

2025

"A UNIFIED CALL FOR CLEAN AIR ACTION"



EMERGING LEADERS FOR CLEAN AIR FORUM(ELCAF) at the WHO Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, Cartagena, Colombia 24-28 March 2025.

# Activities Report

March 2025



MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITY HALLE-WITTENBERG

colorado school of public health

Public Health Elevated

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## Background

Air pollution remains the leading environmental threat to global health, responsible for over 7 million premature deaths each year. As climate change and rapid urbanization intensify exposure, the Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health: Accelerating action for clean air, clean energy access and climate change mitigation, convened to mobilize cross-sectoral leadership and accelerate coordinated action for clean air and public health.

The Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum represents a dynamic platform uniting promising initiatives to address the intertwined challenges of air pollution, public health, and climate change. It brings together emerging leaders, early-career professionals, researchers, advocates, and policy practitioners from around the world to amplify underrepresented voices, foster international collaboration, and catalyze innovative, actionable solutions.

Held in Cartagena as a pre-conference event, the forum provided a dedicated space for young professionals and emerging leaders to co-develop a global Call to Accelerate Action for Clean Air, setting the stage for unified advocacy and action in the lead-up to the WHO conference.

The World Health Organization Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health co-organized with the Government of Colombia, held from 24 to 28 March 2025 a full day pre/post conference side event: Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum (ELCAF). The summary of the conference can be found [here](#).

## Description of the Side Event

The Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum was a full day unique convergence of impactful initiatives designed to tackle the urgent global challenge of air pollution and health and the intersection of this challenge with climate change. This integrated forum brought together emerging leaders, early-career professionals and researchers, advocates and policy practitioners from diverse regions to amplify their voices, foster collaboration, and drive innovative solutions.



The participants collaborated to draft a unified statement addressed to policymakers, private sector leaders, philanthropic organizations, and global decision-makers to advocate for clean air and better health for all. The events also focused on capacity-building by equipping young professionals with tools to bridge the gap between research and policy, empowering them to advocate for evidence-based change. The first day was to prepare the participants towards

attending the conference, equipping them to meet their goals from being present at this important summit.

Additionally, the event highlighted innovative youth-led solutions, showcasing diverse approaches to improving air quality, mitigating climate change, and expanding access to clean energy. Through knowledge exchange, skill-building and strategic planning, the forum underscored the transformative potential of youth-driven innovation and cross sector collaboration. It aimed to empower participants as global change agents while catalysing momentum for sustained action.

The Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum (ELCAF) united leaders, early-career professionals, and advocates to tackle air pollution and its links to health and climate. Through collaboration, capacity building, and strategic planning, participants developed a unified policy statement, gained advocacy skills, and showcase innovative solutions, driving global action for cleaner air. The connections built during the conference are a huge potential for near and future collaboration at country and global level to support WHO and governments to half the burden from air pollution by 2040.

## Objectives

### **1. Empowerment and Build Capacity:**

- Equip emerging leaders, researchers, and advocates with knowledge and skills to act as effective agents of change in addressing air pollution, lack of energy access, climate, and health challenges globally.
- Enhance participant's abilities to engage in policy discussions, leveraging evidence-based solutions for air quality improvements.

### **2. Foster Global Collaboration and Leadership:**

- Bring together emerging leaders from diverse countries and WHO regions to share solutions-oriented actions and foster a sense of global responsibility
- Build a coalition to amplify clean air and climate actions, emphasizing co-benefits such as health improvement and energy access.

### **3. Catalyze Action-Oriented Strategies:**

- Building of the Emerging Leaders Statement on Air Pollution and Health, calling on governments and stakeholders to implement urgent and impactful policies.
- Develop actionable proposals that address both air pollution, climate change and health co-benefits, leveraging momentum towards COP30.

#### 4. Strengthen Research-to-Policy Translation:

- Train early-career professionals in bridging research from research to policy addressing air pollution and health.
- Create a platform for participants to develop context-specific strategies based on lessons learned during the conference.

