



RACE TO ZERO

Dialogues

Outcome Document
***R2Z Dialogue on Climate & Health -
for a healthy, resilient, zero-carbon recovery.***

Monday, 9th November 2020

Organised by WHO and leading health organisations

Key Messages

The Race to Zero Dialogue on Climate & Health

Please provide one or two social media-style messages that summarize the most important impacts from the day's Dialogues. Emphasise progress on raising ambition in the Race to Zero, and consensus on actions and campaigns that will drive progress on transformational pathways. Please focus on impact in your sector/theme. We also suggest highlighting any outcomes that impact other sectors and broader systems change.

1. **On the opening day of the Race to Zero Dialogues, the global health community has come together to take stock of the health and climate crises we find ourselves in. The climate and health dialogue on November 9 envisions how a healthy, equitable recovery from COVID-19 can drive rapid decarbonization of the world economy.**
2. **Prime Minister of Fiji, Frank Bainamarama**, on the Race to Zero Dialogue on Climate & Health: *“COVID-19 is our wake-up call. We’ve been offered a glimpse into the not-so-distant future, one where the compromised health of humanity and our planet alike make every day a fight for survival. But unlike the pandemic, we see this life-threatening catastrophe coming and we have the chance to act now before it’s too late.”*
3. What is good for our planet is good for our health. The Race to Zero Dialogue on Climate & Health shows how a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19 will save lives and help us speed up the Race to Zero emissions.

Supporting the narrative

Race to Zero Ambition

- **NHS England**, the largest single health system in the world, has committed to reach net-zero emissions by 2040. In the Race to Zero Dialogue on Climate & Health on Nov. 9, CEO Simon Stevens explains how the NHS hopes to become the world’s first carbon net zero national health system.
- **Cities** are at the forefront of tackling both COVID-19 and the climate crisis. On the November 9 Dialogue on Race to Zero Carbon Road Transport, several mayors will share how they are reimagining their cities in a way that improves public health, reduces inequality and addresses the climate crisis.

Climate Action Pathways

- The November 9 Race to Zero Dialogue on Climate & Health shares health arguments, initiatives and progress for all 5 COP26 priority areas of action: Adaptation & resilience; Nature; Energy transition; Zero carbon road transport; and Finance.
- The health community has joined the Race to Zero! The **Health Care Climate Challenge** from Healthcare Without Harm (HCWH) has gathered hundreds of commitments by hospitals and health centers to transition to 100 percent renewable electricity and become climate resilient. The initiative has been selected to be the Race to Zero healthcare partner, to mobilise hospitals and health systems around the world to join the Race to Zero. More information here: <https://www.greenhospitals.net/health-care-climate-challenge-becomes-unfccc-race-to-zero-partner/>



- A new health initiative have joined the Race to Zero on the Nov. 9 opening day of the Dialogues: the **Lancet Pathfinder Initiative** will be collecting climate actions that both reduce emissions and improve human health at the same time. The initiative will collect solutions for a pathway to a healthy zero-carbon future. More information here: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres-projects-groups/pathfinder-initiative>
- On the occasion of Race to Zero dialogues, the COP26 unit and its health partners prepared a **COP26 briefing pack with key messages on climate change and health**, highlighting interlinkages across five priority areas of climate action: adaptation & resilience, energy transitions, nature, clean transport, and finance. More information here: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/cop26-key-messages-on-climate-change-and-health>

Today's Dialogues' Session Highlights

Session name & lead partner	Highlights from the session (max 100 words per session)
Climate & Health Dialogue Keynote Opening	The Climate & Health Keynote Opening marked the first day of the virtual Race To Zero November Dialogues by bringing local and global actors together to place health and equity at the center of ambitious climate action. The high-level speakers, including heads of WHO, UNFCCC, IRENA, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, Prime Minister of Fiji, and Ministers of Italy and Spain, among others, envisioned how a healthy, equitable recovery from COVID-19 can drive rapid decarbonization of the world economy, and laid out the necessary steps to achieve a healthy, green and climate-resilient future, leaving no one behind.
Race for clean energy: Youth set the agenda for a healthy recovery	This session brought together young leaders and high-level institutional speakers committed to ambitious action on the clean energy transition. It established an engaging dialogue shaped to create stronger bridges between these two communities of actors on the fastest possible journey to net-zero. It showcased initiatives, case-studies and interventions for a green, healthy and climate-resilient post-COVID recovery, leaving no one behind. Specific emphasis was put on engaging vulnerable communities in climate action and promoting indigenous community projects for clean energy and the environment, as well as youth-led research and education in climate change and health.
Race for Zero Carbon Road Transport	Cities are at the forefront of tackling both COVID-19 and the climate crisis. On the November 9 Dialogue on Race to Zero Carbon Road Transport, several mayors shared how they are



	<p>reimagining their cities in a way that improves public health, reduces inequality and addresses the climate crisis.</p> <p>The C40 Cities network also kicked off an effort to mobilise 1,000 cities to join ‘Race to Zero’, a global movement for a green and just recovery from COVID-19 on the road to COP26 in 2021. More information here: http://bit.ly/c40-1000cities-toolkit</p>
<p>Financing a healthy & resilient climate future</p>	<p>There is an urgent need to increase finance for mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and to make all financial flows consistent with a pathway toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development, especially during the post-COVID recovery. However, the health benefits from cutting carbon emissions and NDCs are rarely reflected despite the growing body of evidence. This dialogue provided an extensive overview of the current state of financing that influences climate decisions and looked deeper at what needs to be done to fully integrate health and equity into economic decision making, as well as GCF and UN climate processes.</p>
<p>Race for Nature and Health</p>	<p>Covid-19 has demonstrated how critical Nature is to human health and the world economy. Nature degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss affect the most basic and fundamental health needs: clean air, safe water, sufficient food, and adequate shelter; they pose new challenges to the control of infectious diseases, and gradually increase the pressure on the structural, economic and social systems that sustain healthy societies, and support vulnerable indigenous communities. The session highlighted key interventions and nature based solutions to promote improved health outcomes while reducing ecological and climate impacts of the degradation of nature, including in urban environments.</p>



<p>Race for Health Resilience</p>	<p>Although climate change impacts all populations, some are more vulnerable than others. This dialogue emphasized how critical it is to make the political commitment to increase health resilience to climate-related risks within and outside the health sector, build the capacity of national health systems to assess and address climate risks in decision-making, and overcome current barriers to access climate finance, and “climate-proof” health investments. Representatives of climate-vulnerable countries outlined their ongoing efforts to provide climate resilient and environmentally sustainable systems and facilities, and partners described plans to scale these up to provide even better protection for the health of populations.</p>
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