



**COP²⁸
UAE**

COP28 DECLARATION ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH





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COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health

We, on the occasion of the first Health Day at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), express our grave concern about the negative impacts of climate change on health. We stress the importance of addressing the interactions between climate change and human health and wellbeing in the context of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, as the primary international, intergovernmental fora for the global response to climate change.

We recognize the urgency of taking action on climate change, and note the benefits for health from deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including from just transitions, lower air pollution, active mobility, and shifts to sustainable healthy diets.

In this year of the first Global Stocktake, and given the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, which strained all health systems and further widened inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, we are committed to the advancement of climate-resilient development, the strengthening of health systems, and the building of resilient and thriving communities, for the benefit of present and future generations.

In order to work towards ensuring better health outcomes, including through the transformation of health systems to be climate-resilient, low-carbon, sustainable and equitable, and to better prepare communities and the most vulnerable populations for the impacts of climate change, we commit to pursuing the following common objectives:

- Strengthening the development and implementation of policies that maximize the health gains from mitigation and adaptation actions and prevent worsening health impacts from climate change, including through close partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and girls, children and youth, healthcare workers and practitioners, persons with disabilities and the populations most vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change, among others.
- Facilitating collaboration on human, animal, environment and climate health challenges, such as by implementing a One Health approach; addressing the environmental determinants of health; strengthening research on the linkages between environmental and climatic factors and antimicrobial resistance; and intensifying efforts for the early detection of zoonotic spill-overs as an effective means of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.
- Recognizing that healthy populations contribute to, and are an effect of, climate resilience and an outcome of successful adaptation across a range of sectors - including food and agriculture, water and sanitation, housing, urban planning, health care, transport and energy - by prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions across sectors that deliver positive health outcomes.
- Improving the ability of health systems to anticipate, and implement adaptation interventions against, climate-sensitive disease and health risks, including by bolstering climate-health information services, surveillance, early warning and response systems and a climate-ready health workforce.



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- Promoting a comprehensive response to address the impacts of climate change on health, including, for example, mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, loss of traditional medicinal knowledge, loss of livelihoods and culture, and climate-induced displacement and migration.
- Combating inequalities within and among countries, and pursuing policies that work towards accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG3; reduce poverty and hunger; improve health and livelihoods; strengthen social protection systems, food security and improved nutrition, access to clean sources of energy, safe drinking water, and sanitation and hygiene for all; and work to achieve universal health coverage.
- Promoting steps to curb emissions and reduce waste in the health sector, such as by assessing the greenhouse gas emissions of health systems, and developing action plans, nationally determined decarbonization targets, and procurement standards for national health systems, including supply chains.
- Strengthening trans- and inter-disciplinary research, cross-sectoral collaboration, sharing of best practices, and monitoring of progress at the climate-health nexus, including through initiatives such as the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH).

Recognizing that health actors face challenges in accessing finance for health and climate change activities, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, we underscore the need to better leverage synergies at the intersection of climate change and health to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of finance flows.

- Encouraging the scaling up of investments in climate and health from domestic budgets, multilateral development banks, multilateral climate funds, health financing institutions, philanthropies, bilateral development agencies, and private sector actors.
- Encouraging international finance providers, including development banks, to strengthen the synergies between their climate and health portfolios, and enhance their support for country-led projects and programs in the health-climate nexus.
- Sharing learnings and best practices on financing and implementing climate-health interventions, and develop a common understanding of existing needs for climate-health finance, grounded in country priorities and needs. We welcome ongoing efforts in this regard, including by the COP28 presidency, the ATACH finance working group, and the joint Development Bank working group for climate-health financing.
- Improving monitoring, transparency and evaluation efforts of climate finance, as relevant, including for climate-health initiatives, in order to strengthen common understanding of its efficiency and effectiveness, and to maximize the delivery of positive health outcomes.



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To achieve these aims - according to our national circumstances - we commit to pursuing the better integration of health considerations into our climate policy processes, and of climate considerations across our health policy agendas, including by:

- Incorporating health considerations in the context of relevant Paris Agreement and UNFCCC processes, with a view to minimizing adverse effects on public health, and mainstreaming climate considerations in global health work programs, including those of the World Health Organization, where relevant and appropriate.
- Taking health into account, as appropriate, in designing the next round of nationally determined contributions, long term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications.

We commit to convene regularly with diverse line-ministries and stakeholders to foster synergies and strengthen national and multilateral collaboration on climate change and health, including through the ATACH initiative. We will review our collective progress at future UN Climate Change Conferences, World Health Assemblies, and other global convenings.



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Endorsements as at 1 February, 2024

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Albania | 39. Equatorial Guinea | 76. Malawi | 113. Romania |
| 2. Andorra | 40. Estonia | 77. Malaysia | 114. Rwanda |
| 3. Angola | 41. Ethiopia | 78. Maldives | 115. Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| 4. Antigua and Barbuda | 42. European Union | 79. Mali | 116. Samoa |
| 5. Argentina | 43. Fiji | 80. Malta | 117. San Marino |
| 6. Armenia | 44. Finland | 81. Mauritania | 118. Sao Tome and Principe |
| 7. Australia | 45. France | 82. Mauritius | 119. Senegal |
| 8. Austria | 46. Gabon | 83. Mexico | 120. Serbia |
| 9. Azerbaijan | 47. Gambia | 84. Micronesia | 121. Seychelles |
| 10. Bahamas | 48. Germany | 85. Monaco | 122. Sierra Leone |
| 11. Bangladesh | 49. Ghana | 86. Mongolia | 123. Slovakia |
| 12. Barbados | 50. Greece | 87. Montenegro | 124. Slovenia |
| 13. Belgium | 51. Guatemala | 88. Morocco | 125. Somalia |
| 14. Bhutan | 52. Guinea | 89. Mozambique | 126. South Sudan |
| 15. Brazil | 53. Hungary | 90. Myanmar | 127. Spain |
| 16. Brunei Darussalam | 54. Iceland | 91. Nauru | 128. Sweden |
| 17. Bulgaria | 55. Indonesia | 92. Nepal | 129. Switzerland |
| 18. Burkina Faso | 56. Iran | 93. Netherlands | 130. Syrian Arab Republic |
| 19. Burundi | 57. Iraq | 94. New Zealand | 131. Tajikistan |
| 20. Cabo Verde | 58. Ireland | 95. Nicaragua | 132. Tunisia |
| 21. Cambodia | 59. Israel | 96. Nigeria | 133. Türkiye |
| 22. Canada | 60. Italy | 97. Niue | 134. Turkmenistan |
| 23. Chad | 61. Jamaica | 98. Norway | 135. Tuvalu |
| 24. Chile | 62. Japan | 99. Oman | 136. Uganda |
| 25. China | 63. Jordan | 100. Pakistan | 137. Ukraine |
| 26. Colombia | 64. Kazakhstan | 101. Palau | 138. United Arab Emirates |
| 27. Comoros | 65. Kenya | 102. Panama | 139. United Kingdom |
| 28. Cook Islands | 66. Kiribati | 103. Papua New Guinea | 140. United Republic of Tanzania |
| 29. Costa Rica | 67. Kuwait | 104. Paraguay | 141. United States of America |
| 30. Cote d'Ivoire | 68. Kyrgyzstan | 105. Peru | 142. Uruguay |
| 31. Croatia | 69. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 106. Philippines | 143. Vanuatu |
| 32. Cuba | 70. Latvia | 107. Poland | 144. Venezuela |
| 33. Cyprus | 71. Lebanon | 108. Portugal | 145. Vietnam |
| 34. Czechia | 72. Lesotho | 109. Qatar | 146. Yemen |
| 35. Denmark | 73. Liberia | 110. Republic of Korea | 147. Zambia |
| 36. Ecuador | 74. Lithuania | 111. Republic of Moldova | 148. Zimbabwe |
| 37. Egypt | 75. Luxembourg | 112. Republic of North Macedonia | |



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Argentina

The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are key pillars of our national climate change agenda and the commitments taken on by Argentina to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the updated second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Since 2008, Argentina's Ministry of Health, has been playing a leading role by implementing adaptation and mitigation actions. We have prioritized health and climate change within the public health agenda through several initiatives, such as:

