## ITU Workshop on "Human Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)"

Lima, Peru, 10 December 2013

## RF and Health: A WHO Perspective

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Radiation Programme
World Health Organization

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### **OUTLINE**

- Introduction
- Assessing the health risk
- Managing the potential risk
- Conclusions









Assembly adopts a resolution to

to all the world's children.

create the Expanded Programme on

Immunization to bring basic vaccines

WHO worked for 30 years to eliminate onchocerclasis - or river blindness – from West Africa, 600 000 cases of blindness have been prevented and 18 million children spared from the disease. Thousands of farmers have been able to reclaim 25 million hectares of fertile river land that had been abandoned because of the risk

WASHINGTON **REGION OF** 

THE AMERICAS



treated him more than 25 years ago. All has since worked on polio endication campaigns.

COPENHAGEN

**EASTERN** 

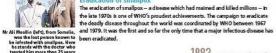
REGION

BRAZZAVILLE AFRICAN REGION

MEDITERRANEAN

HO Headquarters

**EUROPEAN REGION** 



Regional office 
 Country office

NEW DE

SOUTH EAST

ASIA REGION

1983 Institut Pasteur (France)

### Tobacco Control

PEOPLE

Switzerland.

Last but not least, WHO is people. Over 8000 public health experts including doctors, epidemiologists, scientists, managers, administrators and other professionals from all over the world work for WHO in 147

country offices, six regional offices

and at the headquarters in Geneva,

21 May 2003 was a historic day for global public health. After nearly four years of intense negotiations, the World Health Assembly unanimously adopted WHO's first global public health treaty. The treaty is designed to reduce tobacco-related deaths

and disease around the world.

2004 Adoption of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and

Identifies HIV.

2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome 2005 World Health Assembly revises the

MANILA

REGION

WESTERN PACIFIC

Eradication Initiative established

Since its launch in 1988, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has reduced the number of cases of polio by more than 99% – from more than 350 000 per year to 1956 in 2006. Spearheaded by national governments, WHO, Rotary nternational, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF, it has immunized more than two billion children THE GOAL IS TO ERADICATE POLIO WORLDWIDE SO THAT NO CHILD WILL EVER AGAIN BE PARALYZED BY THIS DISEASE.

### 1974 Onchocerciasis control programmme



952 Dr Jonas Salk (US) develops 1967 South African surgeon the first successful polio vaccine. Christiaan Barnard conducts the

One of the first diseases to claim WHO's attention was yaws, a crippling and disfiguring disease that afflicted some 50 million people in 1950. The global yaws control programme, fully operational between 1952-1964, used long-acting penicillin to treat yaws with one single injection. By 1965, the control programme had examined 300 million people in 46 countries and reduced global disease prevalence by more than 95%.

1977 The first Essential Medicines List appeared in 1977, two years after the World Health Assembly introduced the concents of "essential drugs" and "national drug policy". 156 countries today have a national list of essential medicines.



1978 The International Conference on Primary Health Care, In Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan sets the historic goal of "Health for All" - to









Global

(SARS) first recognized and then controlled. International Health Regulations

which WHO continues to thanks to the mobilization of more than 20 million volunteers and health workers. As a result, five million children are today walking, who would otherwise have been paralysed, and more than 1.5 million childhood deaths have been averted.



When diplomats met in San Francisco to form the 0 United Nations in 1945, one of the things they discussed was setting up a global

health organization. WHO's Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948 - a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day.

WHO took over the responsibility for the

International Classification of Disease (ICD), which dates back to the 1850s and was first known as the International List of Causes of Death. The ICD is used to classify diseases and other health problems and has become the international standard used for clinical and epidemiological purposes.



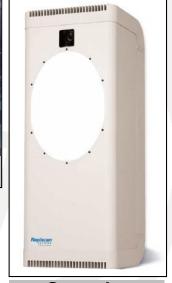
### Radio Frequency Fields (100 kHz - 300 GHz)

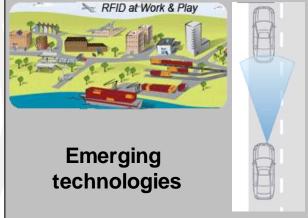














Security scanners

Daily Mail 24 October 2002 Page 43

### Mobiles 'boost cancer'

Radiation may make tumours

use are still unclear.

The biggest British study, led by Sir William Stewart two years ago, could find no evidence of a risk to health. But Sir William still recommended a precautionary approach, particularly in children.

The World Health Organisation has called for more research and has urged people to limit mobile use.

Now Italian scientists believe they could be closer to the truth.

Cancer develops when control signals in a normal cell go wrong and an abnormal cell results. Instead of destroying itself the mutant cell keeps on dividing and forms a lump or tumour.

The results of the Italian study support the belief of some scientists who say radiation can damage DNA and destroy the cell repair system - making tumours more deadly. Dr Peter de Pomerai of the



### Stop Smart Meters!

Fighting for health, privacy, and safety



Donate

FAQ

Why Stop Smart Meters?