#### 5. Celebrate and Showcase Emerging Leaders Contributions:

- Highlight innovative approaches by emerging leaders and create a repository of successful projects and initiatives to inspire global actions.
- Recognize the efforts of youth in using the health argument to address air pollution and climate change through impactful sessions and global presentations.

## Opening session

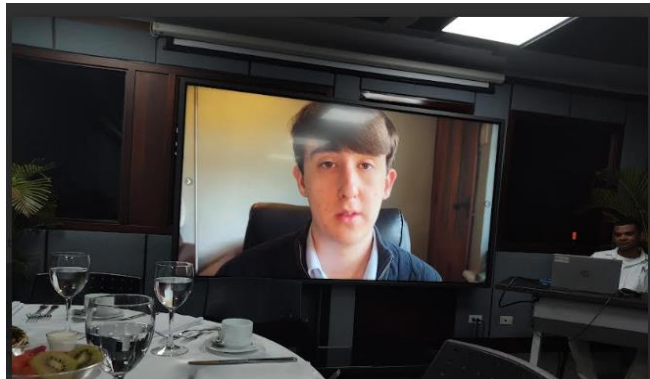
The Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum (ELCAF) Side event began at 8:30am with a powerful opening plenary welcome remark done by **Dr. Maria Neira, the World Health Organization (WHO) Director of the Department of Public Health and the Environment**. She acknowledged the urgent role young emerging leaders can contribute to shaping the future for clean air. Using her always inspiring words she illustrated the importance we give to drinking portable water. This should be even more evident to the quality of air we breathe. She called for an urgent need for collaboration by young emerging leaders to identify stakeholders they are working with especially at the urban and policy level. She was concerned about the cost of inaction to the pressing burden of air pollution on health of people including the young but also health facilities within cities.



The second opening plenary was done by **Dr. Alan Abelsohn a Family Physician and Representative of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA)**. As a family physician working in the area of air pollution and health for several decades, he referred to his journey working on air pollution and health as the “game”. Since 1996 with the first epidemiology studies of the burden of air pollution on health surfaced and he has been actively involved to shape future of clean air

with several trainings such as the WONCA air health train the trainer program that has built capacity of the health force and beyond to have participants organizing this side event. There is potential from this forum to leverage from and continue building the work.

The final opening remark was done through a video by **Ed Powell the Chair of the European Lung Foundation Youth Group** sharing his story as a patient with a lived experience of the burden of air pollution on his breathing. He is also an advocate championing clean air policies within the European Parliament and striving to have clean air for everyone.



## Launch of ELCAF, Presentation of Vision and Mission Statement.

The vision and mission statement were presented by the three main organizers to end the first segment of the day. **Elvis Ndikum Achiri, President at the Global Youth Strategy (GYS) on Air Pollution and Climate Health and PhD student in Global Health at Martin Luther University Halle Wittenberg** presented how important it was to lead this initiative two years ago with WHO. Aiming at a world-free from the devastating health, social, economic and environmental consequences of air pollution exacerbated by climate change on children, adolescents and youths. It was an honour to have mobilized everyone from all regions of the world to this side event. He presented the Global Youth Summit on Air Pollution and Health that he was leading during the rest of the day.

The second presentation was done by **Professor Eri Saikawa** leading an activity on communications with students from Emory University. She highlighted the important role emerging leaders in clean air can play in communication the significant burden of air pollution on health.

The Final statement was done by **Dr. Jonathan Samet from the Colorado School of Public Health** mobilising early career



researchers to showcase their work but also learn from best practices. He was happy to have

had the opportunity to mobilize 15 early career researchers at this very important conference and side event to shape the future of clean air research.

