

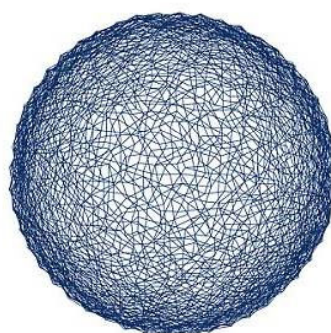
Health and Climate Change in the UNFCCC negotiations

Public Health and Environment Department
World Health Organization,
Geneva



World Health
Organization

... The 'big bang' theory of climate change negotiations
explodes at Copenhagen



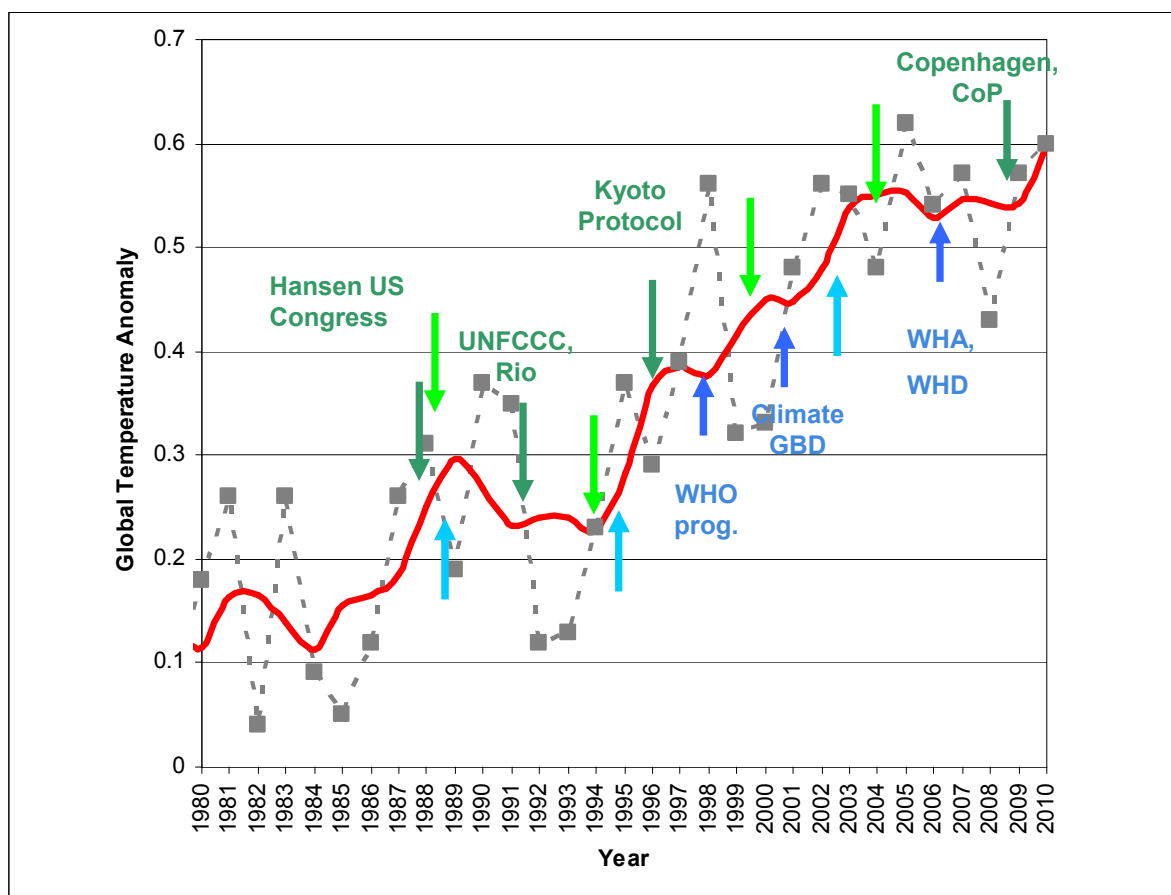
COP15
COPENHAGEN
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