Actions You Can Take

Direct Action

The Science

Protest "Opt Out" Fees

Defend Your Analog Meter

Sample Letter to Utility

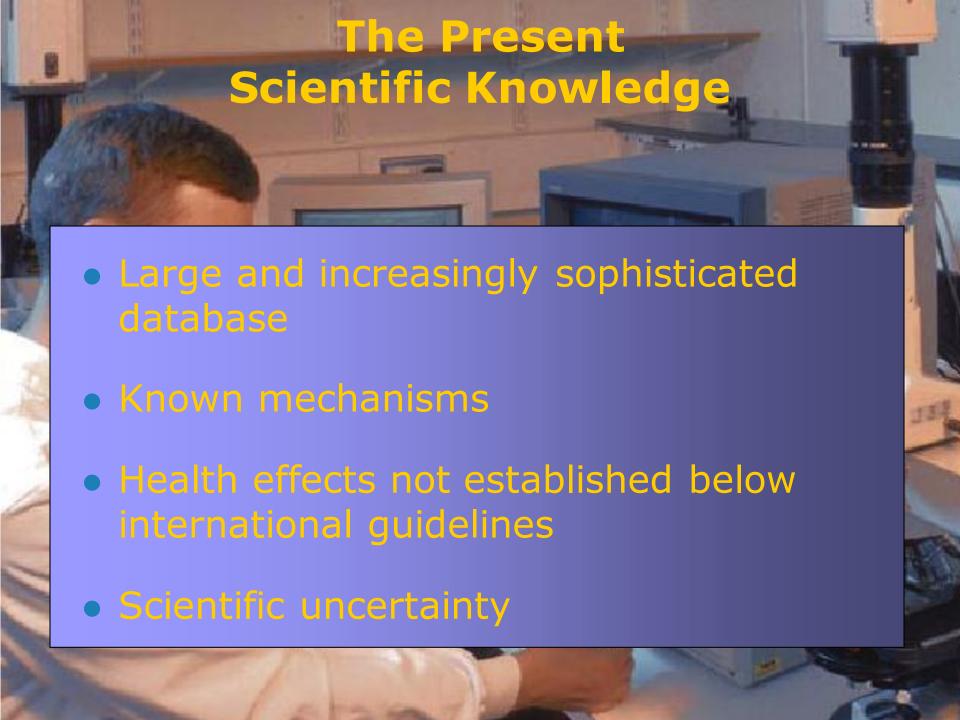
SSM Bulletins

Press Releases

Local Contacts

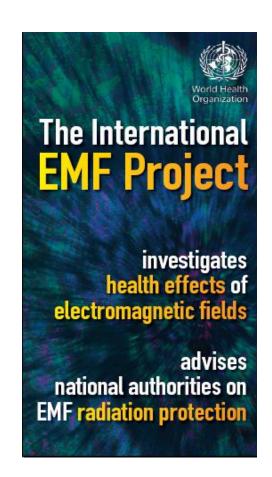
Links

Order/ Download Flyers

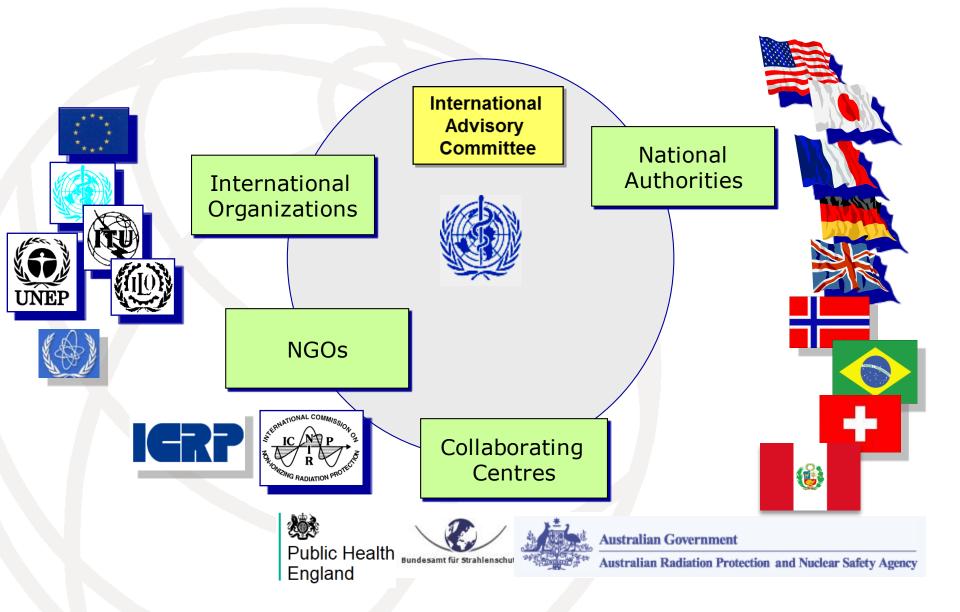


### WHO International EMF Project

- Established in 1996
- Coordinated by WHO HQ
- A multinational, multidisciplinary effort to create and disseminate information on human health risk from EMF



### **WHO Partners in Radiation**



## mHealth an ITU/WHO initiative





tatistics	Media centre	Publications	Countries	Programmes and p	orojects	
Q,					Search	
Media centre						

### ITU and WHO launch mHealth initiative to combat noncommunicable diseases

Plan to save lives and reduce costs agreed at ITU Telecom World 2012

Joint ITU/WHO news release

17 OCTOBER 2012 | DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and WHO today launched a new partnership called the 'mHealth' Initiative to use mobile technology, in particular text messaging and apps, to help combat noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases and chronic respiratory diseases.