- The adoption of a National Strategy on Health and Climate Change, developed jointly by the Ministries of Health; Environment; Science, Technology and Innovation, and the National Animal Health Agency under the One Health approach, focusing on early warning systems based on surveillance of wildlife zoonotic diseases in natural areas and monitoring wild species that may determine the occurrence of diseases.
- The Strategy's main pillars are strengthening the health sector governance to face the challenges of climate change, raising awareness among the health workforce and at community level about climate change and health; strengthening the health system's and community response for climate events, as well as a surveillance and integrated analysis of climate and health data; and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in healthcare facilities, among others.
- Argentina has introduced a health indicator in the updated Nationally Determined Contribution as a commitment with environmental policies.
- Argentina is the first Latin American country to implement a Readiness Project in the health sector. The project is entitled "Increasing the health sector's capacities and strengthening climate action coordination in Argentina at national and subnational levels", and was funded by the Green Climate Fund and implemented by the Ministry of Health of Argentina and PAHO/WHO.
- This project enabled the development of a Health and Climate Change National Plan, which was implemented in three Argentine provinces and will be expanded throughout the country.

Argentina is convinced that climate change is an imminent threat to global public health. Therefore, we support the Political Declaration and call for action to come together and respond to the impact of climate change in our health systems by integrating climate and health.



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Australia

At COP28, Australia launched the first national health and climate strategy, which sets out a plan to respond to the health impacts of climate change, including by:

- building climate resilient health system and enhancing capacity to protect health and wellbeing from impacts,
- building sustainable high quality net zero health systems and communities, and
- supporting healthy, climate resilient and sustainable communities through a whole of government action.

At COP28, Australia also joined the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH).





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Austria

The COP28 Health Day is of enormous importance for putting more attention on the health aspects of the climate crisis and the role of the healthcare sector in reducing its emissions.

The climate crisis is one of the biggest threats to human health in this century and the health sector is already severely affected by it. It is therefore of great importance to address the causes of the climate crisis on the one hand and take action in order to prepare, adapt and build resilience in the health sector on the other.

Austria is committed to meeting these challenges and undertakes numerous activities. A Competence Centre for Climate and Health was founded at the Austrian National Public Health Institute at the beginning of 2022 on behalf of the Ministry of Health. The Competence Centre has already developed various strategies, projects and measures in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the healthcare sector and to make the sector climate-neutral in the future. To this end, a climate-friendly healthcare facilities consulting project was launched to help healthcare facilities reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by providing them with expertise and support. The Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System to minimize the sector's emissions in all areas in the coming years has been drawn up.

In addition, a dedicated training course for climate managers in healthcare facilities was established. The course provides knowledge to the participants to take a leading role in supporting healthcare facilities on their way to becoming more climate friendly. Also, a Best Practice Award is given to particularly climate-friendly healthcare facilities in various categories to bring them to the limelight and act as a role model for other facilities.

In order to make the healthcare system more resilient, a national health adaptation plan for climate resilience is currently being developed, which represents an intersectoral and interdisciplinary strategy and includes the ten areas of the WHO framework for climate-resilient healthcare systems.

Furthermore, the National Heat Protection Plan is being revised and expanded to be prepared for future heatwaves. A handbook is also currently being developed to train healthcare professionals in climate literacy. These are just some of the many Austrian projects that have already been realized, are currently underway or are in the early stage of planning. As the climate crisis and its impact on health affects us all, every country's and every person's actions on this planet, international exchange, cooperation and learning from each other is essential.



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Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries which is affected by climate change. In order to cope with the situation, the country has to invest significantly to improve the resilience of its health system and to provide quality health services to all strata of our people with special attention to vulnerable societies.

First, it is highly important to strengthen our healthcare systems to cope with the changing landscape of Climate health risks. Second, we must address the root causes of climate change to prevent further harm to our planet and its people through a mitigation plan. Third, we must foster both global and regional partnerships, share knowledge, and support one another in our collective pursuit of a healthier future.

We hope that, through the COP28 declaration on climate and health, countries will come together to help each other to mitigate the impacts of climate on health systems and also control factors that are responsible for climate breakdown. Let this declaration be a turning point in our collective history. Let it be a symbol of hope, resilience, and determination. Together, let us forge a path towards a healthier, more sustainable future.



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Barbados

Small island developing states such as Barbados that are on the front line of the climate crisis are well aware of the devastating effects which this crisis can have on health.

Barbados has commenced the development of a National Health Adaptation Plan, which has already identified some of the priority areas to be addressed. In this regard, our tertiary care hospitals and all of our polyclinics are being assessed as it pertains to their climate resilience. The assessment of some institutions has been completed and the process is expected to be completed by the end of January 2024.

In addition due to the unique hydrogeology Barbados is at increased risk of:

- Saltwater intrusion into our aquifers with the health impacts of increased salinity in drinking water and water for agricultural purposes
- General water shortages as aquifers begin to run dry, in one of the most water scarce countries in the world

Therefore, we also recognize the need for a holistic, whole of country solution. This is reflected in the integration of climate change in our Physical Development Plan and our Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan. In addition we have been working on the development of our Roofs to Reefs Programme, our national climate resilient development model with a whole of country approach. This Programme is centered on:

- Improving water management addressing the recharge of aquifers and their protection, management of stormwater, as well as overall water sector improvements.
- Providing more climate resilient housing, to survive the impacts of a category 3-4 hurricane
- Improving waste management and associated reduction of areas for disease vectors to proliferate.
- Increasing the contribution of green energy in power generation and transportation with the attendant improvements in air quality.

All the aforementioned activity is critical but requires significant funds. This is just one of the reasons why our Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, has been calling through the Bridgetown Initiative 2.0; for the restructuring of the global financial architecture to allow for greater access to finance for sustainable development that integrates climate finance, builds climate resilience and allows for greater adaptation.

At this intersection of the climate crisis and health, we have to make our health systems and infrastructure sustainable and resilient, and by doing so, save lives, livelihoods and further our economic development.

Barbados supports and endorses the COP 28 Declaration on Climate and Health.



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Belgium

Belgium committed, during the COP26, to strive for a climate resilient and sustainable health system with the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. This declaration has been followed by several concrete actions:

- The development of the third National Environment-Health Action Plan (NEHAP) largely focused on the climate and health nexus, including :
 - the national ozone and heat action plan;
 - the surveillance and control of the introduction of exotic mosquitoes in Belgium;
 - the adaptation of the health system to climate change;
 - the decarbonization and sustainability of our health care.
- The establishment of a baseline of the emissions from the healthcare sector, to be followed up with the development of a roadmap towards a net-zero health care system.
- A call for supporting the implementation of good practices to mitigate the environmental footprint of care facilities is currently being prepared.
- In July 2021 a report was completed that assesses the impact of climate change on the healthcare system in Belgium. In addition, health has been more broadly introduced into the regional, federal and national climate adaptation plans.
- The National Crisis center recently finalized the Belgian National Risk Assessment 2018-2023 which includes health and natural risks and takes into consideration the influence of climate change.
- Participation in the international developments on climate and health: Belgium has joined the Alliance on Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), and has also signed the WHO (Euro region) Budapest Declaration on Environment and Health. In addition, during the Budapest Ministerial Conference, Belgium has joined the European Health Process Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action, spearheaded by the Republic of Ireland in collaboration with the WHO.



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Canada

The Government of Canada has been working for decades to better understand the impacts of climate change on human health and the health system and to identify actions to address them. In February 2022, the Government of Canada released the report 'the Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate: Advancing Our Knowledge for Action' which assesses the latest research on how climate change affects their health. In October 2022, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer released her annual report on the state of public health in Canada, entitled 'Mobilizing Public Health Action on Climate Change in Canada', focusing on the health impacts of climate change and the important role that public health systems can play in preventing and reducing these impacts for everyone living in Canada.

