



World Federation of Occupational Therapists Statement

14-15 September 2020 70th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

Statement on the Environment and Health:

As the global organisation for occupational therapists, the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) supports the work undertaken for the implementation of the European Environment and Health Process.

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 agenda of the European Environment and Health Process. WFOT has a strong commitment to work with 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.