

PARALLEL SESSION 1.5

**WIN-WIN STRATEGY FOR THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF NCDS AND
TACKLING ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES**



| BACKGROUND

Environmental factors are main causes of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Growing evidence indicates that early life exposure to environmental risks, such as chemicals, radiation and air pollutants, might increase NCD risk throughout the life course.¹ Air pollution alone causes about 6.5 million deaths a year, or one in eight of all deaths. The strongest causal associations are seen between PM_{2.5} pollution and cardiovascular and pulmonary disease as well as with several highly prevalent non-communicable diseases including diabetes, decreased cognitive function, attention-deficit or hyperactivity disorder and autism in children. Yet, around 2 billion children live in areas that exceed the World Health Organization annual limit of 10 µg/m³. These health burdens related to environmental pollution disproportionately fall on the poor and marginalized communities in low and middle income countries.²

There is a need for increased understanding on the environmental determinants of NCDs, including but not limited to: climate change (e.g. heat waves increasing risks for CVD and stroke), biodiversity loss, environmental pollution (air, water, soil, heavy metals, chemicals); impacts of the urban and built environment on NCDs (e.g. car-centric urban planning, environmental noise, housing, walkability, safe green spaces for physical activity and social interaction); consumption and production patterns across health, nutrition and other sectors. Moreover, the compounding effects of multiple environmental stressors (e.g. multiple contaminants through multiple exposure pathways) are poorly understood.

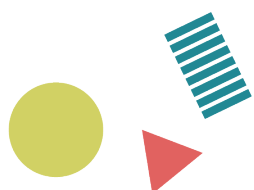
Although there is a growing understanding of the close relationship between health and environment, the linkages are not fully understood and integrated solutions are not effectively considered in policies and interventions across sectors. Moreover, there is a lack of policy recommendations that would enable policy makers to target the interventions across key sectors that would have the greatest beneficial long-term impacts on health, especially of vulnerable populations including children. Improving our understanding of these linkages and how they can be applied to support integrated decision-making can catalyse the public and private sector to act. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society actions are urgently needed for the control and prevention of NCDs and for reversing the alarming trend of environmental degradation and climate change.

1 Preventing noncommunicable diseases by reducing environmental risk factors. WHO 2017

2 The Lancet Commission on pollution and health (2017)

| OBJECTIVES

- To share the latest knowledge on environmental determinants of NCDs
- To share practical experiences and lessons learned on the use of science-based tools for identifying and assessing environmental risks of NCDs
- To share good practices and lessons learned on implementing actions to reduce environmental risks of NCDs
- To discuss multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder strategies, mechanisms and financing needs to tackle environmental determinants of NCDs





Panelist

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Yevgeniy Goryakin is a Health Economist/Policy Analyst at the Health Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, where he focuses on modelling health and economic impact of public health interventions promoting healthier diet and physical activity, as well as reducing harmful alcohol consumption. His other interests include econometric analysis of environmental and socioeconomic determinants of health and health behaviours, including the impact of macro-level factors such as technological change, urbanization, economic and social globalization. He has also done research on the socioeconomic inequalities in overweight/obesity, as well as on the impact of chronic health conditions associated with obesity on labour market outcomes. He has a PhD in Health Services and Policy Analysis from the University of California at Berkeley, as well as an MPhil in Development Studies from Cambridge University, UK.