

A NEW CHAPTER FOR CLIMATE AND HEALTH:

ANTALYA COP31

Baku Climate Week – 09.09.2026 / 10:30–11:30

COP31 Presidency (Türkiye) Event: Health

Duration: 60 minutes

Moderator: WHO (Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health / WHO Regional Office)

10:00 – 10:05 Opening Remarks (5 min), From Glasgow to Antalya: The Evolution of Climate and Health in the COP Process, WHO,

10:00 – 10:55 **Panel Discussion**

- Bringing Health into the Climate Agenda, COP26 Presidency (United Kingdom),
***Key Messages;** COP26 Health Programme, Health Programme Commitments Climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems, Why health became part of the COP agenda*
- Elevating Health as a Global Climate Priority and Political Momentum, COP28 Presidency (United Arab Emirates)
***Key Messages;** First Health Day, UAE Declaration on Climate and Health, Financing and partnerships*
- Strengthening Continuity through the Climate and Health Coalition, COP29 Presidency (Azerbaijan)
***Key Messages,** Sustaining momentum across COP Presidencies, Strengthening collaboration, Preparing the pathway to future COPs*
- Translating Commitments into Collective Action, COP30 Presidency (Brazil)
***Key Messages;** Belém Health Action Plan, Nature, equity and implementation,*
- Opening a New Chapter through Acceleration and Shared Experience, COP31 Presidency (Türkiye)
***Key Messages;** Health included in the COP31 Action Agenda for the first time, Introducing the Antalya Health Accelerator (AHA), Experience sharing as the catalyst for accelerating implementation, Türkiye's vision for the future of climate and health cooperation, invitation to Antalya.*

10:55 – 11:00 Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks (WHO)

Background

Climate change is no longer a distant or sector-specific risk, but a rapidly evolving systemic health challenge. Its impacts are reshaping disease patterns, increasing pressure on health systems and affecting the conditions under which essential health services are delivered. Growing evidence points to a wide range of health impacts, including heat-related illness, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, vector-borne diseases, mental health impacts, food and water insecurity, and disruptions caused by extreme weather events.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has characterised climate change as a fundamental threat to human health and estimates that climate change could cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoeal disease and heat stress alone. These risks underline the need for health systems that are not only resilient to shocks, but also dynamic in their ability to anticipate, adapt and respond to evolving climate-related health risks while maintaining essential services.

Health has gained increasing prominence across successive UN Climate Change Conferences. COP26 in Glasgow advanced the integration of health into the climate agenda through the COP26 Health Programme and commitments on climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems. COP28 in Dubai marked a major milestone with the first dedicated Health Day and the UAE Declaration on Climate and Health. COP29 in Baku strengthened continuity and collaboration across the climate and health agenda, while COP30 in Belém further advanced the transition towards implementation through the Belém Health Action Plan.

Despite this progress, significant implementation challenges remain. Climate-health action is still often fragmented and insufficiently integrated into national health planning, resource allocation and health system investment. Key barriers include limited and fragmented financing, infrastructure vulnerability, workforce and institutional capacity gaps, insufficient climate-health surveillance and data systems, and limited integration of health considerations into national climate policies and planning processes.

COP31 provides an opportunity to build on the achievements of previous COP Presidencies and move from political recognition and commitments towards accelerated implementation. Under the COP31 Action Agenda, the Turkish Presidency is advancing Dynamic and Resilient Health Systems, with a focus on strengthening the ability of health systems to adapt to climate change, prepare for disasters and emergencies, maintain essential services and remain sustainable in the face of evolving risks.

Türkiye's experience in health system transformation, disaster preparedness and emergency health coordination, modern health infrastructure, digital health, manufacturing and logistics provides relevant experience for this agenda. Türkiye's geographic position at the intersection of Europe, Asia and the Mediterranean, and its exposure to diverse climate-related risks, including extreme weather, drought, wildfires, floods and water scarcity, further reinforce the importance of building dynamic and resilient health systems

About the Event

Against this background, the COP31 Presidency will convene “A New Chapter For Climate And Health” during Baku Climate Week.

The event will bring together representatives of successive COP Presidencies and international partners to reflect on the evolution of the climate and health agenda from Glasgow to Dubai, Baku, Belém and Antalya. The discussion will highlight key achievements and lessons from previous COPs and consider how this accumulated momentum can be translated into practical implementation under COP31.

The event will also provide an opportunity to present the COP31 Presidency’s approach to Dynamic and Resilient Health Systems, including the Antalya Initiative for Health Resilience (AIR), and to explore how experience-sharing, cooperation and practical partnerships can help accelerate implementation across different national and regional contexts.

Insights emerging from the discussion will contribute to the continued development of the COP31 Action Agenda on health and help strengthen continuity between successive COP Presidencies, with Antalya serving as the next step in moving the global climate and health agenda from commitment towards implementation and acceleration.