**"We are not going to get one beautiful agreement right
away."**

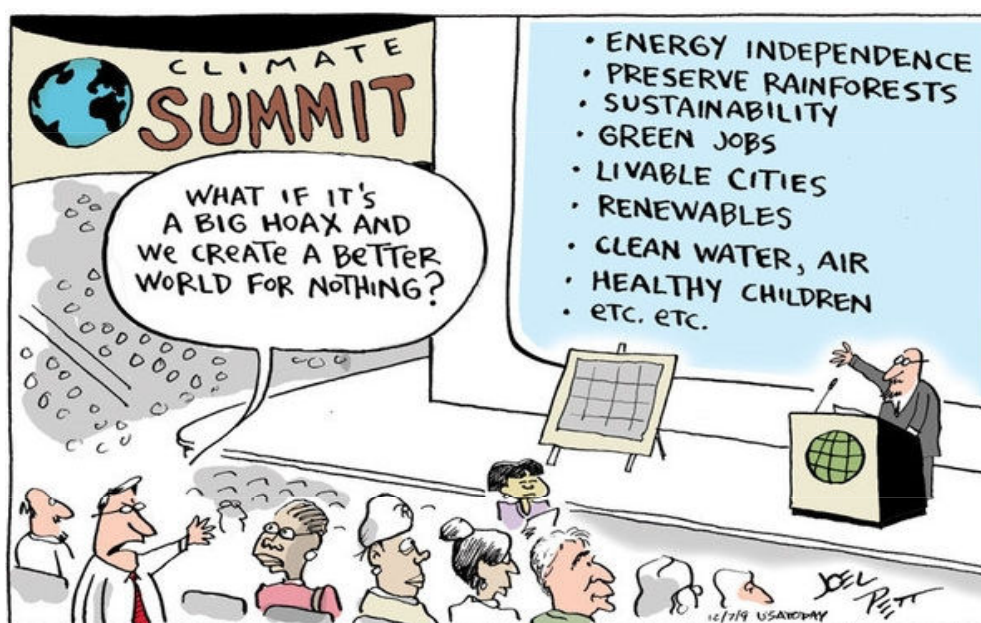
- WWF executive director and US mission environment chargé d'affaires, speaking at Geneva climate change forum, 2.3.2010



Health and climate change in the past 30 years

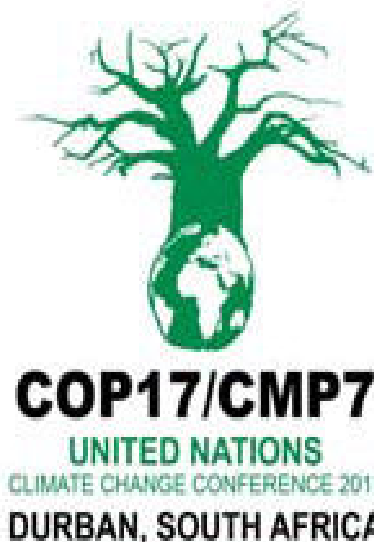


The bottom line

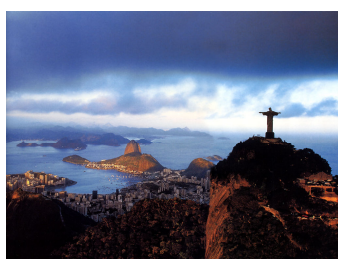


State of global climate change negotiations

- Science broadly settled, but political difficulties to achieve even the modest commitments made so far.
- The main disagreement - Why should WE pay to achieve uncertain, shared environmental benefits, decades down the line?
- Health has a role to play – but high barriers to getting messages across.



