

Alliance on Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)

Summary: General Meeting (virtual)

22 October 2024, 9:00 – 11:00 and 15:00 – 17:00 CEST

Since its founding in June 2022, ATACH has brought together over 70 partners and 86 countries/areas to support the realization of national climate-health priorities and commitments. As a follow-up to the successful face-to-face meeting in Madrid in March 2024, the ATACH general virtual meeting convened ATACH members and partners to discuss the next phase and proposed new working modalities for ATACH.

The meeting featured opening remarks by the co-conveners of ATACH, including from Dr Maria Neira (WHO), Mr Chris Carter (UK/FCDO), HE Dr Hussain Al Rand and Dr Nada Al Marzooqi (UAE), and Dr Hossam Abdel Ghaffar (Egypt). Additionally, Mr Vugar Mammadov (Azerbaijan) spoke on ATACH's role as a delivery mechanism at UNFCCC COPs, including the upcoming COP29. This was followed by reflections from the leads of the five working groups on the progress made and insights for the future. Dr Eugénie Gagne (MoH Côte d'Ivoire) and Dr Carolyn Tateishi (Health Canada) presented for the "Climate Resilient Health Systems" group; Dr Snong Thongsna (MoH Lao PDR) and Ms Diana Picon Manyari (Health Care Without Harm) for the "Low-Carbon Sustainable Health Systems" group; Dr Mohammad Ferdous Rahman (WHO Bangladesh) and Mr Hiten Patel (NHS England) for the "Supply Chains" group; Dr Stephen Geoffrey Dorey for the "Sustainable Finance" group; and Dr Lawrence Haddad (Initiative on Climate and Nutrition/I-CAN) and Dr Hossam Abdel Ghaffar (Egypt) for the "Climate Action and Nutrition" group.

Elena Villalobos Prats, the ATACH Secretariat lead, provided an overview of proposed changes to ATACH's governance and operational mechanisms, which are based on its competitive advantage and objectives. As the sole initiative mandated by countries — through commitments made at the Minister of Health level, the ATACH aims to support them in identifying and operationalizing their climate change and health-related priorities. The new ATACH governance mechanism will be represented by different constituencies and its delivery mechanisms will mainly advance through ATACH Champions, task teams and technical meetings — All established to respond to country needs and priorities.

ATACH's governance and operational mechanisms are guided by its [Strategy and Theory of Change](#). The Steering Group will include representatives from six different countries, ensuring representation across WHO regions and income levels, while constituency representatives (organizations/institutions) will represent their respective constituency, including NGOs, private sector alliances, health professional associations, multinational development banks, philanthropies/foundations, academia, global climate financing mechanisms, global health financing mechanisms, UN agencies, and bilateral donors. Co-conveners are also represented in the Steering Group.

Task teams will develop concrete deliverables such as guidance, indicators, and standards to support country-level implementation. Technical meetings will facilitate the exchange of solutions, experiences or other relevant topics determined by the meeting convener to inform country work. Both modalities provide increased opportunities for partners to bring in their expertise and, compared to the previous working groups, offer greater flexibility to adapt to the rapidly evolving priorities and needs in the climate-health nexus.

The discussion centered around key questions regarding the new governance and operational structure, the role of the private sector and communities, coordination across health initiatives such as the Lusaka Agenda, UHC2030, and others, and across WHO technical teams. Participants also emphasized the need to operationalize efforts at the country level urgently. Additionally, related thematic priority areas, such as mental health, environmental determinants of health, One Health, and nutrition, were highlighted as important considerations.

As the next steps, further information, including the new ATACH Strategy and details on the proposed working modalities, will be shared. An Expression of Interest call for joining the Steering Group as a constituency representative will be launched next week. The Secretariat will also provide ATACH members with additional details on establishing and leading task teams and organizing technical meetings. These mechanisms will be implemented under specific criteria to ensure alignment with country priorities and needs, high quality, and involvement of relevant ATACH partners. The technical meetings will allow for focused discussions on specific priority areas. Improved coordination across health initiatives and WHO teams was also addressed, with the Secretariat acknowledging existing informal mechanisms and the potential to establish formal ones if necessary. Additionally, the Secretariat will explore ways to strengthen community involvement.

ATACH will continue to support countries in implementing climate change and health priorities around building climate-resilient and low-carbon sustainable health systems, and in defining and advocating for health promoting action by other sectors. This strategy will help countries accelerate their efforts, including the operationalization of their plans and strategies, to better protect and promote health in the face of climate change.