Building on this evidence and extensive whole-of-society engagement, in June 2023, Canada released its first National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), 'Canada's National Adaptation Strategy: Building Resilient Communities and a Strong Economy'. The Strategy lays out a vision for a resilient society and identifies goals, objectives and targets in key systems that affect the daily lives of people living in Canada, including Health and Wellbeing. Since 2015, the Government of Canada has invested more than CAD 6.5 billion in adaptation. This includes CAD 2 billion since November 2022 to implement the NAS. New federal health investments include CAD 55 million over five years to support health authorities build climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems and protect health from extreme heat and to support Indigenous partners in advancing climate change and health action.

Canada looks forward to continued engagement with international partners to protect human health from the impacts of climate change, including through our role as co-chair of the Climate Resilient Health Systems Working Group of the Alliance on Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) led by the World Health Organization.



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Cook Islands

As a small island state, the Cook Islands like other countries experienced the immediate impact of COVID-19 and the significant challenges it posed to our health system. Climate change impacts might not be as visible today but the deadly experience of the 1997 cyclone to one of our islands in the north where nineteen people were lost and hundreds of lives were dramatically affected still lingers to this day.

The Cook Islands continues to build coastal protection infrastructures to protect homes that for the first time in history are being reached by rising seas. We are also experiencing levels of droughts never seen before and are impacting on the lives and wellbeing of our people.

Our government continues to prioritize the health and wellbeing of our people post COVID-19 from the silent killer of non-communicable disease and from the likely impacts of climate change. The Ministry of Health in an effort to support its work on health system strengthening to respond to health impacts of climate change, have submitted a proposal for funding with the Green Climate Fund to support the following key components:

- Component 1: Strengthen the capacity and capabilities of the Ministry of Health, partners and stakeholders integrate climate change considerations in their health operations
- Component 2: Building institutional capabilities to respond to climate change health issues and effectively deliver health services to the population of the Cook Islands
- Component 3: Preventative measures to reduce health impacts from climate change in communities

The Ministry of Health is also working with our Ministry of Finance, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Japan for the installation of solar panels to the main hospital and also to procure an environmentally friendly medical waste incinerator with zero emissions treatment.

Since 2012, all health centers on 12 islands in the Cook Islands have been solar powered under the Cook Islands Renewable Energy project with ADB and setting a target of successfully supplying electricity from renewable energy sources on all inhabited islands in 2020.

My government stands ready to support the Ministry of Health in advancing discussions in building or strengthening climate-resilient health systems and facilities. As a small island state, we also greatly value the support of our development partners to date and with immediate access to climate financing modalities will expedite progress in building a green health system for the Cook Islands. Simplifying access to climate financing is imperative for swift action and we therefore look forward to the GCF Board favorable considerations to our proposal in the New Year.

Meitaki Ma'ata - Kia Manuia.



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Egypt

Acknowledging that climate change, including its adverse effects on weather patterns, agricultural productivity, and food systems, poses significant threats to global nutrition, and considering the urgent need to address the interconnected challenges of climate change and nutrition, which have profound impacts on global health and well-being, Egypt recognizes the paramount importance of the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), which was launched in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improving Nutrition (GAIN) and with consultations between WHO, FAO, UN Nutrition, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), and other stakeholders during COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh.

Egypt stresses the critical role of the initiative in promoting sustainability and addressing the interconnections between climate change and nutrition and assures the importance of the continuous endeavors that aim to catalyze, mobilize, connect, and advocate for an integrated climate change and nutrition action.

Egypt, as a country deeply committed to sustainable development, understands the importance of I-CAN in achieving our health and nutrition goals. As we work together toward integrating climate actions and nutrition strategies, we are not only addressing the impacts of climate change on food security but also improving the nutritional status of our population, particularly among groups in vulnerable situations.

Through I-CAN, we can adapt and refine our strategies, address emerging challenges, and seize new opportunities to create a healthier and more sustainable future for all. Furthermore, the initiative will foster partnerships, share best practices, and leverage resources to develop context-specific strategies that are adaptable and scalable.

The sustainability of I-CAN is crucial in our collective pursuit of sustainable development and improved health outcomes. By continuing the I-CAN, we can ensure that the progress made that far is not lost and that the momentum towards climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable food systems, and improved nutrition is maintained and upscaled.

Egypt, in cooperation with GAIN, WHO, FAO, and SUN, is pleased to invite Member States to participate in the I-CAN Working Group of ATACH. This working group will bring together countries committed to accelerated action at the nutrition-climate nexus, highlighting practical policy actions, strategies, and approaches that can drive accelerated change. The support of the I-CAN Working Group will provide the guidance, capacity building, partnerships, and evidence required to move forward.



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Equatorial Guinea

We have created a new plan with a One Health approach, and fully support the COP28 declaration on climate and health. We also endorse the COP28 Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions.





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Estonia

It's been 8 years since we globally agreed to keep the increase in global average temperature well below 2 °C by reducing emissions and mitigating climate change. The EU, including Estonia, has set an even higher goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Unfortunately, we are moving towards 3 °C by the end of the century with our current course of actions.

We as humanity have developed immensely since the dawn of our existence. We have achieved scientific, medical, technological, and intellectual breakthroughs. However, the current data and trends reflect clearly that we are increasingly detached from the very source that sustains us - nature. So why, in our wisdom, do we persist in damaging the very foundation that supports our existence?

Every year we experience more severe extreme weather events and its impact to our lives. We need to monitor, model, and evaluate the situation carefully and act quicker, because the current efforts are clearly not enough. Moreover, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation are major contributors to climate change (the so-called triple crisis), and they need to be addressed jointly.

Heat waves, floods, air pollution, contaminated food and water, infections, to name a few, are consequences of climate change. Health and wellbeing problems caused by rising temperatures or floods are constantly rising. Climate change impacts people's wellbeing and health, but people impact climate change with their actions every day as well. The questions we all should ask are: "Have we reached the people with clear and practical information regarding climate change? How can policy makers in all sectors contribute more effectively to mitigate climate change and save our lives and planet?"

Although reducing emissions will remain our main goal, we need to adapt to climate change in all sectors and corners in the world. Our focus must be on prevention, preparedness, and inclusion of all people. This requires a reinforced One Health approach, strengthened surveillance systems and sustainable funding – both domestically and globally.

Health and social systems have a key role to play in the field – as climate change mitigators and adaptors. They must be more prepared for climate change to be resilient and sustainable in the future. We need an innovative international format and platform to exchange best practices and learn from each other's challenges how to transform and adapt our health and social systems.

To conclude, any change starts with us. So, the most important questions remain: How can we build up a society and living environment, which are resilient and contribute effectively to the mitigation of climate change, would lead us to a sustainable economy and save our health and lives?



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European Union

There is an urgent need to scale up investments and strengthen synergies between climate mitigation and adaptation and health. The EU is a strong proponent of prevention and preparedness to ensure better protection from climate and environmental threats.

Key instruments for action on climate and health in the EU include the 2022 regulation on serious cross-border threats to health, which aims to enhance capacity for prevention, preparedness, monitoring, and response planning. This has enabled the creation of a health emergency and preparedness authority, which increases response capacity to cross-border health threats. It has also set out a comprehensive approach to mental health including environmental and climate affects.

These initiatives form part of the EU One Health approach to prevent, predict, detect, and respond to global threats and to promote sustainable development in EU and global level. The EU aims to boost health security around the world through its global health strategy, which introduces robust health-in-all-policies approaches.

The EU stands ready to work with international partners on these issues.



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Fiji

The health sector is responsible for almost 5% of global emissions, and has the capacity to make a profound impact on climate change mitigation. At the same time, we can make sure that our health facilities are resilient and can endure rising seas and super storms, precisely when they are most needed.

With support from WHO, Fiji recently completed the monumental task of assessing climate vulnerability in 212 of our health facilities. With financial support from the Republic of Korea, we are now embarking on our efforts to retrofit, renovate, and relocate the 20 most vulnerable clinics, labs, and hospitals. Yet, the health sector cannot address climate change alone. Collaborative efforts are crucial.

Our recent multisectoral conference in Fiji highlighted the potential for the health sector to champion climate action across other domains. By sharing compelling arguments and evidence showcasing the health co-benefits of actions taken by different sectors, we can inspire change.