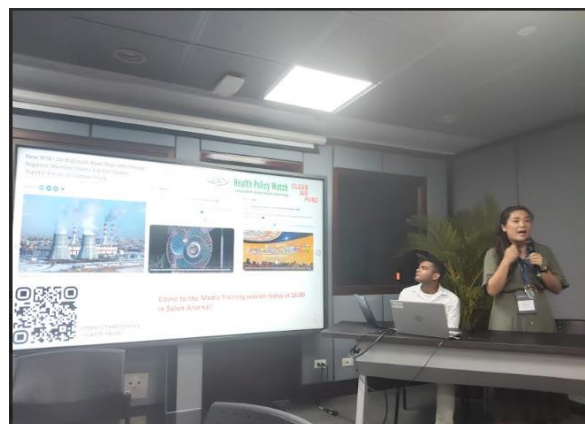
## Breakout Sessions (1, 2& 3)



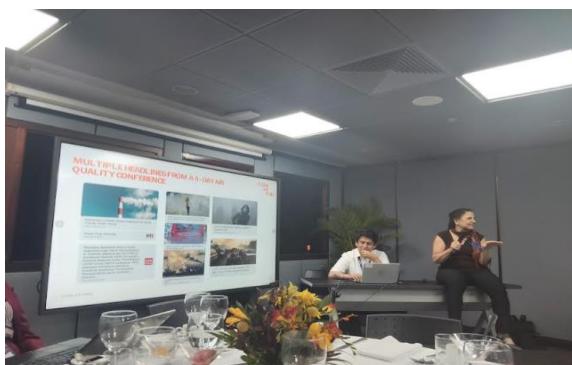
We had two breakout sessions funded by Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Colorado School of Public Health and Emory University. The first breakout session with title;

- 1. Global Youth Summit on Air Pollution and Health:** This breakout session had 5 capacity building sessions and 5 case study country presentations.

The first session was introduced by **Nadine Peters the Stakeholder Engagement Officer at Lungs Europe (Official partnership between the European Lung Foundation and the European Respiratory Society):** She presented an example of a success from the Healthy Lungs for Life Campaign with 10 years of impact at country and global level. The activities support awareness raising among students and school children as well as advocacy success like that for Cameroon supported by the HLFL grant in 2022 and 2023 to host first ever UN International Day of Clean Air events in Cameroon. A presentation from the Clean Air Fund was done by **Yasmine Yau the Senior Health Specialist on: Understanding air pollution problem, evidence and funding gap.** She presented the magnitude of the problem and countries they have been working within Africa, Europe, Asia and more. She highlighted only 1% of global funding was attributed to



supporting clean air projects. This is a huge problem that needs to be tackled urgently.



A workshop was done by **Elain Ruth Fletcher, Editor in Chief & Director, Health Policy Watch:** How to research, report on and write about air pollution and stories on journals and

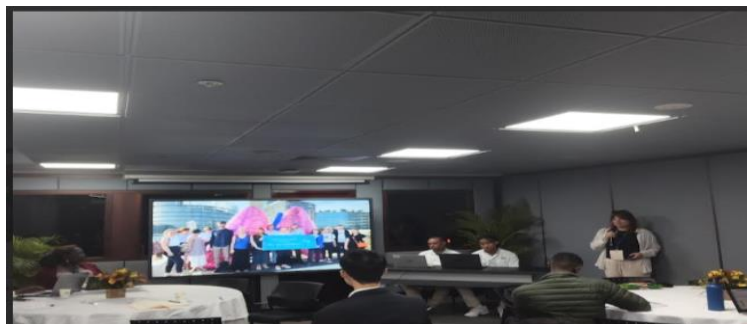
social media? This was a very lively session that introduced the participants on communication strategies as young health professionals.

We had critical and impactful country case study presentations from Kenya, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Mongolia, Belgium and Spain. The presentations focused on best practices from research to policy action translation in these different countries that enlightened the participants on which kind of actions are need for their post country activities.

After the launch break the third segment of the day with a session from **Melvine Anyango Otieno, Founder, Planetary Health Eastern Africa Hub** and also Assistant Lecturer, University of Eldoret, Kenya and PhD



student at Global and Planetary Health Working Group, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg on: Air Pollution Climate Change and Planetary Health.



