



# Forging a Shared Path to COP30: Regional Lessons for Transformative Climate and Health Governance in Asia

This statement reflects the shared understanding and lessons emerging from a regional virtual dialogue convened on 6 October 2025 by the Asian Collective for Health Systems (TACHS), let by its partners the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), the United Nations University–International Institute for Global Health (UNU–IIGH), and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). The dialogue brought together government representatives from India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, as well as multilateral partners and civil society organisations from across Asia, to articulate shared perspectives on integrating health and climate agendas in the lead-up to COP30 in Brasilia.

Participants affirmed that the climate crisis is fundamentally a health crisis and that health should not be treated as a peripheral “co-benefit” of climate action but rather as a central principle and impact measure. They recognised the need for coherent, coordinated, and sustained regional engagement to embed health considerations within national, regional, and global climate frameworks.

This statement marks the initial step in an ongoing regional collaboration aimed at informing national policymaking and contributing to a stronger, joint Asian perspective in global climate and health governance. It outlines five areas of shared priority for collective attention and continued dialogue.

## Pillar 1: Transformative Governance and Institutional Integration

- Integrating health actions into national climate policies and plans, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), supported by measurable indicators and adequate resource allocation.
- Integrating systematic drivers of vulnerability in HNAPs to take action on environmental drivers of health, such as agriculture, poverty, urban settlements, energy, transport.
- Establishing or strengthening multisectoral coordination mechanisms that enable collaboration between health, environment, meteorology, finance, and other key ministries, including at the regional, nation and sub-national level.
- Empowering decentralised and representative governance structures to design and implement locally appropriate climate–health actions that reflect community needs and contexts.

## Pillar 2: Building Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems

- Developing integrated early warning and surveillance systems that link meteorological and health data to anticipate and manage and monitor climate-sensitive health risks, such as extreme heat.
- Investing in an eco-competent health workforce through education, training, and continuous professional development.
- Promoting environmentally friendly, health facilities and practices, including energy-efficient and climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable procurement, recycling, and waste management.

## **Pillar 3: Ensuring a Just Transition through Equity and Community Engagement**

- Comprehensive, dynamic health vulnerability assessments to ensure that policies address the gendered and intersectional needs of populations affected by climate change, including unemployed and undocumented persons, informal workers, indigenous peoples, and displaced communities.
- Institutionalising meaningful participation of communities and civil society in decision-making processes, ensuring that lived experiences and local knowledge systems inform policies.

## **Pillar 4: Reimagining Climate and Health Finance**

- Enhanced equitable access to international climate finance for health adaptation and mitigation, including through clearer metrics and strengthened collaboration with financing institutions.
- Mobilising domestic and innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance and public-private partnerships, governed and regulated to enhance public goods, as to support cross-sectoral socio-ecological and economic programmes addressing climate and health linkages, and aligned with Financing for Development principles.

## **Pillar 5: Fostering Regional Knowledge, Solidarity, and a Unified Voice for COP30**

- Establishing a regional knowledge and collaboration platform on climate and health, and leveraging on existing platforms, to document, learn share, and scale transformative practices and innovations.
- Strengthening Asia's collective voice in global forums, contributing evidence-based perspectives, actions and policy options that reflect the region's experiences and priorities.

## **Moving Forward**

This statement reflects a collective commitment to deepen regional collaboration, generate and exchange evidence, and strengthen institutional mechanisms that link health and climate action. The key issues raised at this initial dialogue will be followed up through an in-person convening early next year, building on existing evidence and through coordination with other global and regional multilateral platforms. It serves as a dynamic reference for continued engagement leading up to COP30 and beyond, ensuring that the health and well-being of Asia's populations remain integral to the global climate agenda.

## ***Disclaimer***

This Statement reflects the collective perspectives that emerged from a regional policy dialogue on climate and health convened by the Asian Collective for Health Systems (TACHS) and its partners (participant list and program attached). It captures the areas of shared understanding and convergence among participating governments, multilateral organisations, and research institutions. TACHS activities focus on ten countries of South and Southeast Asia who were invited to the regional dialogue, namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The statement does not constitute a formal governmental or multilateral agreement or commitment, nor does it prescribe specific actions. Rather, it summarises the key themes, priorities, and insights discussed, to inform future collaboration, policy formulation, and knowledge exchange in the lead-up to COP30 and beyond.

