

The impacts of global climate change are deemed the biggest challenge to human wellbeing. The WFOT recognises the interconnections among climate change, global health and sustainable development. Economic, social and environmental agendas must be addressed in order to meet the world population's present day needs without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The WFOT recognises that human driven global climate change, overuse of finite natural resources, decreased biodiversity, over-population and demographic trends such as inequitable wealth distribution have brought about a crisis for environmental sustainability.

The WFOT supports adopting a global perspective that acts upon these global values:

- Interdependence: that all people are interconnected and of equal value, learning from each other and interacting with mutual respect for mutual benefit.
- Independence: that everyone can lead lives that they value based on individual identity.
- Rights: that health is a human right incorporating concepts of justice, transparency and accountability.

From this philosophical and value base, the WFOT sees the following goals as critical to the next steps in ensuring global sustainability:

- To create a society in which all people pursue personal occupational objectives in a sustainable manner.
- To ensure systems for health and social care delivery consider the essentials of processes, structure, policy and practice through a lens of sustainability.
- Through the Disaster Preparedness and Response project, the WFOT supports the priority for adapted service delivery and practice to meet immediate environmental needs of clients through environmentally sustainable practice and lifestyles.
- Recognition of the essential nature of education and research is clear through the need for: educational materials reflecting sustainability principles and examples; and, cross disciplinary and cross sectoral research partnerships.

WFOT, 6 October 2013

Reference:

World Federation of Occupational Therapists. (2012). *WFOT Position Statement: Environmental Sustainability, Sustainable Practice within Occupational Therapy CM 2012*. Retrieved October 6, 2013, from <http://www.wfot.org/ResourceCentre.aspx>