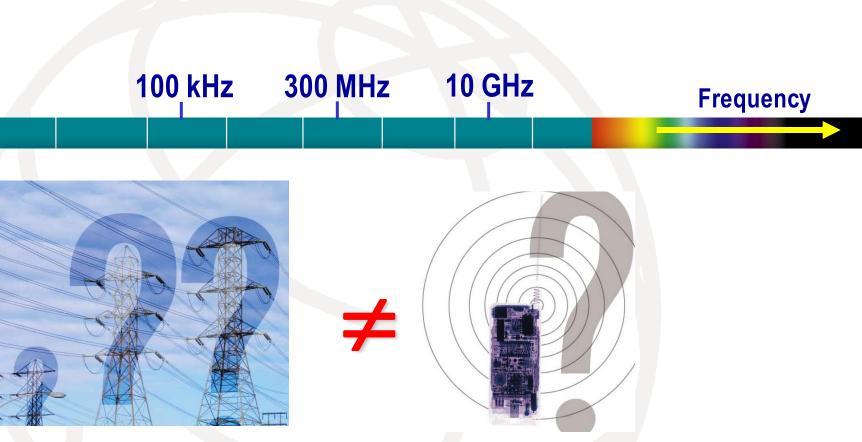
### Do EMFs pose a heath risk?



### **OUTLINE**

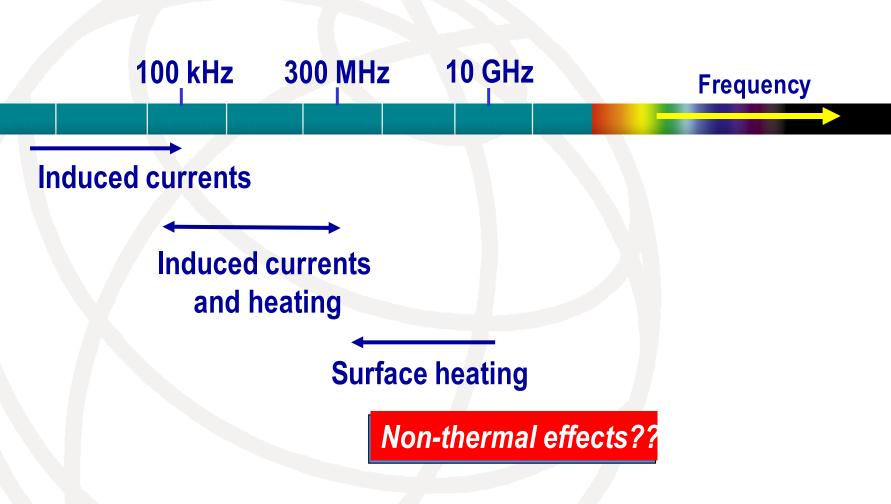
- Introduction
- Assessing the health risk

### What do we know?



### What do we know?

Mechanisms of interaction



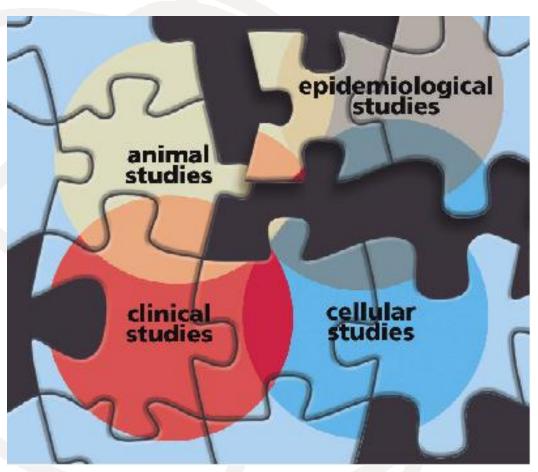
## What type of research is needed?

### RF Research Agenda



- To promote research areas that have relevance to public health, and can
  - reduce scientific uncertainties: health effects research
  - respond to public concern through better risk communication: social science research
- Useful to researchers and funding agencies
- Uptake of the latest agenda in several countries

