Moderated Panel discussions

Elena Manaenkova
WMO Deputy Secretary-General (Strengthening met services to support health sector preparedness to the risk of climate change) (TBC)

Joy St John
WHO Assistant Director-General, Climate and other Determinants of Health

Amjad Abdulla (Mr.)
Director, Climate Change, Climate Change Department Maldives and AGOS Chief Negotiator (Strengthening health care systems in Small Island Developing States)

Helena Molin-Valdés
Head of the Secretariat, Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) (Addressing SLCP under the Paris Agreement)
(Video by Dr. Kumar: Air pollution and lung cancer testimony of a surgeon from New Delhi
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWPSgMywJk)

Nick Watts
Executive Director, Lancet Countdown

Josh Kartiner
Health Care Without Harm – San Francisco Health Community Call to action

Tarek Ezzine
Liaison Officer for Public Health Issues, IFMIS – The role of health students at the time of Climate Change

Q&A
Q&A open interaction with public

Conclusion

COP 24 SIDE EVENT (SDG 3)
7 MILLION UNACCEPTABLE DEATHS
Combatting Air Pollution and Climate Change to protect our health

SPECIAL COP24
HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT
Organized by WHO in collaboration with OHCHR, WMO, UNICEF, UN Environment, UNDP, CCAC
BACKGROUND

During COP23, the High Level Presidency Event on Health, the Hon PM Raisomara led a call for the World Health Organization to develop a report on health and climate change to be delivered at COP24.

Article 1 of the UNFCCC defines the “adverse effects of climate change” as changes that have “significant deleterious effects... on human health and welfare.” Further, Article 4.1 (f) mandates that parties conduct “impact assessments, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimizing adverse effects... on public health” when implementing mitigation and adaptation interventions, based on the best available science, in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision-making.

Additionally, there is a high-level political commitment to protecting and promoting human health, reflected in the 2015 Paris Agreement and its pre-ambulatory text, which explicitly acknowledges that “parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations... to the right to health...”, and recognises the centrality of “mitigation actions and their co-benefits for adaptation, health and sustainable development” as a key justification for enhanced action prior to 2020. Furthermore, the Paris Agreement states that the objective of the Agreement is to “strengthen the global response to climate change, in the context of sustainable development”, and thereby links the climate change agenda to Agenda 2030 on the Sustainable Development Goals which have a near-term perspective for action.

Moreover, under international human rights law, States also have a legally binding obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the human right to health for all persons which requires they take action to prevent foreseeable harms posed by climate change.

Given the above and the growing evidence on the health impacts of climate change, the health co-benefits of climate action (including health benefits of enhanced action on short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon and methane), and the important role that the health sector plays in every country, there is a need to increase the understanding of this dimension of the climate issues so as to best meet the goals of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

SCOPE OF THE EVENT

This COP24 side event will showcase the Health and Climate Change report findings and recommendations. It will provide 1) a global state of knowledge on the interconnection between climate change and health issues and 2) an overview of the initiatives and tools through which the public health community at country, regional and global level is currently supporting and scaling-up actions to implement the Paris Agreement, for a healthier and more sustainable society.1

1 Based on the “Health Action Agenda” approved at the 2nd Global Conference on Health and Climate, held in Paris from 14-18 July 2018.

OUTLINE OF THE EVENT

Moderator: Dr Maria Neira, Director PHE, WHO
Short Opening remarks by:

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
  Director-General, World Health Organization (video message 2 min)

- Mr Michal Kurtyka
  Secretary of State, Government Plenipotentiary for the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties (COP24), Ministry of Environment Republic of Poland (TBC)

- Ovais Sarmad
  Deputy Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

- H.E. Luke Daunival
  High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji, Chief Negotiator

Technical Presentation by:

Dharmid Campbell-Lendrum, World Health Organization: COP24 Health and Climate Change – the ppt will be prepared in collaboration and with the inputs of all the collaborating agency and will provide the following information:

1. A global state of knowledge on the interconnection between climate change and health.

2. An overview of the initiatives and tools through which the public health community at country, regional and global level is currently supporting and scaling-up actions to implement the Paris Agreement, for a healthier and more sustainable society.

3. Recommendations for UNFCCC negotiators on how to maximise the health benefits of tackling climate change and avoid the worst health impacts of this global challenge.