Consider this: a shift to renewable energy not only curtails temperature rise but could also go a long way towards preventing the 7 million deaths caused by air pollution each year. Similarly, promoting walking, cycling and green public transport not only reduces emissions but also fosters physical activity. By doing so, everyone's health will benefit.



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Finland

It is time to recognize the climate crisis as a health and a human right crisis. Climate change is putting in jeopardy decades of progress in global health, threatening the achievement of agenda2030. It has significant adverse health, economic and social impacts, amplifying gender inequalities and posing a threat to women's and girls' health, safety and livelihoods. Indigenous Peoples are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change, due to their close relationship with the environment.

Finland was among the first countries to develop a national adaptation plan in the early 2000's. In 2021, we approved a climate change adaptation plan for the healthcare and social welfare sector. It recognizes the importance of regional perspective in reducing inequalities and the need to pay special attention to children, young people and indigenous Sámi people.

Finland recognizes the interlinkages between environment, the economy and health as being critical to strengthening the resilience of health systems and to achievement of sustainable development. We believe that it is central to promote multisectoral cooperation across the Government and the Whole-of-Society.

The Government is committed to meeting Finland's emission reduction targets and moving towards carbon neutrality followed by carbon negativity. At the same time, the Government will ensure that its decisions or policy measures do not increase everyday costs for citizens or weaken the competitiveness of business and industry.

We must pay attention to human rights and gender perspectives in climate strategies. Meaningful engagement of persons living in vulnerable situations ensures that no-one is left behind.

Finland endorses the COP28 declaration on climate and health. We are committed to support efforts enhancing the strengthening of health systems and building of resilient and thriving communities, for the benefit of present and future generations.



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France

The Government of France:

- Launched the 4th National Plan Health Environment 2021-2025 (PNSE4) to reduce the impact of the environment on health.
- Launched a roadmap on Ecological health systems adaptation, implemented by a dedicated interministerial committee, aiming to transform the health sectors in 7 key areas.
- Launched the 2nd National Climate change adaptation Plan (PNACC), which includes a health section that aims to better understand, monitor and assess the health risks induced by climate change.
- Advocates for political commitment and financial support on climate-health topics in different international fora and organizations (G7, G20, WHO Headquarters and regional offices, OECD, global health partnerships such as Unitaïd, Global fund against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, multilateral development banks).
- Joined and supports the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) for the resilience of health systems and to achieve net zero carbon by 2050.
- Supports the PREZODE (PREventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence) international initiative, launched by the French President during the One Planet Summit in 2021, and has invested 60 million euros in its deployment, including 30 million euros for its operational implementation through the PREACTS programme (Prezode in Action in the global South) to prevent the risk of zoonotic diseases emergence in developing countries and on a global scale according to the One Health approach.
- Supports Unitaïd's new Strategy on climate and health to make "climate smart" health products that enable sustainable and equitable access to health.
- Published on October 12th, 2023 its new Global health strategy 2023-2027, which emphasizes the necessity of taking into account the consequences of climate change on health and the carbon footprint of healthcare systems.
- Streamlines climate action in its health-related ODA led by the Agence française de développement, including through a programme for enhanced energy and resource efficiency in buildings, including health facilities.



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Germany

The German Government is fully committed to the ambitious goal of establishing environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral health systems, at the latest by 2050, and to support other countries in this effort. Germany advocates for multisectoral, multi-actor, holistic, and inclusive action.

Governments, private sector, academia, civil society, and individuals must collaborate to implement sustainable practices, reduce emissions, fortify resilient healthcare systems, and promote international cooperation. We are dedicated to supporting resilient, sustainable, and equitable health systems and will prioritize equity, evidence-based practices, and a holistic One Health approach, encompassing biodiversity and combating environmental pollution.



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Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran hereby announces its agreement with the COP28 declaration on climate and health.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is among the nations most susceptible to climate change. Iran, despite sanctions, as the first country in the EMRO, has taken steps to evaluate the climate resilience and environmental sustainability of its healthcare facilities. During 2020-2021, a customized tool was developed, drawing upon the WHO's guidance and operational framework for constructing climate resilient health systems. Moreover, the country has formulated strategies to strengthen climate resilience and advance environmental sustainability. The implementation of these initiatives is planned to be completed by 2035. As one of the prominent nations in the EMRO, the Islamic Republic of Iran has actively worked towards enhancing its capability to calculate the carbon footprint of healthcare and treatment facilities. It has achieved successful assessments of the carbon footprint in specific healthcare and treatment centers.

Hence, we express gratitude to the authors of the COP28 declaration on climate change and health, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran for endorsing it. We would like to propose the inclusion of the following points in this statement:

1. Build national capacity to generate the required evidence for evidence-informed policies and plans for climate change by developing national profiles, conducting vulnerability assessments, and strengthening surveillance and monitoring systems.
2. Advocate and advice for identifying or establishing, and empowering intersect oral frameworks to apply and enforce the health in all policy at the government level.
3. Providing technical support for the countries to conduct assessments, develop evidence informed policies, strategies, and interventions, including innovative and local solutions.



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Iraq

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

يؤثر تغير المناخ على الصحة بطرق عديدة، منها التسبب في المرض والوفاة نتيجة الظواهر الجوية المتطرفة التي تزداد تواتراً، مثل موجات الحر والعواصف والفيضانات وتعطل النظم الغذائية، وزيادة الأمراض حيوانية المنشأ والأمراض المنقولة بالأغذية والمياه ومشاكل الصحة النفسية بحلول عام 2030

وحسب التقارير الأممية يعد العراق من الدول المتأثرة تجاه ظاهرة التغير المناخي. وفي عام 2021، شهد العراق ثاني أكثر مواسمه جفافاً منذ 40 عاماً بسبب الانخفاض القياسي في هطول الأمطار. وعلى مدى السنوات الأربعين الماضية، انخفضت تدفقات المياه من نهري دجلة والفرات، التي توفر ما يصل إلى 98٪ من المياه السطحية في العراق، بنسبة 30-40٪. كما جفت الأهوار التاريخية في الجنوب، وهي إحدى عجائب التراث الطبيعي؛ إن انخفاض منسوب مياه الأنهار يؤدي إلى إندفاع مياه البحر داخل الأراضي الجنوبية، مع تهديد الملوحة للزراعة. وتتصاعد درجات الحرارة في العراق، حيث سجلت أعلى درجة حرارة بلغت حوالي 54 درجة مئوية في البصرة

إنضم العراق الى الاتفاقية الاطارية لتغير المناخ في عام 2009 وصادق على اتفاقية باريس الملحق بها عام 2020، وتم بقرار مجلس الوزراء رقم 376 لسنة 2021، وقد ابدت وزارة الصحة (NDC) اقرار وثيقة المساهمات المحددة وطنياً العراقية أهمية ملف المناخ من خلال استحداث هيكل تنظيمي تحت مسمى شعبة تغير المناخ في سنة 2023 نحن بصدد اعداد خطة وطنية للحد من تأثيرات المناخ على الصحة بالتعاون مع المنظمات الدولية وزيادة الوعي المجتمعي ودمج تغير المناخ وآثاره الصحية في مناهج التعليم الوطني

وفي الختام أود أن أؤكد على أهمية العمل معاً كمجتمع دولي لتحقيق اهداف تخفيف تأثيرات المناخ على الصحة العامة وضمان وصول الرعاية الصحية الجيدة للجميع من اجل تحقيق اهداف التنمية المستدامة



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Ireland

Ireland is incorporating the health sector into the whole-of-government approach, where it has put ministers with legally binding responsibilities to deliver climate action in their sectors.

Ireland adopted the Health Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan, and in 2023 became the second country in the world to launch a health sector climate action strategy.

Ireland launched a partnership on health sector climate action in WHO EURO region, building a network to learn across countries how to reduce carbon footprint and share experiences on dealing with the health related impacts of climate change particularly on vulnerable people.





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Italy

The health impacts of climate change are widespread across the globe, and are more severe in the poorest countries. Italy is impacted due to its geographic location, its vast coastal areas, and its aging population.

