STEP UP CLIMATE ACTION, IMPROVE HEALTH, CHANGE LIVES

Commit to act on Health at the UNSG 2019 Climate Summit

Climate change is the defining issue of our time and now is the defining moment to do something about it. There is still time to tackle climate change, but it will require an unprecedented effort from all sectors of society.

The good news is that many of the same actions that can reduce the carbon emissions that are driving climate change bring many positive benefits to people’s health and wellbeing. We urge you to commit to act on Health at the UNSG 2019 Climate Summit.

Commit to save lives, cut carbon emissions, clean our air

As a national or subnational government, you can commit to achieving air quality that is safe for your citizens, and to align your climate change and air pollution policies, by 2030.

To meet this commitment, you can:

- Implement air quality and climate change policies that will achieve the WHO Ambient Air Quality Guideline values.
- Implement e-mobility and sustainable mobility policies and actions with the aim of making a decisive impact on road transport emissions.
- Assess the number of lives that are saved, the health gains in children and other vulnerable groups, and the avoided financial costs to health systems, that result from implementing their policies.

Commit to invest in climate action, public health and sustainable development

As a multilateral development bank, climate fund, bilateral development agency, philanthropic organization, or private sector actor, you can commit to significantly scale up your investment in proven interventions for climate-resilient health systems, and in air quality monitoring and policy implementation.

To meet this commitment, you can:

- Invest in climate-informed health surveillance and response systems for heatwaves, storms and floods, and for water and vector-borne diseases such as cholera, malaria and dengue.
- Invest in "climate-smart" healthcare facilities, that meet agreed criteria for climate resilience, access to renewable energy, and minimization of carbon emissions.
- Improve or invest in quality controlled air pollution monitoring equipment in major cities in LMICs.
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The Social and Political Drivers of Climate Action (SPD) Coalition is led by the governments of Peru and Spain, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Department Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The coalition will bring together commitments by government, institution or financial actors can join it by committing to one of the coalition’s goals and stepping up climate action.

Our coalition of governments, agencies and institutions aims to harness these social and political drivers to improve people’s health, reduce inequalities, promote social justice and maximize opportunities of decent work for all – while protecting the climate for future generations.

The UN Secretary-General’s September 2019 Climate Action Summit will bring together commitments to a healthier and safer future for all, through actions to (1) save lives, cut carbon emissions, clean our air; and (2) invest in climate action, public health and sustainable development.

To accelerate action to implement the Paris Climate Agreement, you are encouraged by the governments of Peru and Spain, WHO, UNDESA, and ILO to commit to one of our goals and step up climate action.

Commit to climate action

To learn more on how your government can harness the huge opportunity to simultaneously advance climate action and improve the health and lives of your citizens; or how your financial institution can protect the lives of the most vulnerable by investing in health adaptation, as well as how the coalition can help you to reach your commitments, please contact the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director for Social Affairs Romy Tincopa at rtincopa@rree.gob.pe and cariaso@rree.gob.pe