



# Research Perspectives on the Health Impacts of Climate Change

HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE

19-20 February 2024

Charlemagne Building  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 170,  
1040 Brussels, Belgium

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Day 1 | 19 February

#### SESSION

12:00-13:00\*

Welcome Lunch

\*The registration desk opens at 11:00

#### High-level opening session (GASP room)

Welcome: Hajar Yagkoubi, former Youth Representative at the United Nations

Opening remarks: H.E. Zakia Khattabi, Belgian Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal

Keynote speaker: Maroš Šefčovič, Executive Vice-President for European Green Deal, Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, European Commission

Panel discussion: Moderated by Marc Lemaître, Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

13:00-14:15

- Kurt Vandenberghe, Director-General, DG Climate Action, European Commission
- Omnia El Omrani, Youth Envoy for the COP27 President and COP28 Health Envoy
- H.E. Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, Malawian Minister of Health
- Jeremy Farrar, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization
- Sandra Gallina, Director-General, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission
- Leena Ylä-Mononen, Executive Director, European Environment Agency

## Theme 1 | Short and long-term impacts of climate change

Climate change can greatly affect our health and wellbeing in many ways, making the climate crisis a health crisis as well. This theme will explore how this happens and address the direct impacts of climate change-related stressors on physical and mental health, including on non-communicable and infectious diseases in the general population and vulnerable groups.

### Plenary session 1 (GASP room)

Climate change and how it impacts non-communicable and infectious diseases

**14:15-15:15**

Moderated by: Hajar Yagkoubi, former Youth Representative at the UN

Panellists:

- Andy Haines, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- Jan Semenza, Heidelberg Institute of Global Health
- Marina Romanello, The Lancet Countdown on Health & Climate Change
- Rebecca Grais, Pasteur Network

**15:15-15:45** *Coffee Break*

Poster exhibition: **Blue posters**

### Parallel session 1 (JENK room)

The role of heat stress in non-communicable diseases

Moderated by: Peter Loffler, DG Climate Action, European Commission

Panellists:

- Vladimir Kendrovski, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Andreas Flouris, University of Thessaly
- Gloria Maimela, WITS RHI
- Caroline Hickman, University of Bath

### Parallel session 2 (GASP room)

Climate change and infectious diseases

*Co-organised with the European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control*

Moderated by: Jonathan Suk, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Panellists:

**15:45-16:45**

Deep dive into Theme 1

- Flavia Riccardo, Italian National Institute of Health
- Joacim Rocklöv, Heidelberg University
- Richard Allan, The Mentor Initiative
- Spiros Mourelatos, Ecodevelopment S.A.

### Parallel session 3 (MANS room)

Extreme weather events and physical and mental health

Moderated by: Miriam Stackpole Dahl, Center for International Climate and Environmental Research Oslo (CICERO)

Panellists:

- Emma Lawrance, Imperial College London
- Jai Das, Institute for Global Health and Development
- Antonio Gasparrini, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- Cathy Berx, Governor of the Province of Antwerp

## Theme 2 | Climate change in the context of other environmental stressors

Climatic change does not occur in a vacuum. This theme will address the greater context of the environmental stressors to which we are exposed daily. It will explore the interactions between climate-related stressors and other important environmental drivers like pollution and biodiversity and dive into how they impact nutrition, food safety and security as well as water security.

### Plenary session 2 (GASP room)

Interplay between climate change and other environmental drivers on health-related outcomes

Moderated by: Hajar Yagkoubi, former Youth Representative at the UN

**16:45-17:45**

Panellists:

- Maria Neira, World Health Organization (WHO)
- George Thurston, NYU Grossman School of Medicine
- Kristin Aunan, Center for International Climate and Environmental Research Oslo (CICERO)
- Carlos Gonçalo das Neves, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

### Parallel session 4 (JENK room)

Health and sustainable nutrition in a climate change scenario

Moderated by: Aspen Reese, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Panellists:

- Andrew A. Bremer, National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Rosalinda Scalia, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- Sofie Dhollander, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- Shouro Dasgupta, Fondazione CMCC

### Parallel session 5 (MANS room)

Water-related health risks from climate change

*Co-organised with the European Climate and Health Observatory*

Moderated by: Aleksandra Kazmierczak, European Environment Agency

Panellists:

- Kata Farkas, University of Bangor
- Oliver Schmoll, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Luca Lucentini, Italian National Institute of Health
- Hans Dubois, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)

### Parallel session 6 (GASP room)

Combined effects of pollution, climate change and biodiversity on human health

Moderated by: Veronica Manfredi, DG Environment, European Commission

Panellists:

- Cathryn Tone, Barcelona Institute for Global Health
- Robert McLeman, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Council Women Leaders
- Marcel Cardinali, OWL Univ. of Applied Sciences and Arts

**17:45-18:45**

Deep dive into Theme 2

**18:45-20:00** Cocktail & Standing Dinner

## Day 2 | 20 February

### SESSION

**9:00–9:30**

#### Recap and highlights of Day 1 (GASP room)

- Joanna Drake (Deputy Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission)
- Francesca Racioppi (Head of Office, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, World Health Organization)
- Omnia El Omrani (Youth Envoy for the COP27 President and COP28 Health Envoy)

### Theme 3 | Climate change and the health sector

Healthcare operations currently account for approximately 5% of global carbon emissions, making healthcare a major contributor to climate change. This theme will focus on aspects related to adaptation strategies in healthcare systems as well as the challenge of mitigating the ecological and carbon footprints of the healthcare sector as a whole while increasing its sustainability.

