



World Health Organization II Global Conference on Health and Climate Change

***“Building Healthier Societies through
implementation of the Paris Agreement”***



**Second Global Conference
Health & Climate**

Paris 7–8 July 2016

Scope and Purpose of the Conference

“A ruined planet cannot sustain human lives in good health. A healthy planet and healthy people are two sides of the same coin.”

Dr Margaret Chan, Paris COP21, December 2015

Background

The Paris Agreement, adopted on 11 December 2015, marks the beginning of a new era in the global response to Climate Change. The world now has a climate treaty that will become a public health treaty as countries take action. As stated in the agreement, “the right to health”, will be central to the actions countries take.

The agreement not only sets ambitious aims to curb greenhouse gas emissions to keep global warming well below 2°C, it commits countries to implement adaptation plans that will protect human health from the worst impacts of climate change, such as, heat waves, floods and droughts, and the ongoing degradation of water and food security. Developed countries have committed to financing clean and resilient futures in the most vulnerable countries. Through monitoring and revision of national commitments every five years, the world will begin to see improvements not only in the environment, but also in health, including reductions in the more than 7 million deaths worldwide that are attributed to air pollution every year.

To build on this historic opportunity for health, WHO in collaboration with the COP21 Presidency, will organize its Second Global Conference on Health and Climate: “Building Healthier Societies through implementation of the Paris Agreement”.

Expected outcome

The conference will define a post COP21 action agenda for the implementation of the Paris agreement for healthier and more sustainable societies, to be supported by the creation of a Global Platform on Health and Climate.

Outputs

The conference will result in the following specific outputs:

1. A global strategy for health resilience investments
2. Guidance on the role of the health sector in climate change mitigation
3. An economic approach to assess and value the health “co-benefits” of climate change mitigation measures, as well as savings from investments in climate resilient health systems
4. A co-ordinated plan for international monitoring of progress in health adaptation and mitigation at country level
5. A global platform to engage with civil society, scientists, and the wider global health community to promote action at the health and climate nexus

Main Conference Topics

The conference will address the following thematic areas,

Addressing Health Risks and Opportunities

- Increasing **health resilience** to climate risks, including ensuring access to sustainable, safe, clean **energy** for the health sector
- Gaining the **health “co-benefits”** of climate mitigation measures, particularly through reducing the 7 million annual deaths from air pollution, with a specific focus on urban planning and household energy

Ensuring Support for Health and Climate Action

- Presenting the approach of the working group on **health economics and climate change**
- Facilitating health access to **climate finance** through the Green Climate Fund and bilateral donors, and scaling up programmes on health resilience to climate change
- Engaging the health community and **communicating** climate risks and opportunities

Measuring Country Progress

- Assessing the **health gains** that countries can expect through implementing their “Nationally Determined Contributions”, or more ambitious low-carbon policies
Increasing coverage of the WHO/UNFCCC climate and health **country profiles**

