



Mr Simon Stiell

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Health organisations call on the UNFCCC for robust conflict of interest management of COP following Coca-Cola's COP27 sponsorship

Dear Mr Stiell,

We, as health organisations concerned by the threat to human and planetary health posed by the climate crisis, write to voice our objection to Coca-Cola sponsoring the Conference of Parties (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh. As the UNFCCC Executive Secretary tasked with the unique and vital mandate of supporting the global response to the threat of climate change, we ask you to establish mechanisms to mitigate against and limit the influence of environment- and health-harming industries on COP-related policy making and commitments. All sponsors of UNFCCC events must fully respect human rights, including the right to health and to a [healthy environment](#), and align their operations with the 1.5°C tipping point.

Corporate partnerships and sponsorship of the COP - in this instance with and by the [world's leading plastic polluter](#) and a fueller of disease - implies United Nations (UN) and broader government and public tolerance and endorsement of health-harming practices of such corporations. It puts the transparency and evidence-informed nature of COP27 policy dialogues and negotiations at [risk](#). Providing such a high profile platform for corporate actors to 'greenwash' their reputation is incompatible with the aims of climate change negotiations. It contributes to the illusion of their commitment to change while their fossil fuel-intensive industries remain key drivers of the climate crisis and the attendant negative impacts on human and planetary health.

We applaud the UN Climate Change Conferences for bringing [global attention](#) to the climate crisis [directly affecting health](#). Not only is Coca-Cola the world's leading plastic polluter, but its products are of vital concern for public health as the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages are linked to obesity, poor oral health and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including cancer and diabetes. The Company has a very poor track record of achieving its sustainability pledges, is [increasing plastic use](#), and utilising [corporate playbook tactics](#) to undermine plastic recycling efforts - all the while spending over \$4 billion to promote its products. As the [CEO of Coca-Cola recently told investors](#), in "every previous crisis, military, economic or pandemic, in the last 134 years, the Coke Company has come out stronger". Let's not allow climate and increased poor health to be yet more crises Coca-Cola is enabled to exploit.

Discussions around planetary and human health must not take place in siloes. [The Lancet Global Syndemic Commission Report](#) calls for a systems approach to address underlying and common drivers of obesity, undernutrition and climate change. Global dietary patterns are shifting towards higher consumption of ultra-processed foods and beverages, contributing to the [food system's global CO2 emissions \(20-35%\)](#). Undernutrition, obesity, and other dietary risks for NCDs constitute the [biggest cause \(19%\) of ill-health and premature death globally](#). There is an urgent need for effective action to address the [over 12 million annual deaths attributable to unhealthy diets](#) alone.

For decades, corporate power has been exercised by the tobacco, alcohol, ultra-processed foods, and fossil fuel industries to resist, delay and subvert evidence-informed public health policy at all levels. Sophisticated strategies to further corporate interests to the detriment of health and climate change call for much stricter risk assessment

and action, to ensure that policy processes are developed free from real or perceived conflicts of interest and undue corporate influence. UN agencies, processes, and UN Member States must exercise coherence across all sectors: by setting clear rules of engagement, the Secretariat has the opportunity to veto environment- and health-harming corporate actors from using the COP sessions to promote their own interests and undermine climate action.

To ensure the public interest and evidence-based policy making and commitments prevail in these and future negotiations, we call on you to develop and enforce robust mechanisms to mitigate against corporate capture and limit and manage conflicts of interest and undue influence arising from, for example, the association of companies such as Coca-Cola with COP27. Addressing both the climate crisis and the obesity and undernutrition epidemic is urgent. The UNFCCC has an important contribution to make and we look to you to exercise leadership to ensure healthy COPs now and in the future.

Signed,

ACT Health Promotion Brasil

Action Against Hunger

Africa NCDs Network

Alianza por la Salud Alimentaria, Mexico

ANAQ Foundation

Brazilian Alliance for Healthy and Adequate Food

Cameroon NCD Alliance

Center for Epidemiological Studies in Health and Nutrition, USP

Center for Science in the Public Interest

CLUCOD

Coalition for Americas' Health CLAS

Diabetes Fighters' Trust

EarthMedic and EarthNurse Foundation for Planetary Health

European Public Health Alliance

FIAN Brasil

Freshwater Action Network Mexico

Gatefield

Ghana NCD Alliance

Global Climate and Health Alliance

Global Diet and Activity Research Network

Global Food Research Program University of North Carolina

Global Health 50/50

Global Health Advocacy Incubator

HEALA

Health and Climate Network

Healthy Caribbean Coalition

Healthy India Alliance

Heart Foundation of Jamaica

HRDAY

IDEC

Institute of Alcohol Studies

International Association of Dental Research

Kamran Abassi, Editor in Chief, The British Medical Journal

Lake Health and Wellbeing

Liverpool Obesity Research Network

MOVENDI International

National Action for Sugar Reduction

National Institute of Public Health Mexico

NCD Alliance

NCD Child

Reconciliation and Development Association

Red PaPaz

SAMRC Centre for Health Economics and Decision Science-PRICELESS SA

SPECTRUM

Swedish Institute for Global Health Transformation SIGHT

Tanzania NCD Alliance

The George Institute for Global Health

The Institute for Social Marketing & Health, University of Stirling

The Interamerican Heart Foundation Argentina (FIC Argentina)

Tobacco Control Research Group and Beacon for 21st Century Public Health

Treatment Action Campaign

Trinidad and Tobago NCD Alliance

UK Working Group on NCDs

VicHealth

Vision for Alternative Development

Vital Strategies

World Against Cancer

World Cancer Research Fund International

World Heart Federation

World Obesity Federation

Zambia Heart and Stroke Foundation

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