

WHO 138<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Session – 25 – 30 January 2016

**Statement in support of Provisional Agenda Item 7.4 [EB138/16](#)**

**Multisectoral action for a life course approach to healthy ageing: draft global strategy and plan of action on ageing and health**

The WFOT declares strong support for the initiatives being undertaken and established by the WHO related to the Draft Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Ageing and Health. The strategy builds upon the World Report on Ageing and Health ensuring the necessary attention by Member States to focus on the needs and rights of older persons, setting this commitment within the new context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The WFOT strongly agrees that to achieve the vision of a world in which everyone can live a long and healthy life the Strategy and 5 strategic objectives in the Plan of Action (2016-2020) need to be addressed as an integrated approach between Member States, WHO, other UN agencies and international partners, e.g. non-state actors and civil societies.

The WFOT requests Member States engage occupational therapists in implementing the 5 strategic objectives. Occupational therapists can share their experience and practice of empowering and enabling people to participate and engage in their everyday occupations, whereby functional ability is fostered across the life course.

Occupational therapists promote health and well-being through the use of purposeful and meaningful occupations and already address many of the objectives within the Strategy especially Objective 2 – developing age friendly environments and Objective 3 – aligning health systems to the needs of the older population. Occupational therapists support the provision of assistive technologies as outlined in Objective 2.1; they are experts in grading and adapting occupations enabling persons to participate in the everyday activities they choose to perform in self-care, productivity and leisure.

The WFOT concludes by stating that by active participation in the continuing dialogue, occupational therapists can offer expert knowledge and practical solutions to the crucial Global Strategy on Ageing and Health.

This statement is submitted on behalf of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists

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12 January 2016