Health as a central principle of the 1992 Rio conference and the UNFCCC:



1992 RIO DECLARATION Article 1: *"Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a **healthy** and productive life in harmony with nature."*



UNFCCC Article 1: *"Adverse effects of climate change" : changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on **human health and welfare**.*

UNFCCC commitment to consider health effects of mitigation and adaptation measures:

UNFCCC Article 4.1 (f): *All Parties...shall: ...f. Take climate change considerations into account, to the extent feasible, in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods, for example impact assessments, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimizing adverse effects on the economy, on **public health** and on the quality of the environment, of projects and measures undertaken by them to mitigate or adapt to climate change;*



Entry points within the UNFCCC process

NAPAs and NAPs

- NAPA process COP7 – Marrakesh Accords
- UNFCCC Framework for the preparation of NAPAs includes health together with loss of life, livelihoods, water, food and cultural heritage
- 2010 – WHO overview of health considerations within the NAPA process
 - Health included in 95% of NAPAs as a sector impacted by climate change
 - 23% of those, comprehensive in their health V&A assessments
 - 11% of selected priority projects focused on health
 - 3% of the estimated total cost of selected priority projects to health

Entry points within the UNFCCC process

National communications (NCs)

- All Parties to the UNFCCC are expected to report on their country's implementation of the UNFCCC
- Parties are requested to provide information for each policy and measure reported on non-greenhouse gas mitigation benefits such as reduced emissions of other pollutants **or health benefits**.
- UNFCCC Secretariat does not include relevant advice for such reporting in their guidelines to Parties for drafting their NCs



Entry points within the UNFCCC process

- Fifth EU NC health included as a vulnerable sector and highlights the need of developing a cost-benefit analysis of environmental health risks and indicators for prevention strategies
- *User Manual* for National Communications by non-Annex 1 countries
 - Within the area of "national circumstances" report on health sector
 - Section on adequate adaptation - information on health baseline conditions and their linkages
 - No concrete guidance on how to report on this



How to impact the process outside the process??

- Partnerships
- Advocacy targeting key stakeholders of the process
 - Different sectors (environment, energy, water, food)
 - UNFCCC focal point at national level
- The power of the health community
- Translate our source of frustration into a positive message
 - IFMSA publication on The importance of CC to health COP16

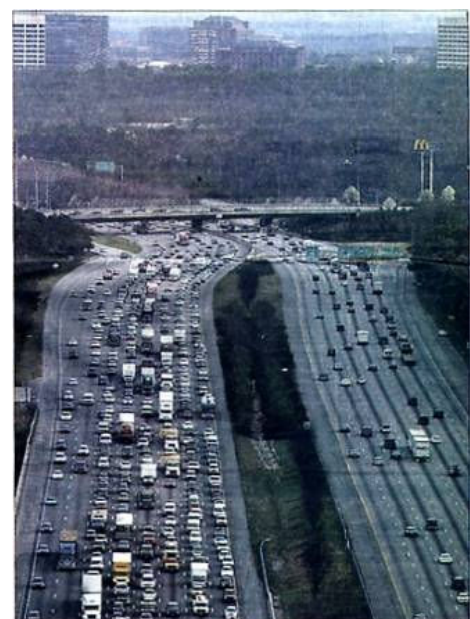
Will 23 lanes be enough?

Proposal would put I-75 among country's biggest

By ARIEL HART
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It's wider than an aircraft carrier. Far wider than the carving on Stone Mountain. Wider than the White House stretched end to end, twice. It's the planned I-75, all 23 lanes, coming soon to Cobb County. As currently conceived it's 388 feet across, wider than a football field is long.

23 LANES: The state Department of Transportation is planning to expand I-75 (below) and I-575 in Cobb and Cherokee counties. The 23-lane stretch would be between Delk and Windy Hill roads on I-75.



Traffic heads north on I-75, just north of I-285, on Thursday. A proposal for the interstate is enough to make a road builder weep with joy, and make others wonder whether it's overkill.

Source: Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 10, 2006. Slide courtesy of Howie Frumkin, US CDC

More information:

World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/>

Public Health and Environment

<http://www.who.int/phe/en/>

Global Environmental Change

<http://www.who.int/globalchange/>

Climate Change

<http://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/>

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