Health systems and populations worldwide must become better prepared for and more resilient to environmental crises and climate change. The growing impacts on health need to inform the development of early warning systems, rapid response measures and interventions. Innovative solutions for the health sector are needed in order to mitigate and increase sustainability and adopt innovative solutions to reduce emissions and gain significant health co-benefits.

Our National health system has been able to mitigate climate change impacts to some extent due to prevention programs, a dedicated workforce, and increased allocation of resources. More structural action is needed considering potential combination with other environmental stressors. Aligned with the 2030 development agenda, an ambitious national plan of action on climate was financed and launched in 2021, with remit to strengthen the environmental and health functions of the country's health systems and environment protection systems, using a One Health approach. New facilities are being developed, networks are being strengthened, and 0.5 billion euros will be invested over five years. Italy will continue to support this topic and promote international collaboration, including on the G7 priorities and the One Health approach.



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Japan

The Government of Japan acknowledges that adequate access to clean and safe water is fundamental for universal health coverage. Japan has been cooperating with other countries to make a plan for improving the water supply system to be more resilient in the face of climate change and more low-carbon for the purpose of sustainable water supply.

Accelerated emission reduction measures in the health sector are crucial. They can play a role in the global efforts towards Universal Health Coverage, including by strengthening the response to climate change through cooperation with countries and other organizations.





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Kiribati

Kam na bane n Mauri and warm Pacific greetings from the People and the Government of Kiribati.

We are honored to join this important event and to share our experiences. Our remote pacific island country bears a disproportionate burden of climate change, on our country, people and way of life, and we are already seeing the impacts on our health. Changing disease patterns, the impacts of drought and effects on mental health are now part of the challenges that we face at the Ministry of Health.

Across every remote island and islet, our health staff are delivering healthcare services to our population, leaving no-one behind. My Ministry is committed to making our facilities more resilient. We are currently rebuilding two of our hospitals and refitting many of our health facilities. Our main focus is on ensuring access to renewable solar energy, sufficient to run all the critical equipment in our remote facilities. We are also ensuring sufficient water – through rainwater harvesting, solar distillation and other approaches. We are also exploring how to handle medical waste in a more climate responsive manner, a change from our current open burning or burial. We are relocating one of our hospitals away from a flood prone area and other facilities may also need to be relocated. We are introducing other initiatives to link our remote health facilities with the internet, so we can support telehealth and to improve monitoring of disease patterns.

The ministry is working tirelessly to future proof our health system, but this all comes at a considerable cost. We thank our development partners who are supporting us already and implore others to support our progress towards a climate resilient health system.

Today, I respectfully implore each of you to listen, to understand, and to act. It is not just about safeguarding our islands, but the world; it is about safeguarding the very essence of our humanity, of being human.

With these few words, we leave with you the blessings of our Pacific country Te Mauri, Te Raoi ao Te Tabomoa, meaning Health, Peace, and Prosperity upon you all.



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Kuwait

Kuwait is adapting and strengthening its health system for it to be able to better withstand the negative impacts of climate change. The country has joined the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health. It has also adopted a national strategy to lower emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.





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Malaysia

Malaysia is committed to climate resilient health systems, including:

- building a climate resilient and low carbon health system to achieve carbon neutrality, net zero by 2050, which aligns with Malaysia's national energy transition roadmap;
- Strengthening the health sector preparedness and response to extreme weather events, enhance surveillance and early warning systems, conduct V&A of population and at health facility level;
- Developing a health NAP alongside Malaysia's National Adaptation Plan.

In alignment with its dedicated pursuit of net zero by 2050, Malaysia has an unwavering commitment to reduce health sector emissions and achieve a low carbon health system.



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Maldives

As a Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Maldives faces heightened vulnerability due to its low-lying geography and the resultant health implications. The Government of Maldives steadfastly advocates to and strives towards adopting a low emission climate resilient pathway in all sectors, and works towards implementing health, environment and climate adaptation and mitigation.

Despite great challenges, the Government of Maldives has undertaken initiatives to build a resilient health system and respond to the health impacts of climate change. These include a national carbon reduction policy, the implementation of a green smart hospital policy, the enhancement of pandemic preparedness and response capabilities, and the reinforcement of primary healthcare through the integration of digitization and telemedicine technologies.

The time is ticking. Urgency of the matter cannot be overstated. Climate induced events are escalating intensity and affecting the livelihood of our people and their existence. It is crucial that we break the silo among sectors, local and international partners, and donor agencies. We have to work together to achieve the goal of saving our planet and our populations from the adverse impacts of climate change we are already experiencing at various levels.

In conclusion, we call upon the governments, organizations, institutions and all partners, to accelerate our actions and explore all means and provide unwavering support to building resilient systems, with a particular emphasis on the health sector, to confront the imminent effects of climate change. It is crucial that we prioritize the needs of Small Island Developing States and the most vulnerable nations in our pursuit of a sustainable and resilient future.



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Malta

The Climate Crisis is a Health Crisis. The deleterious effects of climate change on the health of our citizens are now well documented. Add to this the negative effects on the capacity of our healthcare systems to cope with the increasing workloads, as well as the effects on sustainability, increased demands for and on the already stretched human resources and, the effects on mental health, air quality and, the exacerbation of the development of antimicrobial resistance, and it became more than obvious that the climate crisis is a health crisis.

Malta recently presented a paper for discussion on Health and Climate Change at the Council of Health Ministers of the European Union. This has the support of 23 other European Union Member States and brings Climate Change firmly on the European health agenda.

As President in office of the World Health Assembly I also look forward to a strong climate health resolution in next year's WHO Assembly. Health ministers here at COP were once few, we are now many, and we are here to stay.

Climate change is a whole of society and a whole of government concern, and as such, as Health Ministers we need to have a central role in Health Promoting Climate Action. The health benefits of climate change mitigation are enormous. As will be enormous the health consequences of our inaction.

National and Regional Heat Health Plans which include healthcare capacity building; coordinated surveillance of vector-borne diseases; and preparedness with medical countermeasures such as vaccines and diagnostics, are a logical next step. This first Climate-Health Ministerial Meeting, I am confident, will prove to be instrumental as we step up our Collective Climate Action.



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Mozambique

Mozambique aligns itself with the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health. Indeed, Mozambique has endorsed the Declaration and we reaffirm our full commitment with the stated vision and objectives.

Our country is undeniable highly vulnerable to extreme climate events, which in recent years have increased in its frequency and severity, leading to: i) loss of lives, ii) destruction of health facilities, iii) disruption in provision of essential health services, iv) increase in the burden of vector and water borne diseases and v) triggering large outbreaks of Cholera. The IDAI and Kenneth cyclones in 2019, Gombe and Ana cyclones in 2022 and more recently, the Freddy cyclone in 2023 are examples of severe cyclones hitting Mozambique and a reminder on the urgency of Mozambique to build a Climate Resilient Health Systems.

In this context, we take this opportunity to highlight some of our progress towards a resilient health system:

- Implementation of the Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment of the Health Sector to Climate Change, in 2019. This assessment demonstrated that 24,1% of total population is living in areas of high to very high health vulnerability index, with more than 50% of those districts located on the coastal region of the country;
- Establishment of the Climate and Health Observatory for conducting epidemic intelligence on climate and health, generating risk maps, forecast and predictions on the impact of climate change on health;
- Development of the Climate and Health Research Agenda, which is being finalized;
- Development of the Health National Adaptation Plan, which is still ongoing;
- Development of Climate Change and Health training package for health professionals;
- Holding National Conference on Climate Change and Health in 2017 and 2023, respectively to promote the dialogue between scientists and policy makers on that matter.

The Government of Mozambique will continue to prioritize actions to build the resilience of our health system, because it is our belief that climate change poses a major threat for Mozambique to reach Universal Health Coverage targets. In this endeavor, we will continue to engage with other sectors of the government, communities, civil society, private sector, and development partners in a better coordinated manner.

We believe that placing human health at the heart of climate action, represents a critical pillar to build a sustainable future in the context of a changing climate.