We had the final session for the day by Prof Ebba Malmqvist from AirClim Sweden. It was titled “Monitoring the air for action by youth: Fighting air pollution in Lartin America and Lessons Learned”.

## 2. Global Leader’s Summit on Air Pollution and Health

This breakout session consisted of a training of students from Emory University with several documentaries done during the conference to capture day to day progress and success from the conference. The rest of the participants joined the side event 1 and 3 to gain specific skills in the area of advocacy and research.



### 3. Research Training Program on Air Pollution and Health.

The third breakout session consisted of a training on how to attend conference following presentation from trainers and participants.

The participants described their research and how they would want to collaborate, learning with various exercises including the draft of brief introduction (4-5 sentences) of themselves and the air quality situation in their country using SOGA data. Each participant presented themselves and their country's air pollution situation to the group. Contributed in drafting the Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum statement.

## ELCAF Statement Drafting and Presentation

### Objectives

Main objective: **Identify the main items for the call for action.** Brainstorm on the main elements that a comprehensive, inclusive call for action should include.

Secondary objective: **Strengthen international collaboration**

Meet young professionals and emerging leaders on air pollution across the world. Identify synergies and areas for collaboration. Learn and contextualize the state of air pollution among the countries of the participants.



### Key Outcomes

- **Main outcomes.**

The main objective, this is, identifying key elements for a comprehensive and inclusive call for action, was successfully achieved. Through collaborative brainstorming, participants developed a draft of the first version of the Call to Accelerate Action for Clean Air. This initial draft laid the foundation for a unified



global appeal and was subsequently finalized during the WHO conference, marking a significant milestone toward coordinated efforts to combat air pollution.

- **Secondary outcomes:**

By engaging with participants from diverse countries, synergies and areas for collaboration have been identified, enhancing our collective understanding of the global state of air pollution. This initiative has fostered a network of cooperation aimed at implementing impactful solutions and policies worldwide, ensuring a sustainable approach to mitigating air pollution on a global scale.

## Detailed outcome

The final call to action included the following statements:

- **C**ommit to investing in low-emission, accessible transport systems and phasing out polluting vehicles to protect health and ensure sustainable mobility for all.
- **L**egislate and enforce strong national air quality policies that align with WHO guidelines, with clear targets, timelines, and accountability mechanisms.
- **E**mpower/educate citizens and future leaders by embedding air quality and climate education across all levels and professional sectors to drive long-term environmental action.
- **A**ccelerate equitable access to clean cooking fuels, improve indoor air quality, and raise public awareness to eliminate household air pollution, especially in underserved areas.
- **N**ormalize the open-ready monitoring of air quality and the development of national emission inventories, funding of local research, and institutionalized governance to ensure sustained, evidence-based action.
- **A**lign ministries of health, environment, transport, urban planning, communications, education, energy, agriculture, and industry through inter-ministerial coordination, and foster inclusive dialogue with civil society to drive unified policy.
- **I**nvest in clean air solutions where they are most needed by reforming global funding models and recognizing prevention as a cost-effective.
- **R**edesign cities with expanded green



spaces, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, and integrated waste management systems, using smart technologies and community planning to reduce pollution and support healthy, resilient communities.

## Commitments made to save 3 million lives by halving health impacts of air pollution at WHO conference.

Over 50 countries, cities and organisations agreed to reduce the health impacts of air pollution by 50% by 2040 at the WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health. Clean Air Fund also pledged \$90million for climate and health efforts in the next two years.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and Government of Colombia convened over 700 people from over 60 countries, including Ministers of Health, Environment and Energy, mayors, health professionals and campaigners for the Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health.

### Commitments made by governments

Countries, cities and organisations endorsed a [global target and roadmap](#) agreed by Ministries of Health at the WHO in February 2025 to reduce the health impacts of air pollution by 50% by 2040, compared to 2015.

