

WHO 136th Executive Board Session – 26 January – 3 February 2015

**Statement in support of Provisional Agenda Item 7.2 [EB136/16](#) Health and the environment
Climate and health: outcome of the WHO Conference on Health and Climate**

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) representing an estimated 550,000 occupational therapists world-wide recognises the conclusions of the WHO Conference on Health and Climate 2014 as congruent with the objectives within the WFOT Master Project Plan on Environmentally Sustainable Occupational Therapy Practice.

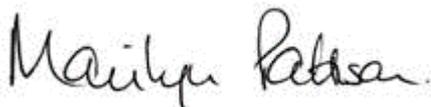
WFOT strongly agrees that the protection of health against climate change risks can be enhanced through ensuring better and more equitable access to services. These services need to mitigate and improve the social and environmental determinants of health, strengthen basic public health interventions and provide interventions targeted at climate related risks.

As reflected in the WFOT Position Statement on Environmental Sustainability, Sustainable Practice within Occupational Therapy (WFOT, 2012; available at <http://www.wfot.org/ResourceCentre>) WFOT recognises the interconnections between climate change, global health and sustainable development. Occupational therapists can contribute to the development of a culture of low-carbon lifestyles by developing client intervention programs to enable people to choose and perform daily occupations that are meaningful to them in the most environmentally sustainable manner.

WFOT welcomes the WHO Work Plan and sees that WFOT and its members can be integral partners in achieving its outcomes. WFOT is already working towards Objective 1 by raising awareness of the issues with its members and encouraging occupational therapists internationally to consider linkages between health and climate change. Stronger partnerships across all sectors would enhance the long term effectiveness of such strategies. With regards to Objective 2, WFOT strongly agrees that tools and training packages are essential for raising awareness amongst health professionals and the general community. WFOT also supports a key role for non-state actors' involvement in Objective 3, 'promote and guide the generation of scientific evidence' thus ensuring outputs are responsive to individual and communities needs.

In 2012 WFOT made climate and health a major area of its work and has a strong commitment to working with governments at all levels, other non-state actors and clients to promote societal and climate change.

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



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21 January 2015