



HEALTHY INDOOR AIR A GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION

High-level side event to be held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, New York, September 2025



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New York, September 2025**

Title: HEALTHY INDOOR AIR – A GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION

Purpose:

- To highlight the importance of the crucial topic of Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
- To improve global awareness
- To showcase best practice
- To inspire action
- To enhance global collaborations
- To develop new networks
- To unlock novel opportunities

Outline of session:

- High-level speakers from government, UN agencies, academia, healthcare, education, policy, sustainability, and industry will gather to share insights, experience, and diverse perspectives on how they are approaching indoor air quality, noting this is currently a gap in most public health frameworks.
- Airborne diseases (including those that cause pandemics) and airborne pollutants (like wildfire smoke and vehicle emissions) may be invisible, but they cause profound harm. With global populations spending ~90% of time indoors, buildings need to prioritise and guarantee access to clean, safe air.
- As climate change intensifies wildfires and the risk of novel pathogens increases, the need for research, policy, and action on IAQ has never been more pressing.

Date: Tuesday 23 September 2025 from 3:30-5:30pm

Location: UN Headquarters, New York, New York

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/UN-indoorair>

Speakers:

Leading global figures and experts in Indoor Air Quality, representing all regions of the world and from a variety of backgrounds, including:

- Montenegro: Mr Jakov Milatović, President of Montenegro (confirmed)
- France: Minister Yannick Neuder, Minister of Health and Access to Care (TBC)
- Malaysia: Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad, Minister of Health (TBC)
- Other Prime Ministers and Health Ministers
 - St. Kitts and Nevis (invited)
 - Dominican Republic (invited)
- Representatives of related UN agencies
 - WHO, Director-General, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus (invited)
 - ILO, Director-General, Gilbert Houngbo (invited)
 - UN Environment Program Executive Director, Inger Andersen (confirmed)
- Youth speaker (confirmed)
- Professor Lidia Morawska, Head Int. Laboratory for Air Quality & Health (confirmed)
- Jose Castro, WHO D-G Special Envoy for Chronic Respiratory Disease (confirmed)
- Professor Joseph Allen, Head, Harvard Healthy Building Program, USA (confirmed)
- Professor Bettina Borisch, CEO, World Federation of Public Health Assocs (confirmed)
- Anna-Maria Arabia, Chief Executive, Australian Academy of Science (confirmed)
- Katherine Walsh, Head, Boston Public Schools Indoor Air Quality program (confirmed)
- Sotirios Papathanasiou, GO AQS Lead Author (confirmed)
- Jagat Narula, President, World Heart Federation (confirmed)
- Rachel Hodgdon, President & CEO, International WELL Building Institute (confirmed)
- Plum Stone, CEO Safer Air Project (confirmed)
- Kerry Kinney, ISIAQ President (confirmed)
- Traci Hanegan, Former Healthcare Lead - ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force (confirmed)

Co-sponsoring Member States:

- Montenegro and France have confirmed co-sponsorship.
- Additional Member States considering co-sponsor include Malaysia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominican Republic, Japan and Ireland.

Partner organizations:

- Australian Academy of Science
- Burnet Institute
- Brown University School of Public Health
- Harvard Healthy Building Program
- University of Melbourne
- World Federation of Public Health Associations
- International Society for Indoor Air Quality (ISIAQ)
- ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers)
- GO AQS (Global Open Air Quality Standards)
- Boston Public Schools
- Université of Genève
- Geneva Health Forum
- World Heart Federation
- Université Paris Cité
- International WELL Building Institute
- Let's Air
- Heart Foundation Australia
- Universidad de Granada
- Malaysian Association of Environmental Health
- Clean Air for Kids
- Thrive
- The Corsi-Rosenthal Foundation
- Lovexair Foundation
- The Safer Air Project
- Clear Air Allies
- Italian Society for Indoor Air Quality
- Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security
- Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS)
- Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease
- University of Otago
- The Union – International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
- REHVA (Federation of European Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Associations)
- Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, Building Services Exhibition (ARBS)
- Every Breath Counts
- Society for Indoor Environment (SIE)
- RESET International Standard
- 1 Day Sooner
- US Green Building Council
- Green Building Council of Australia
- Engineers Australia
- HEAL (Healthy Environments and Lives)
- University of Canberra
- Mt Sinai, Cohen Center for Recovery from Complex Chronic Illness
- Birdie
- Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP)
- Vital Strategies
- Universiti Putra Malaysia
- Clean Air Advocacy Ireland
- EUROVENT
- International Facility Management Association (IFMA)
- European Ventilation Industry Association (EVIA)

Global Pledge for Healthy Indoor Air

- The event will serve as an excellent platform to launch the 'Global Pledge for Healthy Indoor Air', a high-level, good-spirited, symbolic pledge, aiming to amplify awareness and drive momentum on IAQ.
- Speakers will be invited to sign the 'Global Pledge for Healthy Indoor Air' at the event, on behalf of their Member State or organization.

Media

- The event will provide a unique platform to elevate awareness about IAQ. Individual and collective media strategies will be considered to fully leverage the opportunity.
- A joint press release will be issued. Speakers will be invited to provide quotes.

Examples

- Video footage of similar events can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Contacts

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