



Prof. Susana Paixão
President IFEH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE IFEH

I took over as President of the International Federation of Environmental Health last October and it is with great satisfaction that I have produced this statement.

During my Presidency there are some goals that I would like to achieve by the end of the term and I would like to share with you. Continue to give worldwide visibility to the Environmental Health and attract more members, publicizing their work and involving IFEH in more international working groups with key global partners in particular with official bodies, will be, in my opinion, essential for the global recognition of Environmental Health workforce.

So we are going to work on the pursuit of bringing Latin American countries and strengthen the presence of Middle East countries in the Federation. This will be essential to reinforce the Federation's presence worldwide.

Also the definition of the theme of the World Environmental Health Day and its dissemination, at least until the end of January of the year of the celebration will be a premise for achieving another objective, which is the inclusion of the World Environmental Health Day on the WHO official agenda.

Publish the Federation magazine at least twice a year and the newsletter four times a year, will be a goal that will be easily tangible by having fantastic colleagues who are dedicated, with whom I have already spoken and who are enthusiastic about this challenge.

Reorganize the Faculty Forum, which has already started to take shape in the previous presidency, with the participation of the Faculty Forum responsible in the meetings of the Board of Directors. It will therefore be an asset to involve academic members in the Federation's activities in order to start publishing scientifically based reports and guidelines, in the field of Environmental Health, in order to help the workforce on the ground and to be always up to date, the best and latest techniques available and with information on examples from other countries. The organization and dissemination of this type of documentation will bring greater visibility to IFEH.



Very important will be the promotion / maintenance of the presence of representatives of the Federation, in the main global decision-making meetings and events, in the area of Environmental Health (for example WHO; COP; UNDRR, ...)

Finally, the organization of a working group that deals with gender issues in the area of Environmental Health and establish the bridge with the organization worldwide that work on these issues as well as the promotion of a group that will succeed in bringing together environmental health students at the worldwide level, will be objectives that will allow a more inclusive Federation.

Will be a challenge, because most of them are difficult goals to achieve, but with the collaboration of everyone, I am sure they are tangible.

In the last year we managed to verify what we already know about the importance and strength of Environmental Health. The SARS Cov2 Pandemic has come to demonstrate the vital role of the Environmental Health workforce worldwide to face this challenging time for all of humanity.

It is colleagues who, by tracking contacts, inspecting establishments (teaching, commerce, industrial, etc.) in the implementation of preventive measures to combat COVID 19 and enforcing government guidelines, are preponderant in overcoming this Pandemic. I hope that we will be able to take advantage of this window of opportunity to raise awareness of Environmental Health, which, working at the level of the Health / Environment binomial, working within the scope of Health promotion and disease prevention, are key to the adversity we are experiencing as well as those ahead, namely climate change.

I end by wishing you all, as well as your families, the best in health, happy holidays and that next year will bring us hope and that it will be better than this strange year of 2020. A special greeting to all colleagues who were involved in working under Covid-19 conditions, you are the HEROES of this year.

I hope to continue to count on everyone in 2021 and that we can meet again, preferably face to face in May 2021 in Tartu, Estonia at the IFEH 4th World Academic Conference on Environmental Health.

Keep well and safe.

Prof. Susana Paixão
President IFEH