

UNFCCC COP 27

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Outcome Document: “Futures Lab: Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Transforming the Health Care Sector”

Organised by Health Care Without Harm

In Partnership with

Climate and Health Alliance of Australia

Lung Care Foundation/Doctors for Clean Air

Global Climate and Health Alliance

groundWork, South Africa

Health and Climate Network

Médecins Sans Frontières

Public Health Foundation of India

World Health Organization

10 November, 16:30 - 18:00

Climate Action Room 1

“Futures Lab: Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Transforming the Health Care Sector”

Key Messages:

The challenges of both climate and health are inextricably intertwined. To solve one, you must solve the other. This requires climate and health actors to come together and transform both the health sector, which is a major climate polluter, and also the broader economy. Mobilizing the health sector and its professionals can build a more robust movement to take on the climate crisis and help achieve the SDGs..

Outcomes:

- 1. Outcome 1 from concept note: (note that concept note had only one outcome listed).*

“A contribution to the growing convergence of climate and health movements.”

and from the “creativity section” rather than outcomes:

“Inspire people with examples of what is happening today, while also setting forth a vision of what can and must happen tomorrow and in the future. It will also push participants to think boldly and creatively about how to bring climate and health together in a synergistic, powerful way.”

Reflections on outcome post event.

The event powerfully articulated the connection between climate change and human health, while also capturing the inspiring momentum of the health sector in transforming the way it does business to take on climate mitigation and resilience both through government action and through the action of hospitals, health systems and health professionals. The event also captured the voices of climate advocates discussing health, and articulated a vision of a just and healthy transition, where health was a central component.

Overall the event continued to raising the profile of the health sector as an important climate actor– something that has been relatively absent in the UNFCCC space over 30 years.

Transformative government action was captured through a dynamic conversation about the COP26 Health Programme commitments and how they grew from 52 governments at COP26 to more than 60 at COP27, and how these commitments are now being supported to be put into action via the [Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health](#), led by the WHO. This segment of the Futures Lab provided a UNFCCC High Level Champions' Forum to discuss these commitments, thus more tightly connecting health care climate action to the broader climate movement.

Similarly, transformative hospital and health system action was captured by a second conversation among health care participants in Race to Zero. The health care component of Race to Zero has served as an essential bridge between climate action and the health care sector– bringing the two together in concerted action. The Futures Lab conversation reflected that. In addition, the presence of the Egypt Health Care Authority speaking on their commitment to low-carbon, climate resilient health care provided an inspiring example from the host country which led to a series of additional engagements between HCWH and the HCA.

The role of health professionals in taking on air pollution, and therefore fossil fuel combustion, which is also at the root of the climate crisis was [powerfully articulated](#) by Dr. Arvind Kumar, President of the Lung Care Foundation of India.

Tasneem Essop, head of Climate Action Network powerfully brought the climate movement perspective into the room during the panel discussion on a Just and Healthy Transition. This panel moved forward an important and nascent conversation about how to best health into a just transition framework.

Throughout there were a set of inspiring interventions and multimedia presentations, including a powerful video on a [Just and Healthy Transition](#), as well as moving [closing poem](#) by US Poet Laureate Emeritus, Juan Felipe Herrera.

Finally, we believe that COP28 presents an excellent opportunity to organize another Futures Lab on climate and health with a different, exciting theme that we would like to share with the Climate Champions Team.

Materials / Assets:

[Concept note](#)
[Event folder](#)