

Asia-Pacific
PARLIAMENTARIAN FORUM
on Global Health

FIFTH MEETING

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

NADI, FIJI

20 - 22 AUGUST 2019



NOTE: The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the Fifth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the conveners.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific as Secretariat and for those who participated in the Fifth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health in Nadi, Fiji from 20 to 22 August 2019.

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC



FIFTH MEETING

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

Hosted by the Speaker of the:
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

With support from:
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES, REPUBLIC OF FIJI
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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20 - 22 August 2019

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PARLIAMENTARIAN FORUM

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**CLIMATE CHANGE
AND HEALTH**

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SUMMARY

The Fifth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health was convened in Nadi, Fiji, from 20 to 22 August 2019. The meeting was chaired by the His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji, with support from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services of Fiji and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The meeting was attended by 49 parliamentarians from 20 countries. The meeting aimed to enhance the role of parliamentarians in addressing the health impacts of climate change.

Participants reviewed progress to date on achieving the health-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). Participants highlighted the role that parliamentarians can play in achieving health in the SDGs through their power to enact legislation, pass budgets, mobilize resources, and ensure government accountability and transparency. The catalytic energy that parliamentarians have can lead to progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Parliamentarians were presented with information highlighting the breadth of the health impacts of climate change in Asia and the Pacific and the immediacy of the threat that climate change poses to human health. The health risks from climate change include the following:

- heat-related illness and death, cardiovascular failure;
- forced migration, civil conflict, mental health impacts;
- malnutrition, diarrheal disease;
- cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter, leptospirosis, harmful algal blooms;
- respiratory allergies, asthma from increasing allergens;
- malaria, dengue, encephalitis, hantavirus, Rift Valley fever, Lyme disease, chikungunya, West Nile virus;
- asthma, cardiovascular disease from air pollution;
- and injuries, fatalities and mental health impacts from severe weather.

When considering responses to the health impacts of climate change, participants were urged to put

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