# Annex 1

## Regional Policy Dialogue for Climate and Health Action in Asia | Agenda

Session details (Time in IST & MYT)	Speaker (s)	Moderator	Duration (Minutes)
Opening session			
Welcome remarks  Time: 10.30 AM & 1.00 PM	Dr. Priyadarshini Singh (Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi)		5
Opening Session: “What climate and health issues should South-Asian countries champion at COP30?”  Time: 10.35 AM & 1.05 PM	Dr. Revati Phalkey (Director, United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health, Malaysia)		10
Session One: Asian Health Agenda for COP30			
Setting the stage: Overview Health and climate action in South Asia – Southeast Asia  Time: 10.45 AM & 1.15 PM	Dr. Upasona Ghosh (Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Public Health, Public Health Foundation of India, Bhubaneswar)	Dr. Neethi Rao (Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi)	15
Open discussion: Country priorities  Time: 11.00 AM & 1.30 PM	Country partners		45
Break			15

Session Two: UHC and Climate Resilience			
<p>Panel discussion: Governance and financing mechanisms to align UHC and climate resilience goals</p> <p>Time: 12.00 PM &amp; 2.30 PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Dr. Ben Coughlan (Senior Health Security Specialist, Asian Development Bank)</li> <li>· Ms. Heather Doyle (Regional Team Lead, Health, Bureau for Asia and Pacific, United Nations Development Programme)</li> <li>· Dr. Leel Randeni (Director, Climate Change Secretariat, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka)</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Remco van de Pas (Policy Research Lead, United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health, Malaysia)</p>	45
<p>Open discussion: Policy options and institutional pathways</p> <p>Time: 12.45 PM &amp; 3.15 PM</p>			45
Closing session			
<p>Summary of key messages and concluding remarks</p> <p>Time: 1.30 PM &amp; 4.00 PM</p>	<p>Dr. Neethi Rao (Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi)</p>		15

# Annex 2

## Regional Policy Dialogue for Climate and Health Action in Asia | List of Participants (in alphabetical order)

### COUNTRY PARTNERS

#### India

**Dr. Nyanthung Kikon**

State Nodal Officer (SPCCH), Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland, India

**Dr. Purvi Patel**

Senior Consultant, National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India

#### Indonesia

**Ms. Astrid**

Public Health Administrator, Directorate of Environmental Health, Directorate General of Disease Control, Ministry of Health, Indonesia

#### Philippines

**Dr. Ronald Law**

Director, Health and Climate Change Office, Department of Health, Philippines

#### Sri Lanka

**Mr. Leel Randeni**

Director, Climate Change Secretariat, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka

#### Thailand

**Ms. Nanoot Mathurapote**

Head, Global Collaboration Unit, National Health Commission Office, Thailand

### DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

**Asian Development Bank (ADB)****Dr. Benjamin Coghlan**

Senior Health Specialist, ADB

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)****Ms. Heather Doyle**

Regional Team Lead, Health, Bureau for Asia and Pacific, UNDP

**Mr. Ian Milimo**

Project Manager, Sustainable Health in Procurement Project (SHiPP), UNDP

**United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)****Mr. Mozaharul Alam**

Regional Coordinator, Climate Change Programme, UNEP

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)****Dr. Gabriel Ayeni**

Regional Health Specialist, Regional Office of South Asia, UNICEF Nepal

### TECHNICAL PARTNERS

**Dr. Upasona Ghosh**

Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Public Health Bhubaneswar, India

**Dr. Lahiru Kodituwakku**

Public Health Specialist, MSF South Asia, Sri Lanka

**Ms. Sadaf Lynes**

Director of Collaborative Surveillance, Workforce and Health Emergencies, The International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI)

**Dr. Sujata Mathews**

Professor, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, India

**Prof. Tin Tin Su**

Professor, Malaysia Jeffrey Cheah School of Med & HS, Victorian Heart Institute, Monash University

**Dr. Janice Ying-en HO**

Regional Hub Manager, Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) Southeast Asia Hub, based at the Heat Resilience & Performance Centre, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore

**United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)****Dr. Revati Phalkey**

Director, UNU-IIGH, Malaysia

**Dr. Remco van de Pas**

Policy Research Lead, UNU-IIGH, Malaysia

**Ms. Thandazile Sibindi**

Policy Research Associate, UNU-IIGH, Malaysia

**Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)****Dr. Neethi V. Rao**

Fellow, CSEP, New Delhi, India

**Ms. Prakshi Saha**

Program Coordinator, CSEP New Delhi, India

**Dr. Priyadarshini Singh**

Fellow, CSEP, New Delhi, India

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