



NADI COMMUNIQUE

We, Parliamentarians, representing 20 countries across the Asia-Pacific region, gathered at the Fifth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health in Nadi, Fiji, from 20 to 22 August 2019, on the theme of climate change and health:

1. *Reaffirm* our unified, continuing commitment to prioritize, promote, and protect the health and wellbeing of all people, while leaving no one behind, through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. *Declare* climate change to be a crisis, which presents one of the most critical threats to health in all countries across the Asia-Pacific region;
3. *Recognize* the wide-ranging health impacts of climate change, including injuries, illnesses, and deaths from storms, floods, drought, heatwaves, and other extreme weather; increased vector-borne and water-related diseases; food insecurity and malnutrition; displacement; and psychological stress;
4. *Note with alarm* that global warming of 1.5°C is expected to threaten the very existence of low-lying island nations due to sea-level rise and climate-related disasters;
5. *Are concerned* that at-risk communities and marginalized groups are most severely affected by the health impacts of climate change, including the poor, women and children, persons with disabilities, older people, migrants, refugees, the geographically isolated, and especially indigenous peoples due to their dependence upon and close cultural relationship with the land, environment and its resources;
6. *Recognize* that the health impacts of climate change can affect economic growth and development;
7. *Acknowledge* that proactive actions to increase preparedness can reduce some risks to health and health infrastructure projected for later in the century, while adaptation policies and measures alone will unlikely be able to prevent all impacts;
8. *Acknowledge* that reducing emissions from other sectors, such as transport, energy, food production, water resources, and urban planning, has significant health, social, and economic co-benefits;
9. *Recognize* the climate crisis as both a threat and an opportunity for countries to strengthen their climate-resilient health systems, which are critical for national security, economy, and public safety;
10. *Emphasize* the urgent need for action through a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, with political support at the highest levels, to mitigate, adapt to, and respond to the climate crisis;
11. *Recognize* that a failure to act on the climate crisis will result in preventable injuries, illnesses, and deaths, losses to infrastructure, losses to traditional knowledge and intangible cultural heritage, and reversal of health and development gains made, with impact on future generations;
12. *Emphasize* that an effective response to the climate crisis requires action and coordination across local, national, regional, and global levels;
13. *Express* appreciation to the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji, with support from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, for hosting the Fifth Meeting and demonstrating national and regional leadership in addressing climate change and health, and to the local government and communities of Lautoka for sharing their experiences to illustrate the health impacts of and responses to the climate crisis at the local level; and
14. *Acknowledge* the technical and advocacy leadership of the World Health Organization in making the climate crisis one of the top priorities for health and wellbeing in the Asia-Pacific Region.

We urge our fellow parliamentarians to:

1. *Advocate* for the inclusion of health in all of our relevant portfolios, policies, and projects to address the climate crisis as the core of our political, economic and development agendas;
2. *Strengthen* legal frameworks to enhance governance across sectors and ensure policy coherence for an effective, inclusive, and sustainable response to address the impacts of climate change on health, as well as health systems;
3. *Approve* sufficient national appropriations and mobilize sustainable financing, such as through global climate financing mechanisms, as appropriate, to enable governments to address the health impacts of climate change, including through climate-resilient health systems;
4. *Represent* the interests of our constituencies to ensure that the needs of all are met and to ensure inclusive participation, especially groups like women and children, in the responses to climate change and health;
5. *Maintain* oversight to facilitate coordination across sectors and ensure government accountability and transparency in the implementation of policies to address the health impacts of climate change;
6. *Engage* in international partnerships, platforms, and coalitions, including the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health, to share experiences between countries and strengthen international cooperation for climate action; and
7. *Take actions* to implement the recommendations in this Nadi Communique and report to the Forum on country progress, as appropriate.

We request the Secretariat to:

1. *Continue* to provide normative guidance and technical assistance to countries in their efforts to address the health impacts of climate change, including through the WHO Operational Framework for Climate-Resilient Health Systems which includes, but is not limited to, ensuring:
 - a. health facilities that are green and safe and able to remain operational, especially during extreme weather events and disasters;
 - b. safely-managed water, sanitation, and hygiene management are provided at all levels and types of health services, including primary health care in communities;
 - c. integrated risk monitoring, early warning, and response systems enable timely detection, prevention, intervention, and management of climate-sensitive disease outbreaks; and
 - d. institutional capacities and awareness are strengthened to facilitate preventive activities, such as environmental health services, vector control, reproductive health services, and nutrition programmes;
2. *Develop* innovative mechanisms to scale up support to Member States, potentially including mechanisms for making high-quality, actionable climate change and health data and information available to all;
3. *Engage* in partnerships and mobilize expertise and resources within and beyond the health sector to identify and synergize opportunities to better support Member States to mainstream climate change and health into all policy, legislation and actions; and
4. *Strengthen* engagement with parliaments, including through the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health, to enhance the role of parliamentarians in addressing the impacts of climate change on health and health systems, and maximizing the co-benefits of climate action on health and wellbeing of all people, while leaving no one behind.

We adopt this Nadi Communique on 22 August 2019 as the outcome statement of the Fifth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health.