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Nepal

Nepal is highly affected by impacts of climate change, for which we are not responsible. We have been advocating at national and international levels to minimize adverse impacts of climate change. Accordingly, the Government of Nepal has been actively participating in COPs to draw global attention.

Nepal was the first country in the South Asia region to have developed a Health National Adaptation Plan (H-NAP) and has been carrying out various measures in building a climate resilient health system. The advocacy at different levels, capacity building of health professionals, research studies, strengthening of climate sensitive disease surveillance systems, climate resilience and environmental sustainability at healthcare facilities are some of the examples that we have been implementing with support from WHO.

Considering the importance of climate change in the health sector, we have been taking several measures, mainly adaptation but also mitigation measures. The Government of Nepal submitted second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC II) with commitments to use non-burn technology for healthcare waste management in 1400 health facilities. We have made good progress on it with support from various partners.

At the same time, we made health commitments at COP26 on building climate resilient and low carbon health systems. In line with our commitments at COP26 on low-carbon health systems, we completed a baseline assessment of GHG emissions from health sector operations in Nepal.

We strongly believe that our mitigation measures will contribute to some extent in achieving Nepal government's target of reaching Net zero carbon by 2045.



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Netherlands

The Global Health Strategy of the Netherlands prioritizes addressing the impact of climate change on the health sector and vice versa. We warmly welcome the opportunity provided by the UAE and the first COP Climate-Health Ministerial to generate political momentum and express joint international commitment. But the journey doesn't end here. We now need to translate that political commitment into meaningful action on the ground.

That is why we as the Netherlands are leading the initiative for a new WHA Resolution on Climate Change and Health at the WHO, together with Peru, Fiji, the United Kingdom, Kenya and Barbados.

Key deliverables for this new resolution are:

- 1) a new Global Plan of Action, building on the broader WHO strategy and complementing the specific action plan for the Small Island Developing States;
- 2) mainstreaming of climate into the General Programme of Work (GPW) of the WHO;
- 3) strengthened national commitments on developing climate resilient and sustainable health systems;
- 4) formalizing the Alliance on Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) as a formal WHO-led mechanism for sharing knowledge and experiences.

We aim to get the resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2024, and very much hope for your support. This could be our only chance to act, before it is too late. Let's seize this historic opportunity. And be bold in our political leadership. We look forward to collaborating with you on the road ahead.

In addition, the Netherlands commits to sustaining and strengthening the policy shift towards prevention, thereby reducing the impact of the health system on climate change, and to engaging in the exchange of best practices with other countries.



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Nigeria

Nigeria has identified the following key priorities for climate and health:

- To solarize all public tertiary hospitals over next four years; and
- To provide service-specific clean electrification solutions for the primary health care system and to build climate resiliency for the health sector.

To achieve this, the country will increase technical and financial resources, and is committed to increasing domestic financing for health and forging a path forward for a more sustainable environment, better health and wellbeing.





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Norway

Global warming is bad for health, while mitigation is good for health. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is beneficial for human health, while action in agriculture, to green cities, to reduce transport emissions, and to reduce coal fired power plants helps to improve air quality.

Smarter, greener cities are healthy for people. Mitigation is a tool to enhance health. Health services will be affected by the impacts of climate change, while the sector also needs to be part of the solution as it is a contributor to emissions. We therefore need to have clear strategies to reduce and move towards net zero in the health sector.

Norway supports the One Health approach, which states that actions that are good for human health also need to be good for planetary health and vice versa, and this should inform actions taken at COP28.



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Oman

Climate Change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment, impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly. Climate change is already affecting our health as a whole, and we are witnessing shifts in disease patterns, environmental changes threatening food production, zoonotic infections, floods, earthquakes and different catastrophes.

Strengthening health systems to adapt to these changes is vital, focusing on immediate health concerns while fortifying infrastructure, healthcare delivery, and public health strategies for long-term resilience.

Recognizing the gravity of this situation, Oman's Ministry of Health (MOH) has embarked on a multifaceted approach, leveraging strengths and addressing weaknesses through coordinated, multisectoral efforts. Initiatives by the Ministry of Health are exemplified through various endeavors including:

1. Commitment to Sultanate of Oman vision of net Zero emission by 2050 through conducting continuous comprehensive assessment for greenhouse gas emissions associated with the health system (including supply chains) based on baseline indicators by 2030.
2. Assessing the resilience of healthcare facilities to climate change by collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO), on vulnerability and adaptation assessments (V&A) to climate change.
3. After completing the above assessment, our plan is to conduct a Health National Adaptation Plan (NHAP). This step aims to develop a national plan on climate change and encouraging inter-sector collaboration, strengthening health system resilience, establishing early warning systems for health emergencies, and creating an enabling environment for health adaptation to climate change implementation.
4. Piloting an integrated surveillance system in collaboration with international organizations, linking environmental indicators with disease. These projects aim at addressing vector-borne diseases and climate change, deploy early warning and response systems to mitigate risks and enhance community resilience.
5. Working alongside with Environment Authority (EA) to actively contribute information to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and developing a climate and Health Country Profile.
6. Members in our multisectoral team are contributing essential insights for Oman's National Risk Register, aiding in evaluating vulnerabilities and implementing measures to mitigate climate change-induced risks.
7. Assigning financial resources to adopt initiatives focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building a climate-resilient health system.

In closing, we want to reaffirm our firm dedication to addressing the intersection of climate change and health, striving for net-zero emissions in healthcare facilities. We endorse the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health and reaffirm our commitment in ensuring the delivery of top-tier healthcare services that not only meet the highest standards of quality but also prioritize resilience and adaptability in the face of environmental challenges.



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Pakistan

Pakistan's health adaptation plan will be endorsed in 2024. It will help to build a resilient health sector, while also encouraging energy savings and driving innovations.





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Palau

The work of Palau on climate and health is guided by the Healthy Islands Vision, in which children are nurtured in body and mind, environments invite learning and leisure, people work and age with dignity, ecological balance is a source of pride, and the ocean that sustains us is protected.

At COP28, Pacific countries unveiled the Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity Initiative: committing to 100% sustainable management of oceans and 30% protection of oceans; and the development of a healthy food system.





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Panama

Deseamos iniciar agradeciendo al Gobierno de Emiratos Árabes Unidos por su cálida acogida en este maravilloso país, a la OMS y a la Secretaría del Convenio Marco sobre el Cambio Climático, por habernos convocados a esta sesión.

Panamá no escapa a la vulnerabilidad de los efectos de cambio climático, lo que nos ha llevado a implementar medidas de adaptación que reduzcan esta situación.

Dentro de la Política Nacional de Salud contamos con un marco legal robusto que busca alcanzar el bienestar y calidad de vida de la población. Nuestro país, en cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 creó una comisión de apoyo y seguimiento para su implementación, enfocándose en aquellos que abordan los determinantes ambientales de la salud y contribuyen al Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 3.

En cumplimiento a la Convención Marco sobre el Cambio Climático y el Acuerdo de París, Panamá, aumentó sus Contribuciones Nacionales Determinadas (NDC) con 29 compromisos en diez sectores priorizados con enfoque integrado de Mitigación y Adaptación, donde el Sector Salud ha tenido un rol importante.

Este compromiso como país se ha visto reflejado en estar entre los 10 primeros países en la publicación realizada por la Alianza Global de Clima y Salud, en la evaluación de NDCs Saludables luego de evaluar 46 NDCs que cubren 120 países.

Donde se han venido desarrollando e implementando diversas actividades que buscan fortalecer la capacidad de respuesta del sector salud ante enfermedades que pueden verse agravadas por los efectos del cambio climático, las cuales incluyen acciones de prevención, control y tratamiento, así como de vigilancia epidemiológica y ambiental, permitiéndonos reducir los riesgos y mejorar la calidad de vida de las personas afectadas.

Desde el Ministerio de Salud hemos llevado a cabo lo siguiente:

- Proyectos piloto de adaptación al cambio climático en zonas vulnerables.
- Estudio de las afectaciones de salud producto del cambio climático en Panamá.
- Ha Iniciado la transición al uso de energía renovables, y hoy de 825 instalaciones del Ministerio de Salud, en 172 de estas contamos con algún tipo de energía renovable. A ello le sumamos que dos de nuestros hospitales del interior del país, cuentan con plantas termoeléctricas para la producción de agua caliente de sus calderas.

