

Friday, 08 December 2023

WHO at COP28:

Daily highlights for media, Saturday 09 December

COP28 Health Pavilion programme

The events are taking place in the Opportunity Petal, Thematic Arena 2 (TA2 225). All the sessions are open to the press and will be livestreamed here. The brochure, with full information about the events, speakers and other resources can be found here.

Integrating health into climate change responses - the role of health professionals, 09.30-10.45 GST

The event will explore the need to enhance climate and health education for all health professionals to better respond to climate change and to extend the capacity building focus for health professionals to add a health lens to other sectors' climate change policy and planning. This side event will address the unique question of how health professionals can be a powerful lever to bring a health focus in conversations and climate dialogues in non-health sectors. All climate action/ programs/ policies formulated in other sectors, such as energy, transport, urban planning, agriculture, and food systems, must account for health and related health co-benefits.

Building Heat-Resiliency: Actions and Opportunities for Healthier Cities and Communities, 11.15-12:30 GST

Vulnerable populations in urban areas are experiencing the deadly impacts of extreme heat events like never before. Facing rapidly rising temperatures, leading experts from around the world will highlight both nature-based and people-based solutions and opportunities that can make a difference at the local level to reduce the impacts of extreme heat.

A panel session will showcase opportunities for the scaling up of heat preparedness and early warning; people-centered policies and behaviors for health protection, particularly indoor heat and heat action plans; nature-based solutions and other city planning interventions that impact how heat is experienced - through changes to urban landscapes, building designs, and green spaces; and policy and regulatory solutions that can support the implementation of both nature-based and people-centered heat reduction solutions.

Synergizing to increase ambition on net zero – working with global health supply chains, 13.30-14.45 GST

It is well known that 70% or more of health care emissions originate in the supply chain. This panel will bring together practical experiences and strategic considerations from both demand and supply sides. By sharing experiences, challenges as well as good practice examples, the discussion will focus on

mobilising action. Working together across stakeholder groups and aligning processes towards a shared goal can amplify decarbonization action and build reliability for health outcomes in the long-term.

Mitigating methane: A Global Health Strategy, 15.15-16.30 GST

Recognizing the importance of a rapid and deep reduction in methane emissions as a key component of limiting global warming, the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) was launched in 2021 at COP26, in Glasgow, and to date 150 countries have signed the pledge. Pollutants emitted alongside methane contaminate the air, water, and soil humans depend on. Feasible, low cost, rapid reductions in methane could avert 0.3C of warming between now and 2045.

This session will bring stakeholders from waste, energy, agriculture and public health sectors together to discuss methane's impact on climate change and to discuss the linkages to health in the energy, food, and waste sectors. Bringing in a health frame, the session aims to discuss solutions and a way forward to address methane emissions, and the opportunities for health from both short and long-term methane mitigation strategies.

Healing People, Ecosystems, and the Planet: Operationalizing Indigenous Knowledge and Planetary Health, 17.00-18.00 GST

If humanity is to overcome the climate, biodiversity and justice crises, global institutions must learn to partner and operationalize the interdependence between human health and ecosystem integrity (aka: Planetary Health). Intersectional solutions simultaneously tackling climate, biodiversity, and health already exist. In this panel discussion, leaders of renown public and private institutions, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, governmental and non-governmental, will discuss their game-changing, action-oriented collaborations. The panel roster includes people who are guiding the paradigm shift in global healthcare and climate solutions, representing key Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership from the public and private sectors.

Additional information: Health at COP28; COP28 Hub: Health in climate change talks; Climate Change and Health; Environment, Climate Change and Health; Fact Sheet: Climate Change

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