

Climate Change and Health

Date: May 28th, 2024

Time: 18:00 – 19:20 Geneva Time

Venue: Paris meeting room, InterContinental Genève

Background

For the first time in history, the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) organizers hosted the first-ever Health Day on 3 December 2023 to reinforce the climate-related health crisis affecting at least 3.5 billion people – nearly half of the global population.

Extreme weather events not only place direct threats to human health but also disrupt the food supply and fuel the spread of infectious diseases, putting enormous pressure on health systems and workforces around the world. Therefore, a new COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health was signed by over 130 countries at the Conference. The Declaration advocates for more engagements in political and financial commitments, and concrete action to protect people from the catastrophic health impacts of the climate crisis.

Since COP26 in November 2021, health initiatives on developing climate-resilient and low-carbon sustainable health systems were anticipated to be implemented globally. Foreseeing the growing climate crisis could potentially reversing decades of progress in global health, the World Health Organization (WHO), together with global health partners, mobilized the signatures of over 40 million health professionals calling for bold health and climate action at the Conference. WHO also released an Operational framework for building climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems, as a blueprint for a future-proof and sustainable health sector in an ever-changing climate.

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Introduction

As extreme weather events tend to increase in scale, frequency and intensity, climate change has become the single biggest health threat facing humanity, which affects not only physical environment but also all aspects of both natural and human systems – including social and economic conditions and the functioning of health systems.

These weather and climate hazards affect health both directly and indirectly, increasing the risk of deaths, noncommunicable diseases, the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, and health emergencies.

According to WHO, 3.6 billion people already live in areas highly susceptible to climate change. It is estimated that from 2030 to 2050, climate change might cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from undernutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress alone. Although it is unequivocal that climate change affects human health, it remains challenging to accurately estimate the scale and impact of many climate-sensitive health risks on different diseases. As climate change aggravates health conditions, we must explore the clear connections between climate change factors and diseases. To alleviate the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, policies for addressing both climate change and public health should be aligned synergistically. Moreover, for those existing preventive measures will need to adopt new interventions or strategies to dealing those newly emerging climate-related obstacles.

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Objective

Advocate the climate change impacts on health. By sharing knowledge on connections between climate change and health, promoting policies and strategies that could mitigate the impacts, and adopting new measures/ideas for the prevention of reverse health events, such as NCDs and undernutrition.

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7-9 Chemin Du Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Registration: <https://forms.gle/MtZ7AnVEyjVSrWBV6>



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Agenda

18:00–18:05	Welcome and Introduction	Mr. Alexandre Robert Senior Manager of Health and Community Projects, Climate Action Accelerator
18:05–18:10	Opening Remarks	Hon. Tai-Yuan Chiu Minister Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan
18:10–18:20	Keynote: Climate Change and Health– How Is This Major Global Crisis of Our Time Intertwined with Human Health?	Ms. Michele Sumilas Assistant to the Administrator Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management (PLR), USAID
18:20–18:30	Let Health Be The Center of Climate Action–Framing Policies and Strategies to Improve Public Health Under Climate Crisis	Hon. Moses Jn. Baptiste Minister Ministry of Health Wellness and Elderly Affairs, St. Lucia
18:30–18:40	Climate Change, Air Quality and Health in SICA Member States	Mr. Roman Cordero Mojica Coordinator of the SE-COMISCA Project Portfolio Unit, Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)
18:40–18:50	Strengthening the Climate- Resilient Health Systems with Partner Countries- TaiwanICDF's Experience	Ms. Cathy Wang Director of Humanitarian Assistance Department, TaiwanICDF
18:50–19:00	Climate Change and Health– Impact on Nutrition and Dietary Diversity	Mr. Kallol Mukherji Digital Health Manager and Deputy of Health Program, Terre des hommes
19:00–19:15	Q&A	Panels
19:15–19:20	Closing Remarks	Amb. Dr. Charles C. Li Secretary General, TaiwanICDF