

# Update from the negotiations: December 3<sup>rd</sup>

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***MUST READ: The Global Climate & Health Alliance (GCHA) yesterday released its briefing paper on Health and Climate at COP21 and Beyond, which analyzes the health implications of the UN Climate Conference in Paris (COP21) and the need for a strong, ambitious agreement with increased integration of health within climate action.***



## Overview

Agreement textual negotiations (ADP) got underway properly on Monday evening (Nov. 30). The first open-ended contact group - the more general group - began meeting throughout the day on Tuesday, Dec. 1, continuing their work through the day on Wednesday, Dec. 2. On Wednesday evening, the Co-Chairs were joined by the COP President, Laurent Fabius, for general updates from closed group facilitators on progress to date.

Following closed group updates, Fabius observed that “progress has been too slow” and that parties must “speed up” negotiations in order to stay on the current agreement timeline. Furthermore, many parties described the challenges that they face due to the significant amount of parallel work often occurring on similar topics, along with last-minute creation of new meetings.

## Tracking Health in the Agreement

### *Article 2<sup>1</sup>*

Although according to the initial timeline, closed negotiations were scheduled to near completion on Tuesday, the outcome of those discussions had not been announced by close of play Wednesday. However, there are anecdotal reports that, although health language has been preserved, a ‘no text’ option is still prominently defended by some parties.

### *Preamble<sup>2</sup> & Workstream 2<sup>34</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> From the Nov. 10th draft text: [This Agreement shall be implemented on the basis of equity and science, in [full] accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities[, in the light of national circumstances] [the principles and provisions of the Convention], while ensuring the integrity and resilience of natural ecosystems, [the integrity of Mother Earth, the protection of **health**, a just transition of the workforce and creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities] and the respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment of human rights for all, including indigenous peoples, including the right to **health** and sustainable development, [including the right of people under occupation] and to ensure gender equality and the full and equal participation of women, [and intergenerational equity].]

<sup>2</sup> From the Nov. 10th draft text: “Also emphasizing the importance of aligning actions with the goal of promoting food security and livelihood security, restoration of degraded lands, **health** and ecosystem integrity, participation in environmental decision- making by civil



According to the available closed negotiating group (spinoff) documents, health appears to remain in both the Preamble and Workstream 2 texts outside of intra-text brackets, which suggests some degree of “safety.” However, threats to health in the agreement remain. Specifically, it is rumoured that Australia has continued to lead advocacy among parties in support of removal of the Preamble section altogether. Similarly, Mexico has continued to lead efforts among parties to remove Article 2 from the agreement altogether.

### Where is Health? COP21 Negotiation Scorecard

Location in Text	Health?
Draft Agreement Preamble	✓
Draft Agreement Article 2	?
Draft Agreement Workstream 2	✓

\* Correct as of December 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Transparency

Malaysia continued to call for for spinoff groups to be open to NGOs, arguing that NGOs play an “invaluable role” in negotiations, particularly for developing nations. In response to previous requests by some parties including Malaysia to request civil society access to closed negotiations (spinoff groups), COP President Fabius stated today that streaming these sessions was “impossible.”

South Africa speaking for the G77+China, a negotiating group of more than 130 developing countries, expressed concern about slow and uneven progress as well as the number of closed negotiating sessions (spinoff groups) and informal closed negotiating sessions (“informal informals”).

### Loss and damage

Although heads of state proved to be very optimistic on the world’s capacity to respond to the problem of loss and damage, discussions on this topic seemed to have been more difficult.

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society and individuals, and a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities and strategies [towards environmentally sustainable economies for all],”

<sup>3</sup> Workstream 2 refers to the part of the agreement which would address short-term action between 2016-2020.

<sup>4</sup> From the Nov. 10th draft text: “Recognizes the social and economic value of voluntary mitigation actions and their co-benefits for adaptation, health and sustainable development;”



Although we applaud the effort of some like the US who pledged funds for climate risk insurance, we hope that all states can acknowledge that they now face those risks including the multitude of devastating health consequences of climate change.

### Side Events

Two side events dealing with health took place on December 2nd:

- Protecting health in a 2°C-world: what are the local costs and responsibilities?
- Healthy People, Healthy Planet: U.S. Programs and Partnerships for Health Resilience



A Strategy meeting of the Global Climate and Health Alliance on December 2nd also gathered a large group of health advocates who discussed short and long term plans of the Alliance.

### For more information:

[UNFCCC closed group updated texts](#) (spinoff groups)

[Eco update on negotiations](#) (not health specific)

