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MESSAGE FOR THE PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2023

“Setting a New Health Agenda – at the Nexus of Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity”

Thailand, 27 January 2023

Humanity is facing a triple planetary crisis. Climate change is supercharging extreme weather events and increasing the risks of infectious disease outbreaks. Biodiversity loss is destroying livelihoods, causing hunger and forcing people from their homes. And air pollution is killing millions every year.

Nature is our life-support system. By destroying nature, we are destroying our very health.

The world must act now to avert climate catastrophe. Governments must phase out fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy. Developed economies and international financial institutions must support developing countries’ adaptation and mitigation efforts. Climate finance must reflect global ambition and justice. The private sector must fully commit to a net zero future.

Climate action will also improve air quality and reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases.

We must adopt nature-friendly production and consumption models and invest in resilient food, water and sanitation systems. We must raise awareness through community engagement to further reduce health risks.

And we must learn the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic and provide equitable access to vaccines, treatments, diagnostics and life-saving technology to every country.

I thank the Prince Mahidol Award Conference for your commitment to global health and look forward to your contributions for a healthier and more sustainable future for all.
