



World Federation of Public Health Associations
Fédération Mondiale des Associations de Santé Publique
Federación Mundial de las Asociaciones de Salud Pública
Всемирная Федерация Ассоциаций Общественного Здравоохранения
世界公共卫生联盟
الاتحاد العالمي لجمعيات الصحة العامة

World Health Assembly, Geneva, 22-27 May 2017

Agenda 16.2 The Role of the Health Sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Towards the 2020 Goal and Beyond

World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) speaking note:

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Federation of Public Health Associations Environmental Health Working Group. The WFPHA is an international NGO composed of over 100 multidisciplinary public health associations. In this year, 2017, it is celebrating its 50th anniversary of advancing the collective voice of public health. As it looks backwards on the progress in the past 50 years it also looks forward.

WFPHA welcomes and endorses the WHO Road map on chemicals which contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in many areas including goal 3) health, 6) water and sanitation and 12) chemicals and waste.

The organization of the Road Map to identify roles of stakeholders including Civil Society provides a comprehensive, inclusive framework that encourages the involvement of all health actors in chemical safety.

We are pleased to see that the road map addresses chemical hazards in health care settings to protect health workers and patients from harm. WFPHA believes that the overall goal should focus on hazard reduction and aim at continuously improving the safety of chemicals, and not only managing hazardous chemicals safely.

Engaging the health sector is paramount to assess the health impacts of chemical exposures, prevent and safely manage chemicals to reduce chemicals harmful exposure to human health and environment.

We stand ready to work together with WHO and Member States to build capacity among public health professionals for the effective implementation of the Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond.