



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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**ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT
ON PUBLIC HEALTH: A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

Provisional Agenda

Introduction (25 minutes)

1. Opening remarks: Dr. Luiz A. Galvão, Area Manager, Sustainable Development and Environmental Health (SDE), PAHO
2. Keynote address: Ambassador Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations: *The Impact of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation on the Economy, Human Development, and Health.*

Discussion Groups (1 hour 45 minutes)

- Participants will choose between three discussion groups, each of which will be provided with the same guidelines on climate change and its impacts on public health.
- Interpretation will be provided in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish for groups 1 and 2 and in English and Spanish for group 3. Each group will include a chair, a guest presenter and a rapporteur. Sign up sheets for each group will be available at the registration desk as of the first day of the Council.
- The rapporteurs of each discussion group will synthesize the discussions and conclusions of their group and produce a combined report.

Discussion Group No. 1 (Room A) (Eng./Fr./Port./Spa.)

Chair: Directing Council President

Rapporteur: Dr. Carlos Corvalan, PAHO Advisor

Presentation by: Dr. José Gomes Temporão, Minister of Health of Brazil (15 minutes)

Discussion (1 hour 20 minutes)

Recapitulation by Chair (10 minutes)

Dr Temporão will introduce the latest knowledge on how climate change is impacting on public health, in particular in vulnerable groups across the Region of the Americas. He will focus on the fact that there is now sufficient proof on the climate change phenomenon to promote action in the health sector. Moreover, that lack of prompt and targeted action could result in the loss of many public health achievements and could hinder the ability of countries to reach and maintain the Millennium Development Goals. Dr Temporaao will briefly address how action needs to focus on key areas which include the on-going gathering of evidence; the need to sensitize all sectors to ensure preventive actions; the need for resources, including human and financial in order to implement adaptation actions through intersectoral partnerships.

Discussion Group No. 2 (Room B) (Eng./Fr./Port./Spa.)

Chair: Directing Council Vice President

Rapporteur: Dr. Samuel Henao, PAHO Advisor

Presentation by: Dr. Maureen Ballesteros, Vice President of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica
(15 minutes)

Discussion (1 hour 20 minutes)

Recapitulation by Chair (10 minutes)

Dr. Ballesteros will cover the following topics:

There is enough scientific evidence to indicate that climate change is real and irreversible. It will have an unequal impact on different population groups, affecting primarily the poorest sectors, women, children, and the elderly. Central America is particularly vulnerable to hydrometeorological disasters and food shortages, among other things. Rep. Ballesteros will report on Costa Rica's activities to reduce the impact of climate change.

Discussion Group No. 3 (Room 1017) (Eng./Spa.)

Chair: Directing Council Vice President

Rapporteur: Ms. Sally Edwards, PAHO Advisor

Presentation by: Dr. David Estwick, Minister of Health of Barbados (15 minutes)

Discussion (1 hour 20 minutes)

Recapitulation by Chair (10 minutes)

Dr. Estwick, will cover the following issues during his presentation:

Climate change is not a new topic to the Caribbean. The concerns of Small Island Developing States regarding the impact of climate change on health include: rise in sea level; depletion of fish stocks; impacts on agriculture; impacts on tourism; floods and droughts; population displacement; increases in the intensity and severity of extreme weather events; increases in the incidence of vector borne diseases; the impacts of water scarcity; and impacts on the more vulnerable populations such as elderly, children and the poor. Action to reduce greenhouse gas emission is needed.

Presentation of the Report of the Roundtable

The combined report prepared by the rapporteurs will be presented to the Council. It is hoped that this report will guide the future work of the countries and strengthen PAHO's White Paper on Climate Change and Human Health.

**Guidance for the Roundtable Discussion on
Climate Change and its Impact on Human Health**

It is proposed that the Chair invites the Guest Presenter to give his/her general observations on the Action Plan, and propose key issues for discussion. The Chair will then guide the discussion around the following questions:

1. How does the proposed Action Plan contribute to the overall goals of protecting health in the Americas?
2. How do the proposed Action Plan goals and strategic objectives correspond to the Member States, current and projected needs and activities to protect health from climate change?
3. Which additional actions, not currently identified in the proposed Action Plan, would be required to fully protect health from the effects of climate change?
4. What are the strengths of the proposed Action Plan, and what are the potential weaknesses which could limit its implementation?

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