**9:30–10:30**

#### Plenary session 3 (GASP room)

Adaptation and mitigation of healthcare systems to climate change: two sides of the same coin

Moderated by: Hajar Yagkoubi, former Youth Representative at the UN

Panellists:

- Kristie Ebi, International Committee On New Integrated Climate Change Assessment Scenarios (ICONICS)
- Elena Višnar Malinovská, DG Climate Action, European Commission
- Francesca Racioppi, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health
- Robert Metzke, Philips
- Katarina Ask, Karolinska University Hospital

**10:30–11:00** *Coffee Break*

Poster exhibition: **Green posters**

**11:00–12:00**

Deep dive into Theme 3

#### Parallel session 7 (JENK room)

Mitigation from the healthcare sector

*Co-organised with Health Care Without Harm*

Moderated by: Arianna Gamba, Health Care Without Harm

Panellists:

- Kirsty Reid, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA)
- Colin O'Hehir, Irish Department of Health
- Edda Weimann, Munich Municipal Hospital Group
- Dorothea Baltruks, Center for Planetary Health Policy

#### Parallel session 8 (GASP room)

Adaptation strategies: focus on human health

*Co-organised with the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change*

Moderated by: Elina Bardram, DG Climate Action, European Commission

Panellists:

- Sari Kovats, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- Angelina Taylor, Robert Koch-Institute
- Lucas Demuelenaere, Govt. of Brussels-Capital Region
- Andrea Schmidt, Austrian Public Health Institute

### Parallel session 9 (MANS room)

Implementation science: translating research into action

Moderated by: Magdalena Skipper, Nature

Panellists:

- Gila Neta, National Cancer Institute (U.S.)
- Caroline Costongs, EuroHealthNet
- Elena Villalobos Prats, World Health Organization
- Joe Torres, Grand Challenges Canada

## Theme 4 | A global research agenda on climate change and health

A future research and innovation agenda for climate change and health must be comprehensively representative and contain the input of stakeholders and citizens from all regions of the world. This theme will aim to promote a forward-looking, diverse and inclusive discussion on the important aspects of climate and health research and urgent challenges that need to be tackled in the years to come.

### Plenary session 4 (GASP room)

Global perspectives on climate change and health research

*Co-organised with Wellcome Trust*

Moderated by: Hajar Yagkoubi, former Youth Representative at the UN

**12:00-13:00**

Panellists:

- Alan Dangour, Wellcome Trust
- Gwen Collman, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- Desta Lakew, Amref Health Africa
- Michael Makanga, Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking

**13:00-14:00** Lunch

Poster exhibition: **Orange posters**

### Parallel session 10 (GASP room)

Thinking differently, doing differently: a climate and health research agenda that meets the challenges of climate change

*Co-organised with Wellcome Trust*

Moderated by: Alice Bell, Wellcome Trust

Panellists:

- Carol Zavaleta, Indigenous People Observatory Network (IPON)
- Carmen Laplaza Santos, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- Judy Omumbo, Science for Africa Foundation
- Adelheid Onyango, WHO Africa

**14:00-15:00**

Deep dive into Theme 4

### Parallel session 11 (JENK room)

Challenges in Low Income Countries (LICs)

Moderated by: Juliette J. Mutheu-Asego, Science for Africa Foundation

Panellists:

- Tilly Alcayna, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- Guéladio Cissé, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
- Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson, University College London
- Oscar Ceville-Mantovani, Pasteur Network

### **Parallel session 12 (MANS room)**

Models, tools and technologies supporting decision-making on climate change and health

Moderated by: Raman Preet, Umeå University (Climate-Health cluster)

Panellists:

- Rachel Lowe, Barcelona Supercomputing Center
- Matthew Chersich, University of the Witwatersrand
- Julie Letertre, Copernicus Health
- Jan Minx, Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC)

### **Young Scientists' Forum (GASP room)**

A spotlight on youth to share their takeaways from the conference

Moderated by: Omnia El Omrani, Youth Envoy for the COP27 President and COP28 Health Envoy

Panellists:

**15:00-16:00**

- Nasser Fardousi, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- Franco Forlano Bó, Deltares
- Andrea Lavarello Schettini, Heidelberg University
- Evelise Pereira Barboza, Barcelona Institute for Global Health
- Jetina Juliet Tsvaki, Data scientist, Centre for Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Research Zimbabwe (CeSHHAR Zimbabwe)
- Warner van Kersen, University of Oulu

### **Closing session (GASP room)**

Poster winner ceremony

1-minute pitches from each winner

Final conclusions

**16:00-16:30**

- Irene Norstedt (Director, People: Health & Society, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission),
- Jeremy Farrar (Chief Scientist, World Health Organization)
- Magdalena Skipper (Editor-in-chief, Nature)

Thinking ahead: A future Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda on Climate Change and Health

Iliana Ivanova, European Commissioner for Research & Innovation