



COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

Paris – February 2019

Health and Climate Change: Taking Care of Humanity at +2°C A World Conference on Health and Climate Change organised by the French Red Cross in Cannes on 15 and 16 April 2019.

To mark one hundred years since the foundation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, France has organised the first ever “humanitarian COP”. Discussions will be held around the latest scientific research, and innovative solutions designed to meet the greatest public health challenge of the 21st century will also be presented.

Changes to the climate have already started impacting human health, and the projections are alarming. Even if the COP21 Paris Agreement’s ambitions for climate change are met and the planet warms by no more than 2°C, there will still be consequences – some of them severe – for human health. Every country in the world, from north to south, is affected by this issue and must adapt, not least to protect their most vulnerable citizens.

Over two days covering everything from urban heatwaves to epidemics, disasters, mass migration, malnutrition, conflict and mental health, we will hear about international experts’ and NGOs’ perspectives, the initiatives under way and eyewitness testimonies in an attempt to formulate tangible, innovative adaptation solutions and raise awareness among citizens and public and private sector decision-makers of the need to prevent, prepare and take collective action.

Highlights: 400 international experts and field operatives, 15 conference-debates, a project area, a virtual reality studio, film projections, photo exhibits and more.

Speakers include: **Professor Sir Andy Haines** (Chairman of the Commission On Planetary Health), **Nick Watts** (The Lancet Countdown), **Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum** (WHO), **Virginia Murray** (Public Health England), **Mihir Bhatt** (All India Disaster Mitigation Institute), **Maarten K. Van Aalst** (The Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre), **Dr Githinji Gitahi** (Amref Health Africa), **Laurent Fabius** (President of the Constitutional Council, former President of COP21), **Lionel Zinsou** (SouthBridge), **Philippe Quénel** (EHESP School of Public Health), **Dorothea Hilhorst** (International Institute of Social Studies), **Susan Clayton** (IPCC), etc.

Full programme and list of speakers available at worldconference.croix-rouge.fr

1919-2019: 100 years of humanitarian action

The World Conference is being held to mark the 100th anniversary of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the world’s largest humanitarian movement. The IFRC was created on 5 May 1919 by the American, British, Italian, Japanese and French Red Cross teams. A month before, from 1 April to 11 April 1919, these national societies gathered at a medical conference in Cannes to decide on how they could coordinate their actions and pool the resources of the Red Cross ‘Committees’ more effectively. This conference launched the journey of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Useful information:

Dates: Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 April 2019.

Location: Théâtre Croisette in Cannes, historic location of the 1919 Medical Conference.

Translations: French and English

Accreditation and information available from the PR department:

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