

Update from the negotiations: December 9th

Written by:

Yassen Tcholakov, Elizabeth Wiley, Lujain Al-Qodmani, Mardelangel Zapata, Luisa Georgiana
(World Medical Association)

Health in the Agreement: Inside Le Bourget

On Monday evening, we learned that a few parties might be willing to reopen Art. 2 for textual changes and would strongly support the reinsertion of health into the operational clauses of the agreement. In collaboration with many of you, we approached a number of countries and found several were open to the idea. Many health sector advocates present inside negotiations at Le Bourget spent a good portion of the day meeting with negotiators and party representatives, and reaffirming the commitment of the health sector to climate action. This effort was positively received by many but not all parties approached; however, it is unclear what the ultimate outcome of these efforts will be.

The next 24-48 hours are critical, so ANY additional help in circulating this proposal and garnering support among parties is much appreciated! For more information, contact Yassen at yassench@gmail.com or whatsapp +15147173170.

The proposal being circulated to parties is to re-insert the following clause in Art. 2(2):

Article 2 (PURPOSE)

2. To pursue a transformation towards sustainable development that fosters climate resilient and low greenhouse gas emission societies and economies, and that does not threaten food production and distribution, and that protects human health and wellbeing

As previously reported, health is currently still included in the [current draft text](#) in both the Preamble (pp10) and Workstream 2 (part of the agreement relevant to 2016-2020). To the best of our knowledge, this language is strongly supported. However, it is less than optimal to not have health also reflected in the operational clauses (ie Art. 2).

Process & Timeline Update

An updated draft text is anticipated this afternoon (Wed, Dec. 9) around 1500 CET and should be available here: http://unfccc.int/meetings/paris_nov_2015/meeting/8926.php

Officially the conclusion of COP21 is still planned for Friday (Dec. 11), and between now and then there should be 2-3 iterations of new text being release; however we hear between the branches or rather out in the open that most negotiators have plane tickets only booked towards the beginning of next week.

The Comite Paris was established to convene open-ended consultations in an effort to “facilitate progress.” These sessions have been going on throughout the week with reports available here:

http://unfccc.int/meetings/paris_nov_2015/in-session/items/9320.php#12



Side Events

WHO/ONE UN High Level Event:

WHY THE CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT IS CRITICAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH

This event hosted by the WHO and partners brought together a fantastic group of public health professionals including:

- Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO Director General
- Ms. Marisol Touraine, French Minister of Social Affairs and Health
- Prof. Jeffrey Sachs
- Prof. Veerabhadran Ramanathan
- Dr. Maria Neira, WHO Director of the Public Health and Environment
- Dr. Richard Horton, Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet



The resounding message was that the Paris Agreement is a public health agreement and that an ambitious agreement which will adequately address climate change and protect health.

DON'T MISS THIS EVENING'S SIDE EVENT:

Health central to climate change action

18:30–20:00, Observer Room 3, Official UNFCCC side event, COP21 venue, Le Bourget (Blue Zone, badge needed)

Organised by the Principality Of Monaco, HEAL, WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Working Group on Health in climate change (HIC), The new Paris climate agreement is essential in protecting humanity, the health of our children and grandchildren and the planet as a whole. The event will be opened by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, Mme Marisol Touraine, Minister of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights, France and Zsuzsanna Jakab, Regional Director for Europe, WHO.

Be sure to check out the [GCHA Policy Brief on Health and Climate at COP21 and Beyond](#) for a detailed analysis of negotiations!

What's actually happening in some of the negotiations: <http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop21/>

Daily Tck Meeting at 10AM CET: <http://tcktcktck.org/>

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