

## **World Federation of Occupational Therapists Statement**

**6 – 9 October 2020 71st Session of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific**

### **Statement on Climate Change, the Environment and Health:**

As the global organisation for occupational therapists, the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) supports the work undertaken for the WHO regional platform on climate change, the environment and health. WFOT endorses the four pillars of work identified by the Regional Technical Advisory Group to address this thematic priority, including creating awareness of the impact of environmental concerns and building resilience of health systems for the future.

WFOT believes that protection of health against the impact of environmental risks can be enhanced through ensuring better and more equitable access to services. Such services can mitigate and improve social and environmental determinants of health; strengthen basic public health interventions; and provide interventions targeted at environmental risks and challenges.

Given the strong interconnections between the environment and population health, occupational therapists advocate for the use of environmentally sustainable practices to attain fair and healthy societies. WFOT recognises that it is imperative for economic, social and environmental agendas to be addressed for present-day requirements without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet their population needs.

Occupational therapists work with individuals, groups and populations to address relationships between the environment, occupations and people in order to promote engagement in needed or desired occupations. Occupational therapists contribute to the development of healthy environments through intervention programmes that enable people to choose and perform daily occupations that are meaningful to them using sustainable practices.

WFOT and its members serve as integral partners for the work of the WHO regional platform on climate change, the environment and health. WFOT has a strong commitment to work at all levels of governments and other non-state actors to develop capacity regarding the linkages between health and the environment, promote healthy public policy and generate research evidence regarding sustainable occupational performance.