



AMREF ENVOY TO SPOTLIGHT CRITICAL INTERSECTION BETWEEN HEALTH AND CLIMATE AT COP-28

Amref Health Africa, a leading health development NGO in Africa, is spearheading a special health envoy to the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) convening happening from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The special Envoy will set the tone for the first-ever COP28 Health Day, urging leaders to ensure investment in adaptation and resilience solutions – a core part of the COP28 agenda aimed at advancing more equitable solutions, especially in countries that emit the least carbon, but are most adversely impacted by climate-driven health outcomes.

Under the patronage of Dr. Githinji Gitahi, the Group CEO of Amref Health Africa, and the Special Envoy for climate and health for COP28, Amref, through a series of high-level advocacy meetings, will continue to champion prioritization of health in the climate change negotiations, including rallying African governments to sign the [COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health](#), a statement of intent to help deliver sustainable, and equitable climate-resilient public health systems. The Declaration mirrors the aspirations captured in the [Common African Position on Climate and Health](#) that denotes the continental stance on climate and health.

As at 23 of November 2023, at least 44 countries had submitted their endorsements to the Declaration. We convey our special appreciation to the countries and congratulate them for the bold-move. We urge the remaining countries to add their voice to the quest to prioritize people's health and well-being in climate change conversations.

As we get ready for the historic Health Day at COP28, we are resolute in our determination to address the health challenges posed by climate change and encourage ambitious investment in the health sector. Our governments are key players and they must commit to taking the necessary actions to safeguard the health of communities.

“We call on the global community to fulfil the commitments to provide US\$ 100 billion annually in climate finance, and urgently allocate these funds towards initiatives that save lives and enhance the health of the most vulnerable, especially women and children,” said Dr. Githinji Gitahi.

The Amref Health Africa Envoy is committed to raising awareness of these problems and uniting stakeholders who can effect lasting change.

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