

UNFCCC COP 26

Glasgow, UK

Outcome Document

“Futures Lab: Reimagining Healthcare”

Health Care Without Harm, Greener NHS, Mediciens Sans Frontieres, the World Health Organization, Public Health Foundation of India

4th November 2021

15:00 – 16:30

“Climate Smart Healthcare for a Healthier Planet”

Key Messages:

There are innovations, technologies, and approaches to creating climate-smart healthcare today that are not shared multilaterally. To build a future where our health systems are low carbon and resilient, we need to share these learnings so that different communities and countries can tailor solutions to their needs (e.g. indigenous communities around Alberta, Canada, have demonstrated excellent community led approaches).

To approach this, we need to start by focussing on people – so that we build solutions that answer the needs of the communities. We then leverage new innovations and technologies, and finally scale and create transformational change through engaging with the whole system.

Outcomes:

1. *Explored bold, imaginative ideas for systems change aimed at accelerating climate action and catalysing the transition to a regenerative and just world.*

We brought together a diverse set of individuals from multiple different backgrounds (activists, medical students, politicians, doctors, patients) which created a platform to discuss and bring to light many different ideas (e.g. switching anaesthetic gases to reduce green house gas emissions from surgeries). We provided enough structure through the themes of the panels (people, innovation and tech, and systems) which gave a framework to discuss, but equally left the moderators speakers with enough space to allow them to take the discussion where it flowed. The panels built on each other – resulting in discussions that matured over the course of the Lab.

2. *Span intellectual, demographic, cultural, geographic and gender boundaries; creating space for voices often excluded from decision making.*

The diversity of our speakers and moderators extended beyond background (mentioned in previous answer), but also included gender, geographic, and demographic diversity. Due to this, we had speakers of all ages (3 youth), genders (mostly female) and geographical backgrounds (an almost even split between global north and south – with indigenous representation as well).

Due to this we heard from a wide range of voices including those who have suffered first hand the impacts of climate change on health (e.g. young Highveld community member suffering from the impacts of coal on air pollution), to those non-state actors who are transforming large scale health systems (e.g. Chief Sustainability Officer of the NHS England).

3. *Demonstrate 'pockets of the future in the present' where ambitious and just systems transformation (aligned with MPGCA 1.5 pathways) is already underway.*

We created our 'pocketbook for the future with examples of innovation in climate-smart healthcare across the world. Key examples include:

- Assisted telemedicine across India
- Drone tech for medical delivery
- Video observed therapy
- Solar powered hospitals
- Climate smart waste management