

PRESS RELEASE

COP28 Presidency Calls on Governments to Endorse the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health

- Presidency launched COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health during World Health Summit in Berlin.
- Country endorsements of the 'COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health' will be announced at COP28, and covers a range of areas, including cross-sector collaboration on climate and health, reducing emissions within the health sector, and increasing the amount and proportion of financing devoted to climate and health.
- “The link between climate change and health is becoming increasingly evident every day, with diseases like malaria surging as temperatures rise, and extreme weather events impacting people around the globe,” says COP28 President, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber.
- “Through the Declaration on Climate and Health we aim to help deliver public health systems that are climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable, and we urge all nations to endorse it.”
- The 'COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health' has been developed in close collaboration with the World Health Organization and the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention, and with the support of a number of 'country champions' – including Brazil, Malawi, the UK, the US, the Netherlands, Kenya, Fiji, India, Egypt, Sierra Leone, and Germany.
- Kenya, Fiji, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Malawi also expressed their support as “early endorsers” of the Declaration.

Berlin, 17 October, 2023: The COP28 Presidency launched the 'COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health' as part of its commitment to make health a central element of the climate agenda. The Presidency made the announcement at the World Health Summit in Berlin, where it called on governments around the world to endorse the Declaration.

The Declaration covers a range of areas, including cross-sector on climate and health, reducing emissions within the health sector, and increasing the amount and proportion of climate financing devoted to health.

“The link between climate change and health is becoming increasingly evident every day, with diseases like malaria surging as temperatures rise, and extreme weather events impacting people around the globe,” said COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber.

“The international community must act now to put health at the center of climate action before we see global health systems overwhelmed. Through the Declaration on Climate and Health we aim to help deliver public health systems that are climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable, and we urge all nations to endorse it.”

The Declaration was developed along with the World Health Organization (WHO) and with the support of a number of ‘country champions’ – including Brazil, Malawi, the UK, the US, the Netherlands, Kenya, Fiji, India, Egypt, Sierra Leone, and Germany. Kenya, Fiji, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Malawi were also announced as “early endorsers” of the Declaration.

On the launch of the COP28 Declaration on Health and Climate, Minister of Health for Malawi, Hon Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda MP said, "Malawi's health system has been straining under the impacts of climate change on health. We need stronger and better coordinated political action, and improved finance. Malawi endorses the Declaration on climate and health, and calls on others to join in. Countries need to speak with one voice on this important issue."

Speaking on behalf of Fiji Minister for Health and Medical Services for Fiji, Hon Dr Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalavu said, “Fiji, like all SIDS, are witnessing the devastation of climate change every day in our homes, our communities, and our health. Words and good ideas cannot stop them, only decisive actions will. We are building resilience into our infrastructure, health system and way of life. And we demand for comprehensive effort to reduce environmental pollutants that are causing the global temperatures to rise, tide levels at our shorelines to increase, and cyclones in our region more ferocious. Waiting is not an option; we must act now!”.

The World Health Summit, running from 15-17 October, is being held under the theme of “A Defining Year for Global Health Action” and brings together stakeholders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society to set the global health agenda.

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Notes to Editors COP28 UAE:

- COP28 will be the first to dedicate an entire day to health on December 3 and host the first-ever Climate Health Ministerial at a COP.
- COP28 UAE will take place at Expo City Dubai from November 30-December 12, 2023. The Conference is expected to convene over 70,000 participants, including heads of state, government officials, international industry leaders, private sector representatives, academics, experts, youth, and non-state actors.
- As mandated by the Paris Climate Agreement, COP28 UAE will deliver the first ever Global Stocktake – a comprehensive evaluation of progress against climate goals.
- The UAE will lead a process for all parties to agree upon a clear roadmap to accelerate progress through a pragmatic global energy transition and a “leave no one behind” approach to inclusive climate action.