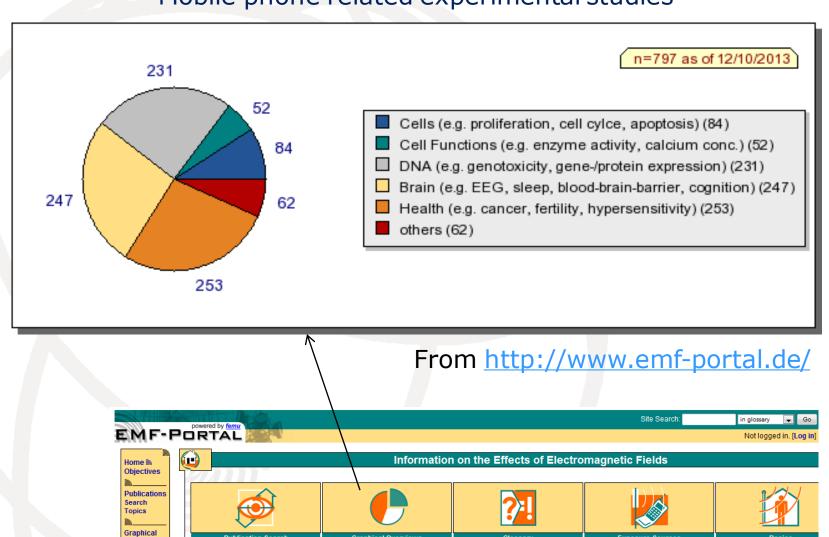
### **Research**Balance of studies needed



http://www.niehs.nih.gov/emfrapid/booklet/emf2002.pdf

### **Laboratory Studies**

Mobile phone related experimental studies



Overviews

### **Laboratory Studies**

- Cellular studies
  - Genotoxicity
  - Gene expression
- Animal studies
  - Cancer
  - Behaviour
  - BBB
  - Skin
- Human studies
  - Sleep
  - ◆ EEG
  - Hormones
  - EHS



### **Short-term effects**

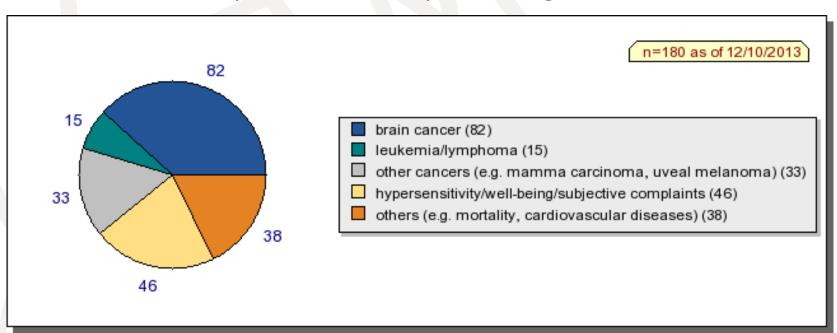
(WHO fact sheet 193, June 2011)

- To date, research does not suggest any consistent evidence of adverse health effects from exposure to RF fields at levels below those that cause tissue heating.
- Research has not been able to provide support for a causal relationship between exposure to EMF and self-reported symptoms, or "electromagnetic hypersensitivity".

### **Epidemiological studies**

Studies on mobile phones

### Mobile phone related epidemiological studies



From <a href="http://www.emf-portal.de/">http://www.emf-portal.de/</a>

## Epidemiological studies Studies on mobile phones

- Tumours in head and neck
  - Glioma, meningioma, acoustic neuroma, parotid gland



- Over 20 studies on the use of mobile phones
  - Published: USA, Nordic countries, INTERPHONE, CEFALO
  - Ongoing: MOBI-Kids, COSMOS

### **INTERPHONE** study

(published 18 May 2010)

Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the International Epidemiological Association © The Author 2010; all rights reserved.

International Journal of Epidemiology 2010;1–20 doi:10.1093/ije/dyq079

## Brain tumour risk in relation to mobile telephone use: results of the INTERPHONE international case—control study

The INTERPHONE Study Group\*

Corresponding author. Elisabeth Cardis; CREAL, Doctor Aiguader 88, \*List of members of this study group is available in the Appendix.

Accepted 8 March 2010

### Cases:

- 2,765 gliomas
- 2,425 meningiomas
- 1,121 acoustic neuroma
- 109 malignant parotid gland

### Controls:

**→** 7,658

### **Long-term effects**

(WHO fact sheet 193, June 2011)

- No increased risk of glioma, meningioma or acoustic neuroma with mobile phone use of more than 10 years
- Indications of increased risk of glioma for heavy users
  - Biases and errors prevent a causal interpretation
- No available data for long-term use (15-20 years)
- Studies on children ongoing
  - No causal relationship seen in CEFALO study (July 2011)





### Centro de prensa

### Campos electromagnéticos y salud pública: teléfonos móviles

Nota descriptiva N°193 Junio de 2011

### Datos y cifras

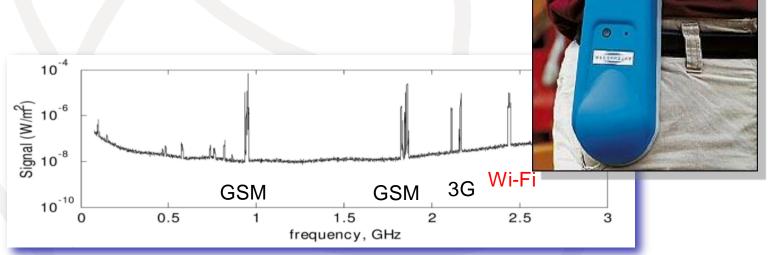
- El uso de teléfonos móviles se ha universalizado: en el mundo hay unos 4600 millones de contratos de telefonía móvil.
- El Centro Internacional de Investigaciones sobre el Cáncer ha clasificado los campos electromagnéticos producidos por los teléfonos móviles como posiblemente carcinógenos para los seres humanos.
- Hay estudios en curso para analizar más a fondo los posibles efectos a largo plazo del uso de los teléfonos móviles.
- En 2012, la OMS realizará una evaluación formal de los riesgos a partir de todos los resultados de salud estudiados en relación con campos de radiofrecuencias

