1694 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: SETTING THE AGENDA FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

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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

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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

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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

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The UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on decent work and economic growth dovetails with recently published work to develop a comprehensive approach to assess the burden of work-related injury, disease, and distress. Overall, decent work is work that has a low burden of morbidity, mortality, disability, cost, and psychosocial impacts. Generally, this burden has been incompletely portrayed and underestimated. To address this underestimation a comprehensive framework for burden has been developed. The framework includes four elements:

1. utilising multiple domains, including the individual worker, the worker's family, the community in which the workplace is located, the employer, and society as a whole;
2. taking a broader view of the work-relatedness of disease;
3. assessing the impact of the entire working-life continuum; and
4. applying the comprehensive concept of 'well-being' as an indicator in addressing contemporary change in the nature of work, the workforce, and the work place.

Measuring the burden in these elements and their composite may serve as benchmarks to gauge progress on meeting SDG targets for decent work. For this to be practical there needs to research on developing and measuring these individual elements of burden and determining the means to integrate them. This may involve looking beyond the traditional sources of surveillance data.

Various concepts in the proposed burden elements are resonant with the SDG goals and targets. For example, underemployment and unemployment which appear to have similar health effects are resonant with the target of full and productive employment. Similarly, full and productive employment should be considered across the whole working-life continuum. Taking a comprehensive view of burden and applying it to the SDG targets is worth considering and this presentation will establish that proposition.

Disclaimer The opinions in this presentation are those of the author and not necessarily of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

1694d HOW DOES A CATERPILLAR GROW ITS WINGS? HOW OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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How can we, people working within the field of occupational hygiene and health, support the sustainable development goals? The latest figures show that 2.78 million workers continue to die each year from work-related injuries and illnesses. Especially when we realise ourselves that 2.4 million of these deaths can be attributed to work-related diseases alone. With this information in our minds we have to support the SDG in order to achieve a, healthy sustained, inclusive economic growth for everybody in the future.

The first important step is to consider what is the desired effect we want and which strings do we have to pull for this

desired effect. In this presentation we will look for information which can help us to decide which choices we have and what the mechanisms might be that sort the best effect.

The second question to be answered is how should we approach the problems we have to solve? It is clear that to achieve the 17 intertwined Sustainable Development Goals before 2030 we will need 'all hands on deck' and we have to get in to motion. So how can the diversity of our backgrounds drive the innovation for new ideas, perspectives and solutions.

This presentation will focus on the idea that we need to change to achieve these goals, and that this can only happen if we can overcome the challenges and see and share the opportunities we have in this connected world.

1694e PERSPECTIVES FROM THE ICOH SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON OH & DEVELOPMENT

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Particularly in middle- and low-income countries, workers lack basic/adequate occupational health and safety coverage, while often working in conditions with the highest risks of occupational and work-related diseases and accidents. Less than 80% of the workers of the world have access to occupational health services; in general, workers with the highest needs have the lowest coverage in term of health services and protection.

On the other hand, health and work ability of the working population is a key asset to sustainability, as the input of the global workforce provides a total global gross domestic product of USD 75 trillion per year, which sustains many other societal activities, including health and social services, training and education, research and cultural services. In addition, human labour is also behind the most intangible assets of society such as sustainability of the social fabric, level of education, general knowledge and social cohesion.

Occupational health in general can contribute to the achievement of some specific SDGs, with special reference to SDGs 1, 3 and 8, whose targets can be achieved also by developing specific occupational health and safety action aimed at improving working conditions and social protection.

According to its policy, the Scientific Committee on Occupational Health and Development (SOCHDev) focuses its interest on the relation between occupational health and development, with the aim of finding solutions and providing tools and good practices to improve occupational health and safety even when resources are scarce.

The most important function of the Committee is facilitating networking between those interested and active in issues of occupational health and development both in developing and industrialised countries; to achieve its objectives the Committee is engaged in providing action-oriented rather than research-oriented communication to its members and the OSH community, examples of SOCHDev activities and products will be presented during the presentation.