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Draft WHO global disability action plan 2014-2021: Better health for all people with disability

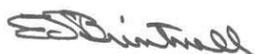
The World Federation of Occupational Therapists continues to support the World Health Organization's development and promotion of WHO *Action Plan 2014-2021: Better health for persons with Disability*. WFOT concurs that disability is an issue of public health, human rights, and development as articulated in our statement submitted during the consultation period. WFOT's expanded position is that the presence or absence of disability in any life, across the lifespan, can be transient, changing and responsive to societal circumstances that are in constant flux. The growing co-morbidity of non-communicable disorders producing variations in health status, greatly impacts on individuals' participation in their communities and engagement in activities. Occupational therapists understand these barriers through working with citizens facing complex problems related to readjustment and stabilization. The impact of Member States' implementation of the Action Plan to mediate the effect of activity limitations on the public sector and to promote citizens' health and well-being is enhanced through grassroots consultations and participation of service providers.

Member States' decisions related to Disability policies including the principles of a whole society's approach articulated in WHO Governance for Health in the 21st century (2012) for planning and change must be data driven. Systems for data collection require a top down and a bottom up approach to the identification of indicators and analysis. This includes an "Interdisciplinary systems approaches to improve health and well-being" in complex health and social sectors. Occupational therapy is ready to assist.

WFOT commends WHO for developing the Disability Action Plan *2014-2021: Better health for persons with Disability* and the broad stakeholder consultation process. WFOT is encouraged that the range of opinions, ideas and innovation will result in a progressive forward thinking document of change. Ongoing dialogue, engaging in collaborative and creative thinking opportunities identified for initiating systems is still required nationally. WFOT is eager to engage with WHO and Member States to reach the goals and objectives of this Disability Action.

Submitted on behalf of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists

By



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