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs193/es/index.html

### **Epidemiological studies**

Base stations and wireless networks

- Wi-Fi
- Some studies have been performed
  - Well-being and performance
  - Cancer
- Difficulty of personal exposure assess



Kenneth R. Foster, *Radiofrequency exposure from wireless LANs utilizing WI-FI technology*. Health Phys. 92(3):280–289; 2007





### Campos electromagneticos (CEM)

### Los campos electromagnéticos y la salud pública

Estaciones de base y tecnologías inalámbricas

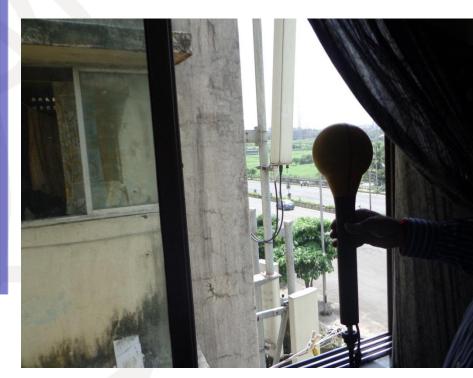
Nota descriptiva N°304 Mayo 2006

### Conclusiones

Teniendo en cuenta los muy bajos niveles de exposición y los resultados de investigaciones reunidos hasta el momento, no hay ninguna prueba científica convincente de que las débiles señales de RF procedentes de las estaciones de base y de las redes inalámbricas tengan efectos adversos en la salud.

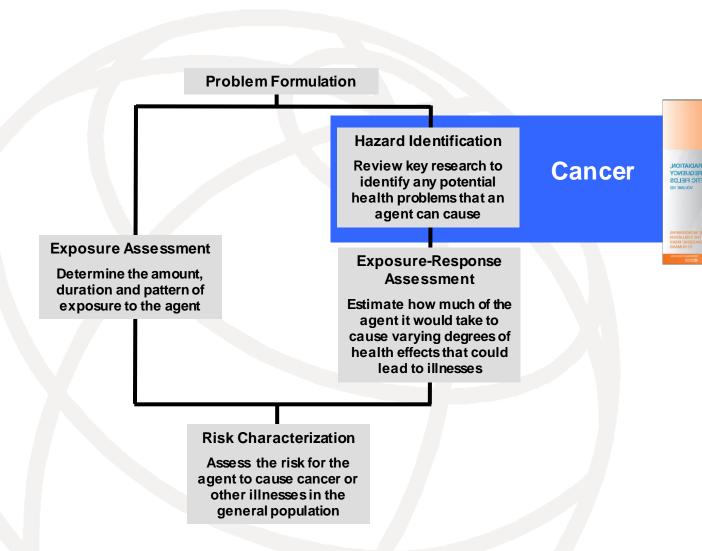
### .... subject to proper siting





# How do we evaluate the health risk from EMF?

### **Health Risk Assessment**



### Overview of the evaluation process



### Cancer in humans

Sufficient evidence
Limited evidence
Inadequate evidence
Evidence suggesting lack
of carcinogenicity

### Cancer in experimental animals

Sufficient evidence
Limited evidence
Inadequate evidence
Evidence suggesting lack
of carcinogenicity

### Mechanistic and other relevant data

- Mechanistic data "weak," "moderate," or "strong"?
- Mechanism likely to be operative in humans?

### Overall evaluation

Group 1 Carcinogenic to humans

Group 2A Probably carcinogenic to humans

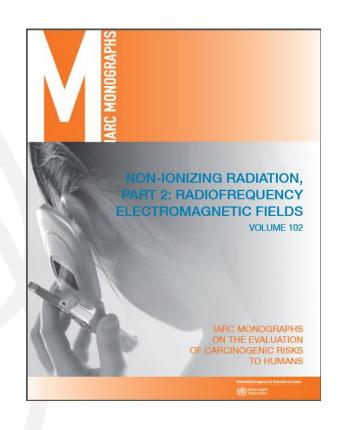
Group 2B Possibly carcinogenic to humans

Group 3 Not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans

Group 4 Probably not carcinogenic to humans

## IARC Evaluation (2013) Volume 102 - Radiofrequency Fields

- RF fields classified as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2B) based on
  - limited evidence in humans, based on positive association between glioma and acoustic neuroma and exposure to RF-EMF from wireless phones (epidemiologic studies)
  - limited evidence in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of RF-EMF
  - weak mechanistic evidence relevant to RF-EMF-induced cancer in humans

