

Background Note:

COP 24 Side Event “The Right to Health & Climate Change”

Katowice, Poland, Friday 7 December 2018, 18:30-20:00, Room “Warmia”.

Topics: *The right to health in the Paris Agreement legally and practically underpins Member States' responses to and preparation for climate change. This panel explores ambitious, rights-based approaches to secure climate-resilient health systems & responses, in light of ongoing international initiatives on health adaptation such as the UNFCCC Nairobi Workplan Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation (NWP), the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) and WHO Workplan.*

This COP24 Side-Event:

... emphasizes (to States Parties) that: (a) health is an essential issue in ensuring effective climate action and deeply affects populations affected by climate change; (b) health is firmly recognized in the PA, including in the form of **the right to health** that means people's access to adequate health care and underlying determinant should be at the heart of climate action (c) health impacts of climate change are already visible, and adaptation planning and efforts need to seriously begin now.

... explores practical evidence and concerns about specific health impacts of climate change (e.g. following the [WHO COP24 Special Report on Climate and Health](#) or the [IPCC SR15 report](#)). What are perceived bottlenecks/best practices for protecting vulnerable groups especially, and which (positive) experiences exist with human-rights based approaches to climate adaptation (e.g. empowering people through participation)?

... assesses/show-cases how human rights can/should play a (larger) role in practical health adaptation planning and reporting, e.g. within (health) NAPs, within appropriate UNFCCC processes, and within UNHCR/OHCHR.

Programme & Speakers:

Panel 1: The Right to Health and Climate Change (Adaptation): Practical Approaches

Chair: Daniel Klein, UNFCCC

- 18.30-19.45:
- * Dr. Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum (WHO, Climate Change and Health Team Leader, Public Health and Environment Department)
 - * Jeni Miller (Executive Director, Global Climate and Health Alliance)
 - * Dr. Vijay Sharma (Chief Executive, Regional Institute of Health, Medicines and Research)

Video-message by: Prof. David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

Panel 2: The Right to Health and Climate Change (Adaptation): Legal Approaches

- 19:15-19:45
- * Marlies Hesselman (University of Groningen, Global Health Law Groningen Research Centre)
 - * Benjamin Schachter (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)
 - * Prof. Stefania Negri (Jean Monnet Chair European Health, Environmental and Food Safety Law, University of Salerno)

Speakers Bio's:

Dr. Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum is Climate Change and Health Team Leader, Public Health and Environment Department, WHO. Dr Campbell-Lendrum has played key roles in the 2008 World Health Assembly Resolution on climate change and health, and is a lead author of the health chapter of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Jeni Miller is Executive Director of the Global Climate and Health Alliance, where she coordinates the joint efforts of Alliance members to minimize the health impacts of climate change, and to maximize the health co-benefits of mitigation strategies. She has extensive prior experience with advocacy in the health and climate sector, including with the American Public Health Association's (APHA) Climate and Health Topic Committee, and the Public Health Institute's (PHI) Center for Climate Change and Health. <http://www.climateandhealthalliance.org/>

Dr. Vijay Sharma is currently Chief Executive of the Regional Institute of Health, Medicines and Research, a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Banipark, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. Its area of activity is South Asia where it works to improve access to information and interventions in amongst others, the area of climate change, sustainable development, forest conservation, environmental protection, women empowerment, rights of specially-abled people, mothers and children's health. <http://www.rihmr.org/>

Marlies Hesselman is a lecturer in public international law at the University of Groningen and researcher of human rights law across the spectrum of health, climate change, energy access, disaster management and the environment. Marlies is in the process of finishing a PhD on 'universal access to modern energy services and human rights'. For the Global Health Law Groningen Marlies especially researches the right to health and climate change. <https://www.rug.nl/research/groningen-centre-for-law-and-governance/expertisecentra/ghlg/climate-change>

Benjamin Schachter is Human Rights Officer at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the Right to Development Unit of the OHCHR, where he acts as the focal point for Climate Change and Environment.

Prof. Stefania Negri is associate professor of International Law at the School of Law of the University of Salerno, and Jean Monnet Professor European Health, Environmental and Food Safety Law. She teaches Public International Law and International Human Rights Law and is expert in the broad area of health law, acting as National Contact Point for Italy for the European Association of Health Law, a co-convener/member of the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group on "International Health Law" of the European Society of International Law, the Interest Group on "International and EU Health Law" at the Italian Society of International Law, and the Committee on Global Health Law at the International Law Association. <http://www.jean-monnet-chair-healthy.eu/chair-holder.html>

This Side-Event is co-organized and co-sponsored by...

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