Environmental Health

The WFPHA Environmental Health Working Group (EHWG) aims to influence international policy on environmental health by bringing environmental health issues to the public health community and a public health approach to the environmental advocacy community.

The EHWG continues to be active in advocacy. Its work in recent years has focused on the importance of chemicals management, including the emerging issue of pharmaceutical pollution. They delivered a statement to the 2017 World Health Assembly on ‘The Role of the Health Sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Towards the 2020 Goal and Beyond’. They are also advocating the importance of conveying that the concept of Planetary Health includes the social determinants of health, eco-health and one-health. In addition, they are continuing their collaboration with UNEP and other environmental organizations. In terms of the coming years, the EHWG aims to discuss implementation of its policies with national public health associations and to propose new policies, including the submission of a proposal at the WHO General Assembly (WHA). It is also seeking to include a new young professional in the group. Finally, the EHWG is working to restructure the activities of the group and remove obsolete policies.