

WHO 140th Executive Board Session – 23 January to 1 February 2017

Statement in support of Provisional Agenda Item 10.2 [EB140/84](#)

Draft global action plan on the public health response to dementia

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) representing occupational therapists internationally welcomes the draft global action plan on the public health response to dementia. The values, concepts and language employed throughout the action plan are congruent with those embraced by the occupational therapy profession. The WFOT strongly agrees with the plan's seven cross cutting principles especially the need to respect the human rights of people with dementia.

The WFOT supports the ambitious targets set out in the action plan and sees that a cross cutting multi-sectoral approach is required. With regards to 'Action Area 4: Dementia diagnosis, treatment, care and support', the WFOT strongly agrees that people with dementia should be empowered to maintain a level of functional ability consistent with their basic rights and live in the community to receive care aligned with their preferences.

Occupational therapists can share their experience and practice of empowering and enabling people with dementia to participate and engage in their everyday occupations. In occupational therapy, occupations refer to everyday activities that people need to, want to and are expected to do in order to bring purpose and meaning to life that are age, gender and culturally appropriate.

The draft global action plan is a powerful document and directive for empowering Member States, Non State Actors and the global community to engage in promoting awareness of dementia.

Marilyn Pattison
President
World Federation of Occupational Therapists

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