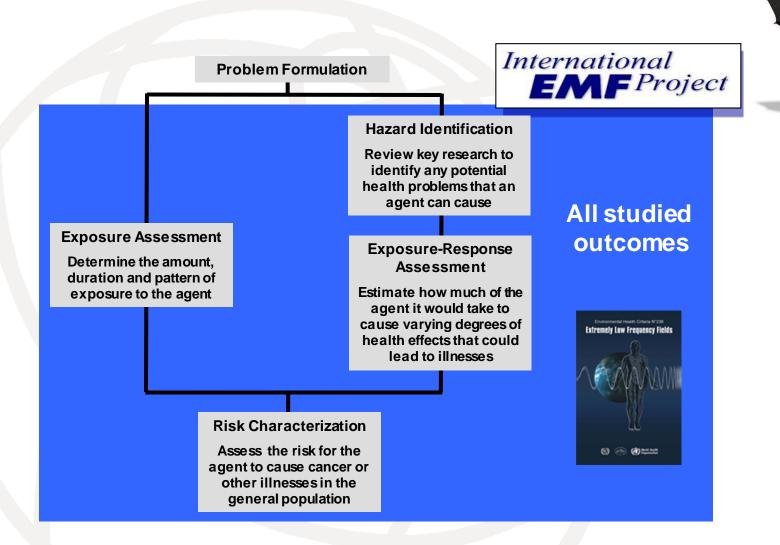


Evidence for other exposures (e.g. base stations, wifi, ...) and outcomes (other cancers) considered insufficient for any conclusion

### Agents Classified by IARC (950)

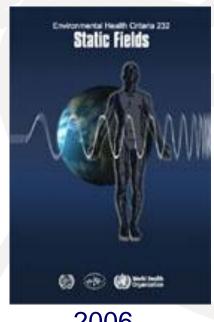
IARC Classification	Examples of Agents	
Carcinogenic to humans (107) (usually based on strong evidence of carcinogenicity in humans)	Asbestos Alcoholic beverages Benzene Mustard gas Radon gas Solar radiation Tobacco (smoked and smokeless) X-rays and Gamma	
Probably carcinogenic to humans (59) (usually based on strong evidence of carcinogenicity in animals)	Creosotes Diesel engine exhaust Formaldehyde Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	
Possibly carcinogenic to humans (267) (usually based on evidence in humans which is considered credible, but for which other explanations could not be ruled out)	RF fields Coffee Gasoline engine exhaust Pickled vegetables ELF magnetic fields Styrene	

### Health Risk Assessment (cont'd)



### **Environmental Health Criteria**

**Electromagnetic Fields** 



2006



RF fields 2014

## Scope

- Frequency range:
  - ▶ 100 kHz 300 GHz
  - Include UWB, pulses, mm-waves
- Sources:
  - RFID, EAS, mobile telephony, radar, smart meters, ...
- Health benefits not included
  - Hyperthermia, MRI, medical treatments, diathermy, RF ablation surgery
- Systematic review of scientific evidence of health risks
- Update on research recommendations
- Review of national RF policies

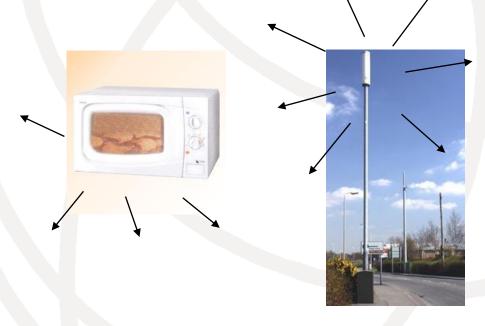
#### **OUTLINE**

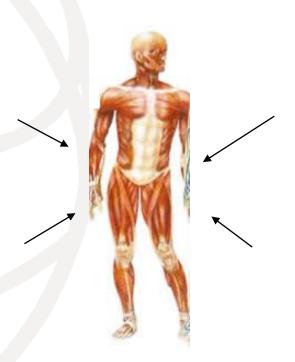
- Introduction
- Assessing the health risk
- Managing the health risk
  - Developing standards and regulations
  - Communicating the scientific knowledge

## Norms, Standards and Guidelines

Emission standards
 have specifications
 that limit the EMF
 emissions from
 devices