Sabemos que aún nos falta mucho por hacer; necesitamos el apoyo y compromiso de todos los actores para enfrentar este desafío global. Por todo esto, los invito a que nos sumemos al esfuerzo que realiza la Cooperación Internacional para. Lograr un mundo más saludable, resiliente, sostenible y equitativo, que garantice el derecho a la salud y a un ambiente sano para las presentes y futuras generaciones.



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Philippines

For the past decade, the Philippines has actively issued health policies to strengthen adaptation and mitigation, such as adoption of a national strategic plan and framework for climate change adaptation in the health sector, a national disaster risk reduction and management for health framework, and systems at the national and local level to prepare health systems for impacts.

The country has started initiatives of greening health facilities across the country and is committed to:

- strengthen climate change investments in health;
- address current research and data gaps in climate health and ensure inclusion of climate-health in the health sector's research agenda;
- explore use of technologies and innovative technologies including use of renewable energy in and decarbonization of health facilities and hospitals, health informatics, green procurement;
- capacity building and transfer to local government units; and
- enhance multi sector coordination.

The Philippines has joined the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health.



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Senegal

There is a need to address heat shocks that have severe impacts on health. Senegal has recently organized various awareness raising campaigns on heat and health, in partnership with its meteorological agency. A multisectoral approach and One Health Strategy are required when responding to climate and health. We need to reduce emissions and at the same time protect the health care sector and invest in new types of research to get rid of diseases and disease sources. We urge the strengthening of access to climate funds.





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Seychelles

Seychelles salutes the efforts of those who have brought Health to the agenda of COP28. We commit ourselves to ensuring that health finds its place at the heart of climate action.

The negative impact of climate change is both a daily reality and a looming catastrophe to our people. We welcome the acknowledgement that small island states are particularly vulnerable because of their geography, small populations, limited resources and limited capacity to influence the major factors leading to climate change. As one of those vulnerable SIDS, Seychelles recognizes and appreciates the ongoing assistance. We urge the international partners to revisit the criteria for support which, at times, exclude countries such as mine.

Creating greater awareness, mobilizing the efforts and resources of our small nation towards concrete and sustained action and building a resilient health system are all essential commitments on our part. As communicable, non-communicable diseases, and mental health issues create greater burdens on health services, these very same health infrastructures suffer the effects of sea-level rise, coastal erosion and flooding. Similarly, climate change impacts on livelihoods, food security and nutrition.

Seychelles fully endorses the declaration on climate and health. We join all countries and partners to take meaningful decisions and commitment to undertake the necessary action to secure a future for ourselves and our children.



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Spain

No hay personas sanas en un planeta enfermo. Partiendo de esa base, reconocemos la urgencia de actuar sobre el cambio climático, como apunta la declaración de esta COP28.

Hay tres aspectos que me gustaría señalar como centrales al hablar de nuestro papel a la hora de afrontar el cambio climático y sus efectos sobre la salud:

El primero es que la certeza de que no hay salud humana sin salud planetaria nos ha de llevar a tener claro que las políticas de transición ecológica que buscan mitigar los efectos futuros del cambio climático y adaptar nuestras sociedades a los efectos ya existentes han de ser interpretadas como políticas de salud pública fundamentales.

En segundo lugar, las políticas de salud pública han de incorporar los efectos del cambio climático sobre la salud como un elemento importante en sus estrategias, desarrollando sistemas de alertas tempranas para eventos climáticos extremos o reforzando la vigilancia de nuevas enfermedades derivadas de los cambios en vectores de transmisión de infecciones por los cambios de las condiciones ambientales.

Por último, el cambio climático también golpea con fuerza nuestros sistemas sanitarios y nos plantea el reto de adaptarlos en materia de energía, climatización, uso de residuos y reducción de su huella ecológica. Tenemos que avanzar hacia sistemas sanitarios de cero carbono y bajos en residuos.

España está fuertemente comprometida con este tema, y así lo demuestra el Plan Estratégico de Salud y Medio Ambiente, que busca para promover entornos saludables para la población, reducir la carga de enfermedades e identificar nuevas amenazas para la salud derivadas de factores ambientales.

Tenemos la obligación y la urgencia de proteger los bienes públicos globales como la biodiversidad, el agua, la calidad del aire y, por supuesto, la salud.



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Sweden

Sweden supports access to climate resilient and sustainable health and social care systems, in order to ensure healthy lives and wellbeing for all at all ages. An integrated approach is needed, which includes the improvement of living conditions and gender equality. The transition to net zero emissions needs to build on synergies in different areas, including health, that can be a driver of change. Actions today are investments in the future. The decision to phase out fossil fuels will contribute to these outcomes. We cannot separate the health of people and the planet.



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Thailand

We are facing more frequent crises because of climate change. One of the best solutions is to ensure resilient health systems under Universal Health Coverage. This involves equitable distribution of quality health care facilities that allow universal access to essential health services without financial barriers. When one area of the country is hit by a crisis from climate change, nearby health facilities can immediately provide support.

Thailand implements the “GREEN & CLEAN hospitals” program to reduce carbon footprint in health care facilities. This involves utilizing renewable energy sources, improving water, sanitation, and hygiene, and enhancing waste management. Key initiatives encompass emergency preparedness, early warning systems, capacity building for health workers, provision of health literacy, and community engagement. These endeavors align with the Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) to strengthen the resilient health systems.

The way forward, Thailand will upscale the GREEN & CLEAN hospitals to be “climate-resilient and low-carbon health care facilities” and strengthen the implementation of the HNAP with multisectoral collaboration.



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Tunisia

Tunisia is committed to developing and improving its national health system, and increasing its resilience to climate impacts.

The Tunisia Ministry of Health is prioritizing the response to the negative impact of climate on public health. We call on international entities to increase their efforts, both financially and structurally, to face climate and health emergencies together.





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Uganda

On behalf of the Government of Uganda, we endorse the COP 28 Declaration on Climate and Health. Uganda recognizes the immense impact climate change has had on health. We are committed to ensuring that health is prioritized in the climate change discourse. To achieve this, Uganda is undertaking the following actions, among others:

Climate Change and Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment: We have conducted a national Climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessment (VAA): Preliminary results have been shared with various stakeholders and will be presented to the international audience at COP 28 during the Health Day.

Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP): Using the findings of the VAA and other sources, we have started developing a comprehensive Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) that will be integrated into the overall national adaptation plan (NAP).

Building a Sustainable low-carbon health system: We will develop our health system to be sustainable and low carbon ensuring that it contributes to meeting the emission mitigation targets of the Paris Agreement. This includes commitment(s) to:

- Carry out a baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions of our health system (or health care facilities), including supply chains.
- Publish an action plan which sets out how we will develop a sustainable low carbon health system (including supply chains) which also considers the role the health sector can play in reducing exposure to air pollution through its activities and its actions. We will publish this action plan by October 2024.

Implementing the One Health Approach: Uganda is already implementing the one health approach that brings together a variety of stakeholders, addressing climate change, environmental determinants of health, tackling antimicrobial resistance, and strengthening disease surveillance.

Climate and Health Financing: Insufficient financing is the main stumbling block to fully implementing national health and climate change plans. This climate health financing gap threatens the lives of millions, leaves health systems without critical support, and deepens global health inequities. Through this Declaration, we commit to advancing the discussions and negotiations to ensure sustainable and equitable financing, especially for low and middle-income countries which also happen to be among the least emitters of greenhouse gasses but yet highly vulnerable.

We hereby declare our intention and commitment to tackle the climate change and health challenge nationally and globally. These commitments will enable and make a substantial contribution to protecting the health of the people of Uganda as well as enable us to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement.



COP28 UAE

Annex to the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates hosted the first-ever Health Day and climate-health ministerial at COP28. It galvanized political momentum for climate and health through the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, which was endorsed by over 140 countries.

