



## Implementation of policies to protect planetary health

Subhrendu Pattanayak and Andy Haines's important Comment<sup>1</sup> outlined the inadequacy of progress towards planetary health, and noted the opportunity provided by the Sustainable Development Goals to confront challenges to planetary health. The authors argued that evidence from high-income settings cannot be directly transposed to low-income or middle-income settings, and this issue contributes to inadequate progress towards implementation of planetary health policies.

Missing from the Comment was consideration of transference of evidence from low and middle-income settings to high-income

ones in efforts to attain sustainable development. Action by all countries is needed to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, and some low and middle-income countries are leading in promotion of sustainable development. Examples are Bhutan, Costa Rica, Maldives, and Tuvalu in their progress towards being carbon neutral, and Ecuador whose new constitution includes the rights of nature and fostering of a good life with harmony between people and nature.<sup>2</sup> The need to transfer evidence from low and middle-income settings to high-income settings is an important omission from the Comment. Without this consideration the opportunities for development towards planetary health are limited.

Within the health sector the notion of reverse innovation, from low and middle-income countries, is emerging,

and challenging the discourse that high-income countries alone lead innovation.<sup>3</sup>

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- 1 Pattanayak S, Haines A. Implementation of policies to protect planetary health. *Lancet Planet Health* 2017; 1: e255–56.
- 2 Department of Economic and Social Affairs UNS. World economic and social survey 2013: sustainable development challenges. New York: United Nations, 2013.
- 3 Ahmed F, Ahmed N, Briggs T, et al. Can reverse innovation catalyse better value health care? *Lancet Global Health* 2017; 5: e967–68.