

**VIDEO MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE
WHO-WMO ATLAS OF HEALTH AND CLIMATE**

by

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Human health is deeply affected by weather, climate variability and climate change.

Climate change is altering the magnitude, frequency and duration of extreme events, with severe direct or indirect consequences on health. Heat and cold waves, tropical cyclones, floods, drought and other natural hazards cause tens of thousands of deaths and hundreds of thousands of injuries every year around the world.

Climate conditions are also very influential on some of the most virulent infections. For example, temperature, precipitation and humidity can determine the reproduction, survival and biting rates of the mosquitoes that transmit malaria and dengue fever.

The World Meteorological Organization and the World Health Organization have joined forces to better understand the relationship between climate and health and assist governments, health services and the public to take protective actions against health risks related to climate.

The *Atlas of Health and Climate* is an example of this collaboration and of the benefits that can arise when health and climate services work together to control infectious diseases, emergency situations and environmental challenges.

More can be accomplished globally by strengthening the collaboration on climate services at global, national and local level.

The Global Framework for Climate Services is an ambitious initiative of the United Nations System, aiming to foster the development of user-specific climate information products and tools around four initial priorities: agriculture and food security, water, health and disaster risk reduction.

The *Atlas of Health and Climate* is being launched in this context.

We are confident that it will be of great service to society and that the GFCS will provide a major contribution to the implementation of the global agenda for attaining sustainable development.