



Inclusive Territories, Environment and Health Committee
Commission des Territoires Inclusifs, de l'Environnement et de la Santé

Acting Together Against Environmental and Health Challenges

April 7, 2025 – 1:30 PM-4:00 PM

Council of Europe – Room B04 – C6 (Agora) - Strasbourg (France)

[Platform Link](#)

Session I – CLIMATE INCLUSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A Call to Action

Session II – INCLUSION, DIGNITY AND HEALTH: Access to Health, Autonomy in Mental Healthcare

Session III – COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE EU, COUNCIL OF EUROPE PARTNERS AND THE COMMISSION'S EXPERTS

Session IV – CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL EVENTS

Concept Note:

The acceleration of climate change threatens global public health. It disproportionately affects the most vulnerable populations and territories, exacerbating antagonisms and inequalities. Faced with this challenge, COP 30, which will be held from November 10 to 21, 2025, in Belém, Brasil, has chosen a triptych to guide state action: "*Peace, hope and inclusion.*"

In addition to the climate challenge, this meeting will include the health challenge currently being addressed by the Council of Europe, that of access to care, particularly in what are known as medical deserts and in the field of mental health.

These two challenges, related to ethics and human rights, call for the response of our NGOs at all levels of decision and territory. Our sessions will present successful initiatives in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

Session I – Inclusion, Climate Change, and Human Rights: A Call to Action

Ten years after the Paris Agreements, while States poorly respect their commitments and some withdraw their signature, our NGOs invested in favor of environmental protection, inclusion and the defense of human rights, cannot remain silent at the Council of Europe.

This session aims to reposition the **COP30** negotiations in their historical and global context, to explore the expectations of Belém, and to propose proactive, concrete and inclusive solutions in the fields of health and climate, which pay particular attention to the most fragile populations.

Heat Action Day (HAD): This session will examine how strategies, such as the HAD initiative, launched in 2022 by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), can mitigate the impact of heat waves on people most at risk. Older persons are disproportionately affected by extreme temperatures: more than three-quarters of heat-related deaths occur in those over 75 years old. Similarly, children, people with disabilities, the poorly housed, and workers in physically demanding jobs are particularly affected. In addition, high temperatures can worsen chronic diseases, such as vascular, respiratory and diabetes. But also mental illnesses.

Session II – Inclusion, Dignity and Health: Access to Health, Autonomy in Mental Healthcare

Patient care will be at the heart of our second discussion, informed by the Council of Europe's draft white paper on access to innovative treatments and technologies and by examples of humanitarian actions in France and Africa.

We will also address a concern of the Council of Europe essential for NGOs: that of patient autonomy in mental healthcare. The patient-centered healthcare approach, which prioritizes the rights and dignity of all regardless of age or pathology, is decisive with regard to human rights and our struggles. Particular attention will be paid to innovative care models for mental health and neurodegenerative diseases, particularly those of IRCCS San Camillo, an institute dedicated to advancing healthcare for neurological patients.