



Paris Cité
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HEIDELBERG
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COP30 SIDE-EVENT



BURDEN BY DEGREES

From Health Impact Data to Climate Justice & Action

COP30
BRASIL
AMAZÔNIA
BELEM 2025



United Nations
Climate Change

Flash for
streaming



BURDEN BY DEGREES

From Health Impact Data to Climate Justice & Action

COP30 side event,

Belém, Blue Zone, Room 5

18 November 2025, 11:30–13:00

The **health dimension of climate-related losses and damages (L&D)** remains largely under-quantified and therefore insufficiently represented in adaptation policies and financing mechanisms. This statistical invisibility prevents an accurate understanding of the true health burden of climate change and limits the capacity of vulnerable countries to claim adequate support, compensation, and adaptation resources. Further more, such data on climate-attributable burden of disease can be important evidence for the more than 2,600 climate litigations currently underway, both by individuals and by countries in the Global South.

Meanwhile, an **epidemiological transition** is profoundly reshaping health systems across the Global South. **Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** — cardiovascular, respiratory, metabolic, and mental — are rising sharply in low- and middle-income countries, adding to the persistent burden of infectious diseases. **Climate change acts as a threat multiplier**, worsening this double burden through increased heat exposure, air pollution, food insecurity, and water stress, while deepening existing social and territorial health inequities.

This session brings together leading experts from **Africa and Europe**, including teams from **WHO Africa**, **Université Félix-Houphouët-Boigny (Côte d'Ivoire)**, the **Université Cheikh Anta Diop (Sénégal)**, the **Nouna Health Research Center (Burkina Faso)**, and the **African Research Network for NCDs**, in collaboration with the **Paris Cité Global Health Institute (Université Paris Cité, France)**, the **Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (Germany)**, the **Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP, Sciences Po, France)** and the **London School of Economics and Political Science (UK)**.

Together, they present an innovative, data-driven framework for **quantifying the climate-change-attributable burden of disease (ccBoD)** built on the 65+ health cohorts in Africa and Asia, dubbed **HDSS (Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems)**. The team expanded the exclusive focus on counting deaths to expand it to capturing the entire burden of disease from climate change. This required adding a continuous system to register all diseases episodes within the population under health surveillance. Further it required to implement low-cost weather stations which continuously measure heat, humidity and rainfall in synchrony with the survey information on diseases.

Building on the momentum of the “**Dakar Call for Action on Climate and Health in Africa**”, which underscores the urgent need to strengthen data, research, and financing for climate–health adaptation across the continent, the panel explores how ccBoD can serve as an operational indicator to inform national adaptation strategies, support L&D claims, and promote equitable access to climate and health financing.

Discussions will bridge **epidemiological evidence with legal, financial, and governance mechanisms**, highlighting how health data can be systematically integrated into climate negotiations, dedicated funds, and litigation processes. Case studies from Sub-Saharan Africa will illustrate how **climate-ready health systems, digital innovations** (such as AI-enabled chatbots), and **legal frameworks** can transform ccBoD evidence into actionable levers for **justice, prevention, and resilience**.

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION & SETTING THE SCENE

- **Prof. Mohamed Yakub Janabi (WHO Africa)** – *What population-based information do LMICs need to respond to the climate-attributable disease burden? (Tbc)*
- **Prof. Rainer Sauerborn (HIGH, Heidelberg University, Germany)** – *The health component of losses and damages: quantifying the burden of diseases attributed to climate-sensitive diseases*

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH TRANSITIONS

- **Prof. Xavier Jouven (ISG Paris Cité, Université Paris Cité, France)** – *Health Transitions in a Warming World: The Additional Burden of NCDs*

FROM BURDEN TO FINANCING

- **Dr. Maximilian Jungmann (HIGH, Heidelberg University, Germany)** – *How to use Health losses and damages to better access the various climate funds?*
- **Dr. Ali Sié (Nouna Health Research Center, Burkina Faso)** – *Measuring the burden of diseases at population level*

LEGAL AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS

- **Dr. Sandra Barteit (HIGH, Heidelberg University, Germany)** – *CHEERS: A Change and Health Evaluation and Response System as a leveraging mechanism for LMICs*
- **Prof. Marc Weller (Vice-Rector, Heidelberg University, Germany)** – *The legal basis for low- and middle-income countries to generate lawsuits based on health losses and damages*
- **Joy Reyes (LSE, UK)** – *Litigation based on evidence of health losses and damages: an under-used tool in LMICs – overview of 2600+ global climate lawsuits*

FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

- **Prof. Roland N'Guetta (Université Félix-Houphouët-Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire) & Prof. Ibrahima Bara Diop (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Sénégal)** – *Building Climate-Resilient Health Systems in Africa: Insights from the Pan-African Research Institute and AI-Based Tools for NCDs*
- **Dr. Charlotte Halpern (Sciences Po, LIEPP & CEE, France) & Dr. Anneliese Depoux (ISG Paris Cité, LIEPP & Centre des Politiques de la Terre, Université Paris Cité)** – *From knowledge to action: levers and barriers to enhanced climate-health integration in policy and governance*

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS



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LIVE STREAM AT:

<https://www.youtube.com/@unclimatechangeevents>



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**African
Research
Network**
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES



**UNIVERSITÉ
CHEIKH ANTA DIOP
DE DAKAR**



**World Health
Organization**



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