



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Webinar series: Health in climate emergencies #1

Preparedness at the interface of health and climate change

14 November 2023, 14:00–15:00 CET

Concept note

Background

Climate change is causing more frequent and intense, extreme weather events, as well as slow-onset events such as increasing temperatures. The resulting emergencies are a major threat to health, increase illnesses and deaths, disrupt food systems, cause displacements and widening inequalities. In the past 50 years, weather- and climate-related disasters caused more than two million deaths, 90% of which occurred in developing countries.¹ Between 2000 and 2016, the number of people exposed to heatwaves increased by around 125 million.² Future projections further estimate that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will cause 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, heat stress and diarrhoea.³

Although health is recognized to be a sector vulnerable to climate change, the impact and scale of many climate-sensitive health risks remains difficult to estimate. Nevertheless, the climate crisis on the one hand and the COVID-19 pandemic on the other, provide an opportunity for reviewing and strengthening health and climate emergency preparedness in a synergistic way so as to promote increased well-being and resilience.

To support parliamentarians in reflecting on the health-climate change nexus and in better integrating these issues into their work, the IPU is organizing a webinar series looking at health in climate emergencies through different phases of emergency management. This is the first of three webinars in the series.

Focus and objectives

The webinar will present the main linkages between health and climate change. It will further discuss how to strengthen emergency preparedness taking into account both health and climate factors. In doing so, the webinar will:

- Provide access to knowledge and data on the inter-linkages between health and climate change, including future projections of the impact of climate change on health.
- Provide guidance on how to ensure greater policy coherence and review emergency preparedness strategies to jointly address health and climate change.
- Identify specific areas of interest and needs of parliaments.

The webinar is open to all interested parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. It will take place on the Zoom platform. There will be simultaneous interpretation between English, French and Spanish.

¹ www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/fastfacts-early-warnings-july-2023.pdf

² www.who.int/health-topics/heatwaves#tab=tab_1

³ www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health

Provisional programme

14:00–14:05 CET	Welcome and objectives
14:06–14:30	Understanding the health-climate change nexus The presentations will be followed by Q&As with the participants.
14:31–14:55	Country presentation: Strengthening emergency preparedness The presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion. Parliamentarians are encouraged to share their reflections and their countries' initiatives to address health and climate change in emergency preparedness.
14:56–15:00	Conclusion