Global public health has long been a defining priority for the United Arab Emirates, from addressing neglected tropical diseases, to supporting community and frontline health workers. We have booked significant progress in reducing disease burdens and strengthening health systems. In recent years, that progress has come under jeopardy from the growing health impacts of climate change.

In the UAE, we are addressing these growing health risks by developing a Vulnerability & Adaptation assessment and a dedicated National Adaptation Plan for Health, in partnership with all the various health authorities across the country. In partnership with UAE health care sector partners, we are also building health systems to be climate-ready and climate-friendly.

The UAE is increasingly also taking action in other sectors to reduce emissions and improve health. We are fast-tracking the adoption of clean renewable energy, both domestically and with partner countries. This benefits human health by reducing air pollution, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and contributing towards affordable and clean energy.

To ensure climate action is prioritizing the health and lives of people everywhere, we need a global response. To enable this, the UAE has placed health at the center of the climate agenda at COP28. In addition, the UAE has accepted to co-chair the Alliance of Transformative Action on Climate and Health, which brings together more than 80 countries who have committed to build climate resilient and sustainable health systems.



COP28 UAE

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United Kingdom

Climate change is already having devastating impacts on health, these are predicted to get worse, even at a 1.5oC temperature rise. Those least responsible are the most vulnerable and affected. The cost of inaction is high. Whilst accelerating progress to limit climate change is critical for health outcomes, it is crucial to urgently adapt, build resilience and strengthen health systems to protect and save lives, and to ensure that health systems themselves reduce their emissions.

This is why we were proud to co-lead a health programme at COP26 two years ago, and today to sign the Climate and Health Declaration and endorse the finance statement the UAE has spearheaded.

Specifically, the UK will provide up to £18m to support partner countries to assess vulnerability, identify priority actions and support planning, with a view to mobilise the necessary financial and expert resources to increase investments to adapt and strengthen health systems to better cope with the impacts of climate change. This is the first such climate-health programme announced by a G7 country. Furthermore, 20% of the £80 million the UK pledged to the Global Financing Facility in October, that operates in about 40 countries, will be spent on climate and health.

Recognising the fast-evolving agenda and need for a stronger evidence base of what works to address the accelerating threats from climate change to health, we are also designing a new £20m research programme that will build on UK experience and beyond. This is in addition to the existing £20 million action orientated climate and health research programme launched at COP26 through the National Institute for Health and Care Research. Projects under this programme will begin work in 2024, and will aim to generate evidence to strengthen health service delivery and resilience in low and middle income countries in the context of extreme weather events, through equitable partnerships between leading UK research institutions and partners in Africa, South and South-East Asia. We will continue to encourage and work with partners internationally to build a healthier future for all.



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Annex to the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health

United Republic of Tanzania

The United Republic of Tanzania is committed to build a resilient health system. It has developed a five year health sector national adaptation plan. Its strategic objectives are informed by health risks and national plans and programs. The climate agenda will be a priority across sectors. We will be developing a national adaptation plan, in order to facilitate access to climate funding for health. Tanzania endorses the COP28 declaration on climate and health.





COP28 UAE

Annex to the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health

United States of America (1)

The United States is pleased to endorse the Declaration on Climate and Health at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28).

Ambitious action at the intersection of climate and health is crucial to combatting the climate crisis and protecting human health. With respect to fossil fuels in particular, the United States is pleased that the Parties to the Paris Agreement were able to adopt a decision at COP28 that calls upon Parties to contribute to the global transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems. In addition, the United States continues to support the 2023 G7 commitment "in the context of a global effort, to accelerate the phase-out of unabated fossil fuels so as to achieve net zero in energy systems by 2050 at the latest in line with the trajectories required to limit global average temperatures to 1.5o C above pre-industrial levels, and call on others to join us in taking the same action." Reducing dependence on fossil fuels and cutting greenhouse gas emissions is not only a matter of protecting the environment, but also of saving lives. While undertaking ambitious greenhouse gas reduction strategies to keep a limit of 1.5 degrees of warming within reach, we must also work domestically and with our international partners to adapt to and manage the health impacts of the climate crisis, with particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable.

The following is a sub-set of the relevant work undertaken by the United States:

- In keeping with our COP26 Health Programme commitments, we aim for federal and private-sector health stakeholders in the United States to align with the U.S. targets of a 50-52% reduction from 2005 levels in economy-wide net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. 130 organizations have joined the related White House-Health Sector Climate Pledge, and over 15% of hospitals in the United States are now committed to publicly tracking their progress on decarbonization.
- We seek to help health sector stakeholders take advantage of the historic funding opportunities made available by the Inflation Reduction Act for major investments in clean energy, building efficiency, and facility resilience.
- We expanded health sector reporting guidance in EPA's Portfolio Manager, which estimates organizations' building-associated greenhouse gas emissions.
- We announced plans to explore clinical decarbonization by U.S. federal health systems (e.g., reduction of anesthetic gasses).
- Through the President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE), the cornerstone of our foreign policy response on adaptation and resilience, we are (1) working to support partner countries' ability to plan for and respond to the impacts of climate change on public health systems and the populations they serve; and (2) increasing the resilience of key health services – including health care delivery to ensure continuity of services.
- We released the Climate Change and Health Equity Supplement to the HHS Climate Adaptation Plan.



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United States of America (2)

- We are working with NHS England and other nations' national health systems to clarify expectations in procurement standards for suppliers on target setting and emissions disclosures.
- We are supporting partner countries to build climate resilient health systems, develop early warning systems for extreme weather events and infectious diseases, address climate-related malnutrition, and prevent and treat climate-sensitive diseases, including malaria. We are also dramatically reducing emissions related to our operations, especially those associated with shipment of health commodities.
- We are developing a first-ever National Heat Strategic Plan and supporting the Global Heat Resilience Service, in line with previous national and international efforts. The United States is also partnering with cities in Sierra Leone, Brazil, and Chile to promote urban heat mapping, and, under PREPARE, is working with regional groups in the Caribbean and across Africa to support early warning for heat and drought.
- We are also helping to build climate-based early warning systems for dengue fever in the Pacific Islands, build circumpolar communities of practice in the Arctic, support networks of One Health practitioners in South America, and strengthen the capacity of scientists and practitioners from historically underrepresented regions - especially Africa and Asia - to access financial opportunities.

It is crucial that we all continue to take ambitious action throughout the health sector, in furtherance of the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health.



COP28 UAE

Annex to the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health

Vanuatu

The Republic of Vanuatu remains highly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change on health. Our population faces an uncertain future due to climate change and the ever-present threat of natural disasters.

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense. Since 2020, Vanuatu has been affected by 4 severe cyclones of category 4 or above, including 3 cyclones in 2023 alone. This resulted, cumulatively, in over 80 health facilities moderately or severely damaged, including 13 health centers, one third of the total number of health centers in the country. This led to increased risk of leptospirosis, diarrhea, malaria as well as non-communicable diseases such as malnutrition and mental health disorders. A provincial hospital and multiple health centers are affected by sea-level rising and will need to be relocated to ensure continuity of health services for local communities. In summary, our health security is directly affected by climate change events, both acute and long-term.

Therefore, Vanuatu is committed to integrate and streamline efforts through a multi-sectoral and collaborative approach to address climate change impact on health. Vanuatu is leveraging existing financing mechanisms such as the Global Environmental Facility and technical guidance from WHO towards the development of the National Action Plan for Health Security which includes building climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems and health care facilities.

We hope that the COP28 Health Day will allow for continued support to protect the population of Vanuatu from the scourge of diseases and natural disasters brought by climate change through strengthening health system resilience. Vanuatu fully endorses the COP28 Declaration on climate and health.



COP28 UAE

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Vietnam

On behalf of the Ministry of Health of Viet Nam, we express our endorsement to the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, as we acknowledge that this effort will help to address the health impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gases emission in healthcare facilities.

The Ministry of Health of Viet Nam has no objection to the Declaration since this is a platform to seek the possible collaboration to achieve our targets on climate change and health stated in our Health National Action Plan on Climate Change 2019 - 2030, vision to 2050, as well as country and global commitments on building a climate-resilient and low carbon sustainability health system.