

**1694 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: SETTING THE AGENDA FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**Aditya Jain\*. *Nottingham University Business School, Nottingham, UK*

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**Aim of special session** To present initiatives which demonstrate how occupational health can help in achieving the SDGs and identify avenues for further development.

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**1694a SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH: AN OVERVIEW**A Jain. *Nottingham University Business School, Nottingham, UK*

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for an end to all poverty and marked improvements in health for all. The linkages of health to poverty reduction and to long-term economic growth have been shown to be much stronger than has been generally understood. The WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health elucidated the close connexions between conditions of poverty and maladies which include several non-communicable diseases (NCDs), associated with these conditions. Strong evidence links poverty, poor employment and working conditions (exposure to occupational risks), lack of education, and other social determinants to NCDs, creating a vicious cycle, whereby worsen poverty through their impact, while poverty results in rising rates of such diseases. At the same time, because of the magnitude of illness, disabilities and premature deaths they cause and the long-term care required, they reduce productivity and increase healthcare costs, thereby weakening national economic development.

Decent work is now at the forefront of the new sustainable development agenda, which for the first time explicitly refers to full and productive employment and decent work for all as a means of achieving sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), and include goals relating to protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, women workers, and those in precarious employment. The SDGs also include a number of additional targets and goals, which have implications for health safety and wellbeing (e.g. SDG3, 4, 5, 10 and 12).

The SDGs recognise that inclusive and sustainable economic growth is not only linked to the number of economically

active people and economic output, but also to the conditions in which they work. However, much still needs to be done to improve working conditions and promote decent work and, consequently, sustainable and inclusive growth.

**1694b HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES AS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**M Younes. *Independent International Expert, Global Public Health, and former Director at WHO, Mies, Switzerland*

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Health and sustainable development are intrinsically inter-linked. This is particularly evident when considering the broad definition by the World Health Organisation (WHO) of health as 'a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'. Alleviating poverty will ultimately lead to improvement in health conditions, but improving health will, in turn, promote economic development. This was recognised at international level as well as at national level by many countries, acknowledging that investing in health is a strategy for achieving sustainable development as reported by the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health.

Addressing economic, social and environmental determinants of health is a prerequisite for ensuring health in its broadest sense as defined by WHO. This requires inter-sectoral collaboration and the inclusion of health considerations in defining policies in all sectors. Health in all policies describes this philosophy that ensures that public policies across sectors systematically consider the implications of these policies on health, taking into considerations their effects on its various determinants. It is a new name to an old concept, which still proves valid. It has been considered by EU Member States in the Maastricht Treaty, but also at the international level, for example in environmental conventions such as the Stockholm and the Minamata Conventions.

The Millennium Development Goals and, more recently, the Sustainable Development Goals, being global strategies to guide actions on sustainable development, are closely related to the principle of ensuring health in all policies. The workplace is of particular importance given that workplace policies, being a prerequisite for economic development, affect not only the health of workers, but also that of their families and communities. Integrated approaches to ensuring healthy workplaces would serve as a good basis for such policies. Political will, and commitment at the highest political level, are needed to ensure a collaborative inter-sectoral approach to development, which fully considers the need to address health in policies of all sectors.

**1694c ADDRESSING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY USING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE BURDEN OF WORK-RELATED INJURY, DISEASE, AND DISTRESS**PA Schulte. *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Cincinnati, OH*

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