

All communications should be addressed, "The Secretary for Environment, Climate and Wildlife"

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
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Harare

09 November 2025

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary

Subject: Request for a Supplementary Agenda Item on Health at COP30

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe, I write to respectfully request the inclusion of a supplementary agenda item on **Health** at the upcoming Thirtieth Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UNFCCC.

The climate crisis is now undeniably recognised as a health crisis. Climate change is accelerating health burdens with significant economic and social consequences. For over fifteen years, the health community and governments have advocated for health to be meaningfully integrated into climate negotiations and decision-making. This sustained effort has resulted in major milestones, including:

- COP26: Launch of the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), now the largest intergovernmental coalition of its kind, and commitments to build climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems.
- COP27: Introduction of the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), linking climate and nutrition action.
- COP28: The first-ever dedicated Health Day, a landmark Declaration on Climate and Health endorsed by 151 countries, and the formal integration of health within the Global Goal on Adaptation / UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.
- COP29: Establishment of the Baku COP Presidencies Continuity Coalition for Climate and Health, alongside the launch of the “Investing in Human Development, Health and Jobs for Climate Resilient Future” initiative and the “Baku Declaration on Multisectoral Action Pathways to Resilient and Healthy Cities.”

Further, health is already recognised in the UNFCCC:

- **Article 1** defines “adverse effects of climate change” as including effects on *human health and welfare*.
- **Article 4.1(f)** highlights public health as a key area for government action.

The COP30 Presidency has confirmed its commitment to advance health within the climate agenda, including through the Belém Health Action Plan. **We therefore propose a dedicated agenda item on Health, which would create space for a structured dialogue between Parties, negotiators and health experts.** Such dialogue would allow for discussion on how to translate the Belém Health Action Plan into concrete negotiation outcomes, including advancing health-responsive adaptation, ensuring health co-benefits of mitigation, and centering and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable communities worldwide.

The Government of Zimbabwe with the support of the World Health Organization stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue with the Secretariat and with other Parties to ensure this agenda item contributes meaningfully to the objectives of the Convention.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,



Washington Zhakata
Chief Director – Environment, Climate and Wildlife & UNFCCC Focal Point
For: Secretary for Environment, Climate and Wildlife