Exposure standards
 have specifications
 that limit EMF
 exposure to people





#### **Relevant Authorities**

Non-governmental and international organizations

- Emission standards
- Measurements standards









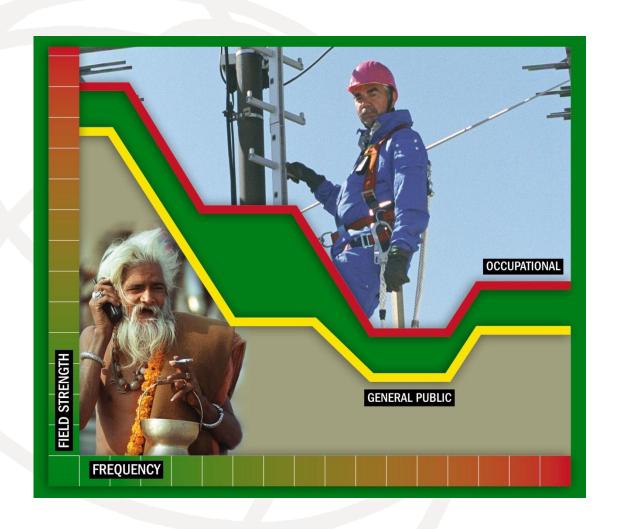
**Exposure standards** 





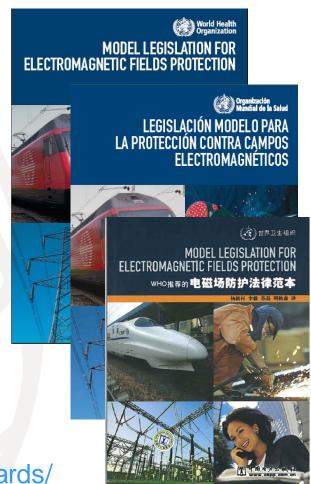


## **Reference Levels**



# **Policy documents ....**





http://www.who.int/peh-emf/standards/

Extraordinary

# National Assembly Journal

No. 62

Abuja - 17th April, 2012

Vol. 8

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Bill No.

Long Title

Page

HB. 11.12.181 A Bill for an Act to Require Statutory Bodies to Prepare and Forward To The National Assembly Through The President Annual Reports of Its Operations and Finances; and For Other Matters Connected Therewith.....

C4897 - 4905

: ПВ. 11.12.182

Bill for an Act to Provide For The Protection of Humans From & Certain Levels of Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields; and for Other Matters Therewith ..........

C4907 - 4914

## **Worldwide EMF standards**



# Survey on EMF Standards May 2013



Powered by WHO Extranet DataCol

#### Test: Electromagnetic Fields Exposure Standards

Many countries have put in place standards or limits to control exposures to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) over the frequency range from 0 Hz to 300 GHz. WHO is creating a new database of such standards and invites your assistance.

For simplicity, the term "standard" is used throughout this questionnaire and is intended to include any limit, guideline or policy that is used to control exposures to EMFs.

This questionnaire is divided into three broad frequency ranges:

- static static or DC fields
- low frequencies frequencies from 1 Hz to 100kHz, i.e. including power frequencies
- radio frequencies frequencies from 100kHz to 300 GHz, i.e. including broadcast radio and TV, mobile telephony and wireless technologies.

Please fill in as many of these frequency ranges as you are able to, leaving aside any questions that lie outside your knowledge or responsibility - we recognise that the responsibility for different frequency ranges may rest with different organisations or sections of government (e.g. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Telecommunications, Ministry of Labor, Radiation Protection Agency, ...). Feel free to forward this survey to whom it may concern in your country.

Within each frequency range, the questionnaire asks separately about standards applying to the public and to workers. For each of these divisions, the questionnaire asks about the existence of standards, their legal status, and the values at specific frequencies within each range to allow easy comparison of different standards.

The results of this survey will be made publicly available on WHO's website <a href="www.who.int/emf">www.who.int/emf</a>. If you have questions, please contact us at: emfproject@who.int

Thank you in advance for completing this survey by May 27 2013.

NOTE: The mention of actions/policies in this survey does not constitute endorsement by WHO that risks exist or that the actions are appropriate. Merely, they represent examples of actions/policies that are in effect or that have been proposed in some countries.

Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory.

#### Contact and Organization Details

Country \*

Organization name \*

act name \*



#### **Global Health Observatory Data Repository**

♠	Themes	Data Repository	Countrie	es Metadata	Help		
		_					1
		Q	Fi	nd indicator		Search	Reset search



Other export options  Exposure standards for electromagnetic fields (EMF)							
Location	Year	Standards apply ing to the public: Static fields	Standards apply ing to the public: Low frequencies	Standards apply ing to the public: Radio frequencies	Standards apply ing to workers: Static fields	Standards apply ing to workers: Low frequencies	Standards apply ing to workers: Radio frequencies
Af ghanistan	2013	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Albania	2013	No data	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Algeria	2013	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Subnational	Subnational
Andorra	2013	No data	No data	Subnational	No	No	No
Angola		No	Yes	Subnational	No	No	No
Antigua and Barbuda		No	No	No	No data	No data	No
Argentina		Yes	Subnational	Subnational	Yes	No	No
Armenia		No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Australia		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Austria		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Azerbaijan		No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No



# National management approaches

- Relevant authorities
  - National level



### DIÁRIO OFICIAL DA UNIÃO

República Federativa do Brasil

RELATOR

AGDO.(A/S)

Imprensa Nacional





Ano CXLVI Nº 84

nistra Ellen Gracie. Plenário, 22.04.2009.

PROCED. : PARANA RELATOR ORIGINARIO : MIN. GILMAR MENDES

Brasília - DF, quarta-feira, 6 de maio de 2009

AG. REG. NA AÇÃO DIRETA DE INCONSTITUCIONA-

MIN. MENEZES DIREITO

PRESIDENTE DA REPUBLICA ADVOGADO-GERAL DA UNIÃO CONGRESSO NACIONAL

vencidos a Senhora Ministra Cármen Lúcia e os Senhores Ministros Carlos Britto, Celso de Mello e o Presidente. E, no mérito, por maioria, desproveu o recurso de agravo, vencidos os Senhores Mi-

nistros Marco Aurélio, Carlos Britto e Eros Grau. Votou o Presidente, Ministro Gilmar Mendes. Ausente, justificadamente, a Senhora Mi-

EMB DECL NA AÇÃO DIRETA DE INCONSTITUCIONA.

