

29th November 2023

Dear Minister,

RE: Achieving a healthy COP28

Thank you for attending COP28 this year. On behalf of health professionals from around the world, we salute your participation, and urge you to seize this chance to ensure that the health and wellbeing of people around the world is established as a central focus and benchmark for progress at the annual climate negotiations.

We are doctors, nurses, clinicians, and therapists. We are health advocates, researchers, public health and policy experts. Wherever we are in the world, we are seeing how climate change is impacting our patients, our communities, our public health and healthcare systems.

As you know, the climate and nature crisis is a health emergency. Respiratory diseases are increasing; heatwaves, droughts, and floods are driving up mortality rates; humanitarian disasters are becoming more frequent and more intense – and our patients are paying the price with their health, well-being and indeed their lives. Our health systems are struggling to deliver with the current levels of warming. Without mitigation, we will quickly reach the limits of adaptation.

So, we ask that you do not waste this moment – and that you stand shoulder to shoulder with the global health community to achieve a healthy COP28:

1. A full phase-out of fossil fuels is a public health imperative. As G20 countries with some of the largest historic emissions, you have a responsibility to lead.
2. A loss and damage fund that serves the health needs of communities.
3. Finance for climate action across all fronts.
4. Health as a key metric for climate action.

As custodians of health and wellbeing, COP28 is your chance to act on the behalf of people around the world who are looking to you for leadership. The lives and welfare of all of us depend on it.

Yours sincerely

Global Climate and Health Alliance

Jeni Miller, PhD

Executive Director

Global Climate and Health Alliance

The Global Climate and Health Alliance is the leading global convenor of more than 160 health professional and health civil society organisations around the world addressing climate change.

<https://climateandhealthalliance.org/>