Representatives from [17 governments announced](#) national commitments during the conference to tackle air pollution and safeguard health:

- Several governments, including the UK, Brazil, Mexico, China and Vietnam, committed to update and implement their national plans and standards to align more closely with the WHO guidelines for air quality.
- Multiple governments pledged to update sectoral policies to improve air quality, including Germany, Mexico and Mongolia. Mexico additionally highlighted including black carbon in their national vehicle regulations to reduce particulate matter emissions.
- Spain, Norway, Somalia and Cuba made commitments to transition to cleaner energy in key sectors, including health and agriculture.
- The UK committed new funding, in addition to their ongoing support of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, to the Africa Clean Air Programme. Norway pledged to continue international development support to combat air pollution.
- The governments of Philippines, Pakistan and France highlighted the economic burden of diseases caused and exacerbated by air pollution on health systems and called for mobilisation of more resources to tackle pollution across sectors.
- Mongolia pledged to embed air quality in their National Action Plan on Noncommunicable Diseases and include it in the national medical curriculum.

- Spain, Vietnam, Mongolia, Mexico and a representative from the Gambia committed to improving air quality and health data, and making it publicly available.
- The government of **Colombia – already a leader in designing their climate commitments to maximise health benefits** – pledged to further embed an understanding of the health benefits of clean air action.
- Commitments to improve health impact assessment and surveillance were also echoed by Brazil, France, India, Philippines and Vietnam.
- Cities also demonstrated the leadership of mayors as a driving force for clean air. The **co-chairs of C40 Cities** from London, UK and Freetown, Sierra Leone, representing mayors from almost 100 of the world’s biggest cities, also committed to reducing air pollution. Health associations and civil society organisations pledged to integrate air pollution and planetary health into medical education, as well as equipping healthcare professionals with the knowledge and tools to address its health impacts.

To achieve clean air, we need urgent actions on all fronts: financial investment in sustainable solutions, such as in clean energy and sustainable transport; technical enforcement of WHO global air quality guidelines; and social commitment to protect the most vulnerable in our most polluted regions. We estimate that meeting our objective would save around 3 million lives every year.

**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO**

Ahead of the conference, 48 million health professionals, patients, advocates and civil society organisations signed a resounding **call for urgent action** to reduce air pollution and protect people’s health.

**Clean Air Fund pledge to ramp up clean air action**

Clean Air Fund fully endorses the WHO roadmap target to cut the health impacts of air pollution by half.

As we heard this week, this target is urgent, necessary and achievable. Delivering on this vision will save tens of millions of lives by 2040, and improve the lives of billions of people living with heart disease, lung disease, cancer and mental health conditions. It will halve the number of babies and young children dying – at the moment a child dies every minute due to toxic air. We strongly encourage all governments to commit to this goal. We also urge the WHO to monitor and celebrate governments’ progress on this critical challenge for people and planet.

**Jane Burston, CEO of Clean Air Fund**

At the conference, CAF CEO Jane Burston pledged a further \$90million from Clean Air Fund for climate and health efforts in the next two years, in addition to the \$110million already

spent to date. We also aim to catalyse increased investment from global finance institutions to improve air quality in low- and middle-income countries.

## Acknowledgements to our funders and partners

We will want to acknowledge the World Health Organization and the Colombian government for hosting this conference. The ELCAF was supported by several partners including the main organizers being; The Global Youth Strategy (GYS) on air pollution and climate health, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Emory University and Colorado School of Public Health. We will specially acknowledge all the below organizations among others that have supported this side event financially, technically and more;

