



IFEH World Congress on Environmental Health 2016

Environmental Health: Solving Emerging and Prevailing Global Health Risks

Lilongwe, Malawi 3rd – 6th May 2016



Lilongwe (Malawi) Declaration on the Role of Environmental Health in the Delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals

The delegates of the 14th IFEH World Congress on Environmental Health held from 3rd – 6th May in Lilongwe (Malawi) have actively discussed the role of the environmental health profession in the global delivery of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, more commonly referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The professional handling and management of environmental health issues is key to successfully implementing a wide range of the Sustainable Development Goals. This Congress strongly supports the inter and multi-disciplinary nature of the SDGs, and the international recognition that one profession cannot address the needs of the population alone. We also applaud the UN in the development of goals which have built on the experience of the Millennium Development Goals, and now allow for more innovative and country specific solutions, with a global rather than developing country perspective.

Although it is clear that environmental health will contribute primarily to SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), the profession will also be integral to the delivery of all other SDGs as we work in partnership with other professions. More specifically, the wide range of discussions and presentations during this congress has clearly demonstrated the need to address the determinants of health, the impact of emerging diseases and climate change which all have implications for the future of environmental health practice. Addressing these issues places environmental health professionals in a strategic position for the successful delivery of the SDGs by 2030.

As such, the Lilongwe Declaration endorses the UN SDGs, however calls for the following:

- Continued and increased commitment from Governments in the support of preventive health services, such as environmental health, through financial contributions, building and supporting professional capacity, and advocating for the profession and practice at all levels.
- All environmental health professionals to engage with a wide range of stakeholders and professionals to holistically tackle the determinants of health on all levels.
- All professionals to engage with the general public to ensure broad public participation and community involvement in environmental health programmes, to ensure any impact on global health achieved is sustained and scaled up.
- Researchers and practitioners to effectively communicate, collaborate and work hand in hand with policy makers to ensure that policies and plans are informed by a strong evidence base. This not only supports the SDGs but is also in line with the African Union Agenda 2063.

This Declaration supports the IFEH belief that the needs of the individual and the development of a sustainable society for all must be given highest priority.

IFEH is a non-governmental world-wide organisation, run on a voluntary basis, of national organisations of environmental health or environment and health protection professionals, and academic institutions offering qualifications in environmental health. IFEH represents those who are professionally involved on an everyday basis in the implementation and enforcement of environment and health legislation, the promotion of health and the protection of the environment. Environmental Health Professionals are the interface between the politicians and the public and need to keep a delicate balance between individual and public needs and requirements.