

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2023

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health COP28 Statement

December 4, 2023 – The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is pleased that, for the first time in the series of Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings, COP28, the 28th annual United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference, will spend a full day focused on Climate Change and Health.

ASPPH, the voice of accredited academic public health, has already responded to the health crises related to climate change. In October 2022, we released a report, ***Responding to the Climate Change and Health Crisis: A Framework for Academic Public Health***. In line with the Framework, we make several recommendations that are relevant to the COP28 discussions:

- Fund research and training programs to support schools and programs in developing the next generation of public health leaders who are already called upon to address climate risks
- Strengthen public health systems at the local, state, federal, and global levels to make them more resilient.
- Support research that increases our certainty about future health impacts at all scales and better prepares us to take informed, meaningful action.
- Phase down the use of fossil fuels and all fuels that involve combustion-related production of CO₂ and/or leak methane. and halt further investment in energy sources with known harmful impacts on environmental and population health.
- Invest in research that accurately captures the public health risks from both established and newer energy technologies and that provides valid, constructive guidance on accomplishing a just transition.

ASPPH urges COP28 to consider these recommendations and to include academic public health institutions in the discussions at future COP meetings. Academic public health works to educate the next generation of public health leaders who will be on the front lines of the public health crisis that climate change is bringing. These institutions also conduct cutting-edge research on climate change and health that is part of the evidence foundation for decision-making. They also work closely with their local communities to address public health issues at the grassroots level.

Finally, we endorse the recommendations of the ***Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) Statement for COP28*** and its seven action points.

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH's mission is to strengthen the capacity of our member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.

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