- **World Health Organization:** We want to thank the World Health Organization and entire staff involved in the conception and implementation of ELCAF to success; Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO for his leadership, Dr Maria Neira, Mrs. Pettersen Marit Viktoria, Dr. PEGORARO Samantha, and Dr. FERRINI Rodrigues Patricia among others.
- **UNICEF:** For their interest and resources to engage during the youth day side event
- **Global Youth Strategy on Air Pollution and Climate Health:** We want to acknowledge the Global Youth Strategy Executive Board for initiating this idea and supporting to success: Pritika Kandamaran, Ayomide Olude, Sadia Sultana, Theodette Imanizabera Barbara Babila, Christabel Lum, Alicia Josa Culleré and global supporters.
- **Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg:** We want to specially thank the staff and Global Health team at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany for financial and technical support to the success of ELCAF: Professor Eva Kantelhardt, Professor Mikolajczyk Rafael, Professor Jahn Patrick, Ms. Spielmann Claudia and the Global and Planetary Working Group at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- **Colorado School of Public Health:** We want to thank everyone at the Colorado School of Public Health for accepting to lead organization of this event.
- **Emory University:** We want to thank everyone at the Colorado School of Public Health for accepting to lead organization of this event.
- **Bloomberg Philanthropies:** We want to specially thank Micheal Bloomberg for accepting to support this event financially.
- **Columbia University:** We acknowledge support from Professor Darby Jack and the Columbia University team.
- **AirClim Sweden:** We wish to thank AirClim Sweden for providing financial support to have participants attend.

- **European Lung Foundation:** We wish to thank the European Lung Foundation for providing financial support to cover cost for delegates.
- **World Organization of Family Doctors:** We want to specially thank the World Organization of Family Doctors to have sent a representative Dr. Alan Abelson as speaker during ELCAF
- **The University of Edinberg:** We want to specially thank the University of Edinberg to have sent a representative Dr. Mark Miller as chair of ELCAF.
- **International Federation of Medical Students Association:** We want to thank the IFMSA for funding participation of their President to support ELCAF success
- **Barcelona Institute of Global Health:** We want to thank the Barcelona Institute of Global Health for funding participation of one delegate to ELCAF.
- **Association for the Promotion of Youth Leadership, Advocacy and Volunteerism Cameroon:** We want to thank APYLAV and our engagements with the Healthy Lungs for Life campaign grant, Clean Air Fund and World Heart Federation, members and volunteer for supporting with the organization of post ELCAF activities: Adela Bih, Suh Calvin, Barbara Barbila, Arshly Ngono, Favor Nah and Tina Sharma.
- **Breathe Mongolia:** We want to thank Breathe Mongolia for supporting travel of one participant to attend ELCAF
- **Youth Climate and Health Network:** We thank the Youth Climate and Health Network and the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA) for support with mobilization of participants.
- **University of Bonn:** We thank the University of Bonn for accepting to be represented during ELCAF
- **School of Public Health Addis Ababa University:** We thank the School of Public Health Addis Ababa University to have been represented by their Dean during ELCAF
- **Health Policy Watch:** We thank Health Policy Watch to have delivered a session during ELCAF
- **Clean Air Fund:** We thank Clean Air Fund to have delivered a session during ELCAF
- **World Organization Youth Council:** We thank the WHO Youth Council for accepting to support ELCAF event with outreach.

## The Way Forward and Next Steps

The Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum (ELCAF) was setting the stage for coordinated global action by youth and emerging leaders to tackle air pollution. Following the conference there has been a post conference call to build strategies. The post conference call on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 had as outcome the creation of a brainstorming Trello board for participants to share their ideas with regards to the international coalition of young researchers to promote air quality monitoring. Considering the five objectives of the Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum (ELCAF);

- We have now empowered and build capacity of emerging leaders and will want to continue with this process to reach more young people.
- Fostering global collaboration and leadership among emerging leaders was successful and we will need more resources and mentorship to continue building this collaboration.
- We now have a Unified Call to Action from the Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Form aiming to catalyse action-oriented strategies to fight air pollution and climate change as we lead to WHA2025 and COP30.
- We have now a road map being developed for research and policy change following skills gained in the area of strengthening research to policy translation.
- There are emerging clean energy solution and the building interest to promote air quality monitoring both indoors and outdoors will need to continue as we celebrate the United Nations International Day of Clean Air for blue skies every 7 September with emerging leaders in action.
- We visited the Cartagena Technology University Boliver to build the momentum.

