolk blir informert om de biologiske effektene av elektromagnetisk energi og får opplæring i behandling av eloverfølsomme pasienter;
7. myndighetene finansierer opplæring og forskning på elektromagnetiske felt og helse uavhengig av bransjeinteresser, og legger til rette for samarbeid mellom industrien og forskere;
8. media tydeliggjør ekspertenes finansielle relasjoner med industrien når de videreformidler ekspertenes syn på helse- og sikkerhetsaspekter ved EMF-produserende teknologibruk; og
9. etablerer hvite soner (strålingsfrie områder).

Oversendelsesdato: 11. mai 2015

Henvendelser kan rettes til Elizabeth Kelley, MA, Director of EMFscientist.org, på info@emfscientist.org.

Merk: Underskriverne på denne appellen har signert som enkeltpersoner og oppgitt sin arbeidsrelaterte tilknytning, men dette betyr ikke nødvendigvis at arbeidsgiverne eller de faglige organisasjoner underskriverne er tilknyttet, deler synspunktene i appellen.



**To: His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations
Honorable Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization
U.N. Member States**

International Appeal: Scientists call for Protection from Non-ionizing Electromagnetic Field Exposure

We are scientists engaged in the study of biological and health effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields (EMF). Based upon peer-reviewed, published research, we have serious concerns regarding the ubiquitous and increasing exposure to EMF generated by electric and wireless devices. These include—but are not limited to—radiofrequency radiation (RFR) emitting devices, such as cellular and cordless phones and their base stations, Wi-Fi, broadcast antennas, smart meters, and baby monitors as well as electric devices and infra-structures used in the delivery of electricity that generate extremely-low frequency electromagnetic field (ELF EMF).

Scientific basis for our common concerns

Numerous recent scientific publications have shown that EMF affects living organisms at levels well below most international and national guidelines. Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans. Damage goes well beyond the human race, as there is growing evidence of harmful effects to both plant and animal life.

These findings justify our appeal to the United Nations (UN) and, all member States in the world, to encourage the World Health Organization (WHO) to exert strong leadership in fostering the development of more protective EMF guidelines, encouraging precautionary measures, and educating the public about health risks, particularly risk to children and fetal development. By not taking action, the WHO is failing to fulfill its role as the preeminent international public health agency.

Inadequate non-ionizing EMF international guidelines

The various agencies setting safety standards have failed to impose sufficient guidelines to protect the general public, particularly children who are more vulnerable to the effects of EMF.

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) established in 1998 the “Guidelines For Limiting Exposure To Time-Varying Electric, Magnetic, and Electromagnetic Fields

(up to 300 GHz)¹. These guidelines are accepted by the WHO and numerous countries around the world. The WHO is calling for all nations to adopt the ICNIRP guidelines to encourage international harmonization of standards. In 2009, the ICNIRP released a statement saying that it was reaffirming its 1998 guidelines, as in their opinion, the scientific literature published since that time “has provided no evidence of any adverse effects below the basic restrictions and does not necessitate an immediate revision of its guidance on limiting exposure to high frequency electromagnetic fields². ICNIRP continues to the present day to make these assertions, in spite of growing scientific evidence to the contrary. It is our opinion that, because the ICNIRP guidelines do not cover long-term exposure and low-intensity effects, they are insufficient to protect public health.

The WHO adopted the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classification of extremely low frequency electromagnetic field (ELF EMF) in 2002³ and radiofrequency radiation (RFR) in 2011⁴. This classification states that EMF is a *possible human carcinogen (Group 2B)*. Despite both IARC findings, the WHO continues to maintain that there is insufficient evidence to justify lowering these quantitative exposure limits.

Since there is controversy about a rationale for setting standards to avoid adverse health effects, we recommend that the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) convene and fund an independent multidisciplinary committee to explore the pros and cons of alternatives to current practices that could substantially lower human exposures to RF and ELF fields. The deliberations of this group should be conducted in a transparent and impartial way. Although it is essential that industry be involved and cooperate in this process, industry should not be allowed to bias its processes or conclusions. This group should provide their analysis to the UN and the WHO to guide precautionary action.

Collectively we also request that:

1. children and pregnant women be protected;
2. guidelines and regulatory standards be strengthened;
3. manufacturers be encouraged to develop safer technology;
4. utilities responsible for the generation, transmission, distribution, and monitoring of electricity maintain adequate power quality and ensure proper electrical wiring to minimize harmful ground current;
5. the public be fully informed about the potential health risks from electromagnetic energy and taught harm reduction strategies;
6. medical professionals be educated about the biological effects of electromagnetic energy and be provided training on treatment of patients with electromagnetic sensitivity;
7. governments fund training and research on electromagnetic fields and health that is independent of industry and mandate industry cooperation with researchers;
8. media disclose experts' financial relationships with industry when citing their opinions regarding health and safety aspects of EMF-emitting technologies; and
9. white-zones (radiation-free areas) be established.

¹ <http://www.icnirp.org/cms/upload/publications/ICNIRPemfgdl.pdf>

² <http://www.icnirp.org/cms/upload/publications/ICNIRPStatementEMF.pdf>

³ <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol80>

⁴ <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol102/>

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All inquiries, including those from qualified scientists who request that their name be added to the Appeal, may be made by contacting Elizabeth Kelley, M.A., Director, EMFscientist.org, at info@EMFscientist.org.

Note: the signatories to this appeal have signed as individuals, giving their professional affiliations, but this does not necessarily mean that this represents the views of their employers or the professional organizations they are affiliated with.

Updated May 22, 2015

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