: MIN. MENEZES DIRETTO GOVERNADOR DO ESTADO DO PARANA PGE-PR - CESAR AUGUSTO BINDER : ASSENBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO ESTADO DO

PARTIDO DA SOCIAL DEMOCRACIA BRA-SILEIRA - PSDB

AFONSO ASSIS RIBEIRO E OUTRO (A/S)

Decisão: Preliminarmente, o Tribunal, por maioria e nos termos do voto do Relator, rejeitou a admissão do amicus curiase,

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Sumário

#### Entidades de Fiscalização do Exercício das Profissões Liberais Atos do Poder Judiciário

SUPREMO TRIBUNAL FEDERAL
PLENÁRIO
DECISOES
Ação Direta de Inconstitucionalidade e

Decisio O Tribunal, por unanimidade, conheceu dos embugos. Em seguida, após o voto do relator, dando provimento aos emburgos, no que foi scompanhado pelos Senhores Ministroo Carlos Britto, Cezar Pelutos e Elles Gracio (Pesadente), e dos votos dos Senhores Ministros Memeres Directo, Carmen Licas, Ricardo Lewandowida: e Marco Aurelio, que os rejetirsum, o julgamento foi suppenso para colher o votos dos Senhores Ministros Joaquam Barbosa.

#### Atos do Poder Legislativo

LEI Nº 11.934, DE 5 DE MAIO DE 2009

Dispõe sobre limites à exposição humans a campos elétricos, magnéticos e eletromagnéticos; altera a Lei nº 4.771, de 15 de setembro de 1965; e do cutras procridências.

O PRESIDENTE DA REPÚBLICA
Faço saber que o Congresso Nacional decreta e es sanciono
a seguinte Lei:

Art. 14 Ests. Lei estabelece limites à exposição lummus a campos elètricos, magnéticos e eletromagnéticos, nasociados ao funcionamento de estações transmissoras de radiocomunicação, de terminais de umitor e de nistemas de energia elétrica nas finorios de frequências até 300 GHz (tresentos gigabertz), visando a garantir a proteção da sadde e do meio ambiente.

Parágrafo único. Estão sujeitos ás obrigações estabelecidas por esta Lei as prestadoras de serviço que se utilizarem de estações transmissoras de radiocomunicação, os formecedores de terminais de unairo comercializados no Páis e as concessionárias, permissionárias e autorizadas de serviços de esentas elétrica.

- Art. 2º Os limites estabelecidos nesta Lei referem-se à ex-
- I da população em geral aos campos elétricos, magnéticos e eletromagnéticos; e
- II de trabalhadores aos campos elétricos, magnéticos e eletromagnéticos em razlio de seu trabalho.
- Art. 3ª Para os fins desta Lei, são adotadas as seguintes definições:
- I ârea critica: área localizada até 50 (cinqüesta) metros de hospitais, clinicas, escolas, creches e asilos;
  - II campos elétricos e magnéticos: campos de energia in-

# National management approaches

- Relevant authorities
  - National level
  - Provincial level
  - Local level
    - Dispense building and planning permits
    - Direct contact with public and operators
    - May introduce further conservative measures based on politics rather than science

## **Local Authorities**

Role	Possible responsibilities
Planning authority or regulator	Protect public health Authorise siting of transmitters Establish planning rules for transmitters Approve land use near transmitters Coordinate with other stakeholders
Landowner of transmitter site	Decide whether to lease site Act as a good neighbour Use position as landowner to encourage or promote local priorities.
Network operator	Operate radio telemetry network to monitor status of local infrastructure Operate mobile radio network to communicate with staff Operate WiFi network for public use Comply with regulatory requirements
Employer	Meeting occupational health and safety responsibilities for staff working near wireless network transmitters.
Source of information	Lead public communications about health issues. Respond to questions about wireless networks







# **Management Options**

Reduce concern Research Reduce uncertainty Reduce exposure

- No action
- Communication
- Planning measures
- Engineering measures
- **Exposure limits**

## **Risk Perception and Communication**

WHO Risk Handbook



- For programme managers who need basic information on EMF risk perception, communication and management
- Available in English
- Translated into Spanish, Italian, German, French, Russian, Bulgarian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Hungarian and Japanese
- Available on the web www.who.int/emf

#### **OUTLINE**

- Introduction
- Assessing the health risk
- Managing the potential risk
- Conclusions

# Challenges to governments....

- Rapidly evolving RF technologies
- Launched on the market before health evaluation
- Disparities in risk management measures and regulations around the world
- Concern from the public

### **Conclusions**

- Need for clear roles and responsibilities in government on this topic
- Need for adoption <u>and</u> compliance of health-based standards
- Need for a public information program and dialogue with stakeholders
- Need for promoting research to reduce uncertainty

We are a "global village"