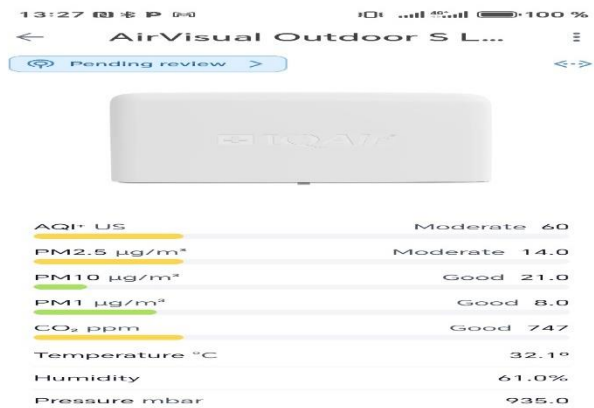


**Here's what we've been doing and accomplished since the conference:**

- We have continued dissemination and outreach of our [Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum](#) strong United Call to Action from the Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health now on Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg home page [here](#).
- UNICEF joined other UN agencies, governments, scientists, civil society groups and youth to commit towards a shared goal of halving the health impact of air pollution by 2040 during the [Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health](#) last month. Also endorsing our [Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum](#) in their recent publication: [Global Action for Clean Air: Protecting Children's Health and Securing Our Future](#).
- Acknowledged in publication: Clearing the Air: "Are we making progress in tackling air pollution" by the [Global Climate and Health Alliance April Monthly News Letter](#) with our [Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum](#) Declaration also acknowledged [here](#)
- We'd like to encourage greater engagement beyond the WHO conference in country and global events such as the [Global Climate and Health Summit](#) from 16-17 July in QEII Centre, London, UK. We are planning to meet and explore progress from the WHO conference during this Summit.
- Engaging with diverse organizations and UN agencies to support our school programme such as UNICEF accepting to collaborate and provide resources as well as

Air Quality Life Index with diverse resources. Also, engaging with UrbanBetter to support with their Cityzens Hub hosting for members.

- Currently building collaboration for global coalition to accelerate air quality monitoring by young people with potential support from the IQAir Schools4Earth programme which will provide a much-noticed initiative to engage schools as hosts of monitors and match this with sponsorships from local and international sponsors. Click to accept the invitation and start following Elvis Ndikum Achiri's air quality: <https://iqair.biz/f/dk0ig9ws?from=Elvis%20Ndikum%20Achiri>



**Acknowledgement and appreciation of our participants engagement during the entire WHO Second global conference on air pollution and health**

2025

MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITY HALLE-WITTENBERG

GLOBAL YOUTH STRATEGY on Air Pollution and Climate Health End the Silence for Clean Air Now

colorado school of public health Public Health Elevated

EMERGING LEADERS FOR CLEAN AIR FORUM(ELCAF)  
CERTIFICATE  
THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT  
**Santiago Garcia Maza**  
HAS SUCCESSFULLY PARTICIPATED IN THE  
Pre/Post Conference Side Events and World Health Organization (WHO) Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health.  
Cartagena, Colombia from 24-28 March, 2025.

EVA KANTELHARDT Mr. ACHIRI ELVIS NDIKUM JONATHAN SAMET  
Prof. Dr. EVA KANTELHARDT PRESIDENT AT GLOBAL YOUTH STRATEGY(GYS) Dr. JONATHAN SAMET  
MARTIN LUTHER UNIVERSITY ON AIR POLLUTION AND CLIMATE HEALTH COLORADO SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

