

COP 23 Presidency Event

Health Actions for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement

Background

The Paris Agreement, adopted on 12 December 2015, marks the beginning of a new era in the global response to climate change. The world now has a global climate agreement; one that will also significantly improve public health as countries take action. “[T]he right to health”, acknowledged in the Paris Agreement, will be central to the actions taken.

Under the initiative of the Climate Champions, a special session on Health and Climate Change was convened at COP 22 on “Health Actions for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement”. The event followed the “Health Action Agenda” approved at the 2nd Global Conference on Health and Climate, held in Paris from 7-8 July 2016. This high-level event at COP 23 is a follow-up, and part of the momentum built on implementing the Paris Agreement in relation to the Health Action Agenda.

Objective of the event

This event will be convened by His Excellency Frank Bainimarama, COP 23 President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, in cooperation with the World Health Organization. It will start by launching an initiative to protect the health of the people of Small Island Developing States from climate risks, and to amplify the voices of the most vulnerable, for both climate change adaptation and mitigation.

It will also include a moderated discussion which will aim to showcase the ongoing initiatives of national governments, and the wider health community, in implementing the health commitments of the Paris Agreement, and the health and climate agenda. It will also aim to assess the current state of progress, and identify the ongoing barriers to stronger action to protect and promote health while addressing climate change. There will be special attention paid to the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Speakers

The event will bring together senior government officials and high-level members of the health, environment and development communities.

Logistics

The event will take place on Sunday, 12 November 2017 from 13:15 – 14:45 in Room 2 of the COP23 Bonn Zone and it is open to all conference participants. Questions about the event should be addressed to cop23presidencyevents@unfccc.int.

Draft event agenda

Sunday, 12th of November 2017, Bonn Zone (Room 2)		Moderator: Maria Neira , WHO
Time	Speaker	
1:15 (5 min)	Opening COP 23 President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, H.E. Frank Bainimarama	
1:20 (5 min)	Launch of a specific initiative for Small Island Developing States WHO Director General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	
1:25 (5 min)	Remarks UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Patricia Espinosa	
1:30 (10 min)	Keynote R20 Founding Chair and Former Governor of California, Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger	
1:40 (60 min)	High-Level Dialogue on the role of the public health community in the implementation of the Paris Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health (PHE), WHO, Maria Neira <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. John Boyce, Minister of Health of Barbados Hon. Nandi Glassie, Minister for Health, Justice and Parliamentary Services of the Cook Islands Hon. Vidar Helgesen, Minister of Climate and the Environment of Norway H.R.H Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, Global maternal and newborn health advocate Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger, R20 Founding Chair and Former Governor of California Rachel Kyte, CEO of Sustainable Energy for All, and Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All Solly Tshepiso Msimanga, Executive Mayor of Tshwane, South Africa 	
2:40 (5 min)	Closing Hon. Rosy Sofia Akbar , Minister for Health and Medical Services of Fiji	