



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Environmental Health Sciences

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Dear UN 2023 Water Conference Organizers,

I am writing on behalf of the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham to share with you our enthusiasm for the conference. To support the conference's vision, especially concerning sharing ongoing efforts that show water as the catalyst for sustainable development, we are excited to share our Climate and Health Initiative with you. Our planning for this initiative began several years ago when the impacts of climate change on health became increasingly apparent. Building on our existing expertise in related areas, we have recruited additional faculty members from a variety of different disciplines to work closely in this area.

The Initiative recognizes that the impact of climate change on water resources is a significant public health challenge. Drought and poor water quality pose significant risks to health and mental health. The initiative aims to develop innovative and integrated solutions that can effectively address the water-related challenges arising from climate change. We recognize the interconnectedness of water to various sectors and our approach aligns with the conference's call for water as a dealmaker, connecting all sustainable development goals.

Our approaches echo the conference's vision of "there is a need to move away from single, targeted and reactive short-term actions towards more holistic, integrated and future-oriented approaches and projects". We also recognize the importance of "build(ing) capacities across all layers of society - informal, individual and institutional, across borders, boundaries and sectors". We are building the capacity to address health and societal needs related to climate change and provide solutions to high-priority issues through research, education, service, and outreach. Especially, we are developing infrastructure to support researchers from a variety of fields, including public health, disaster management, social sciences, engineering, meteorology, etc., to work together to address the critical needs of vulnerable communities and populations. The Initiative is committed to engaging with local, national, and global communities and stakeholders, collaborating with partners from diverse sectors to identify and address the most pressing issues related to climate change and health.

In conclusion, we share the vision of the conference and will continue to forge coalitions and develop collaborations in this area.

Sincerely,

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