2025

MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITY HALLE-WITTENBERG

GLOBAL YOUTH STRATEGY on Air Pollution and Climate Health End the Silence for Clean Air Now

colorado school of public health Public Health Elevated

EMERGING LEADERS FOR CLEAN AIR FORUM(ELCAF)  
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THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT  
**Sheila Vanessa Estrada Mesa**  
HAS SUCCESSFULLY PARTICIPATED IN THE  
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GLOBAL YOUTH STRATEGY on Air Pollution and Climate Health End the Silence for Clean Air Now

colorado school of public health Public Health Elevated

EMERGING LEADERS FOR CLEAN AIR FORUM(ELCAF)  
CERTIFICATE  
THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT  
**Alicia Josa Culleré**  
HAS SUCCESSFULLY PARTICIPATED IN THE  
Pre/Post Conference Side Events and World Health Organization (WHO) Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health.  
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EVA KANTELHARDT Mr. ACHIRI ELVIS NDIKUM JONATHAN SAMET  
Prof. Dr. EVA KANTELHARDT PRESIDENT AT GLOBAL YOUTH STRATEGY(GYS) Dr. JONATHAN SAMET  
MARTIN LUTHER UNIVERSITY ON AIR POLLUTION AND CLIMATE HEALTH COLORADO SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Special Message from students of the Cartagena University of Technology, Boliver,  
Colombia: Sheila Vanessa Estrada Mesa

Santiago Garcia Maza

Isabela Sofia Leon Valiente

Angela Patricia Martinez Deulufeut

Hellen Margarita Morales Colon

Dámaris Andrea Jiménez Uribe

## Dear Elvis

We would like to dedicate a few words of thanks to you for all that you have meant in this short but valuable time that we have known each other. From the very first moment, your accompaniment, your warmth and your empathy have made working and sharing with you a truly enriching experience. You have not only proven to be a great colleague, but also a person with exceptional human qualities.

We deeply appreciate the way you are always willing to share your knowledge with us, guide us and teach us to grow, not only professionally, but also as people. Your advice, your patience and your way of seeing things have been of great inspiration, and I am sure that many of the lessons you have passed on to us will accompany us along the way.

Thank you for every sincere conversation, for every gesture of support and for making the atmosphere more enjoyable and motivating. I hope we continue to build on this friendship and learn together along the way.

With all our hearts ❤️, thank you for everything!



**Some High-Level engagements during the entire WHO Second global conference on air pollution and health**



Testimony sharing from Cameroon at Opening Plenary on 25/03/2025



High Level Speaker on Session: Clean Air as a human right 27/03/2025



Conference Group Picture on Government Day 27/03/2025

## Conclusion

The WHO air pollution pre-conference Side event Emerging Leaders for Clean Air Forum (ELCAF) co-organized with the World Health Organization, the Global Youth Strategy (GYS) on Air Pollution and Climate Health, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Emory University, and Colorado School of Public Health successfully brought together over 51 emerging leaders and young professionals from around the world to address the urgent challenges of air pollution and its links to health and climate change. Participants collaborated to draft the initial Call to Accelerate Action for Clean Air, later finalized at the WHO conference, marking a key milestone in youth-led advocacy towards contributing to halving the burden from air pollution by 2040. The event fostered international collaboration, highlighted regional insights, and amplified youth voices in global health governance, reinforcing the importance of inclusive, cross-sectoral action for clean air. The Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health with over 700 in person participants was also supported by the Governments of Norway, UK, Spain, France, and Netherlands, as well as the World Bank, UN Environment Programme, World Meteorological Organization, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Wellcome Trust and Clean Air Fund.

We  
thank  
you for  
your  
support.

## Contact us

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### **The Colorado School of Public Health**

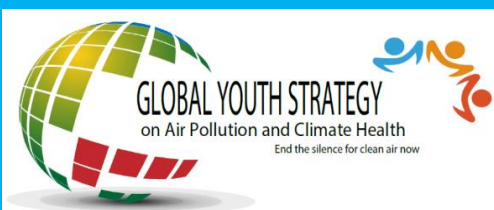
Dr. Jonathan Samet

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