



**1<sup>st</sup> 22-24 Oct 2016**  
**International and 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference on  
Environmental Health and Sustainable Development  
Tehran, I.R.Iran**

## **Concluding / Closing statement**

The 1<sup>st</sup> International and 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Environmental Health and Sustainable Development was held in Tehran, Iran, 22-24 October 2016, hosted and organized by Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS).

The Conference was attended by over 1600 national and international scholars, researchers, policy makers, experts, students, and executive managers in the field of environmental health and benefited from cutting-edge research achievements presented by the participants.

On implementation of United Nations localization and sustainable development resolution and defining the essential roles of environmental health in this regard, this Conference was planned in compliance with the previous annual environmental health conferences held by the Iranian universities, and diplomacy to emphasize on the preparation of an Action Plan and achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through efficient use of national and international capabilities, forums and presentation of appropriate technologies and practical solutions.

The 2016 Conference on Environmental Health and Sustainable Development attempted to give a comprehensive overview on environmental health challenges through the concept of SDGs. Additionally, the event benefited from the experiences of national and international scientific community members and the support of international organizations including World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in order to emphasize on interrelated environmental monitoring systems, environmental health regulations and its coherent application to policy making and action.



It is the joint role of the scientific community, policy makers and the public to further strengthen progress, beyond the remarkable national and international accomplishments in sustainable development of recent decades. Accordingly, the main approach of this conference was to benefit from the national and international experiences and achievements in order to accomplish sustainable development in the field of environmental health.

Environmental pollution still causes significant damage to the environment and human health in Iran and other countries in the region. Such pollutions, especially air and water pollution, cause a large burden of diseases and seriously impact the quality of people's life. As shown in international experiences, solutions to these major environmental threats are available and have been successfully implemented in many countries during the past decades. This provides excellent conditions for policy makers, authorities and the communities to adopt strong strategies to protect the environment and as such, people's health and the economy. The Conference emphasized on the role of scientists, as the foundation of sustainable development. Drawing upon research findings and scientific discussions presented during the conference, the 10 following points were approved by the conference's attendees to have particular relevance for academic members, environmental health scientists and policy makers, nationally and globally, to enhance the international efforts towards the attainment of SDGs, with particular focus on environmental health:



1. Collaborations with the international research community will be a major asset in the efficient and science-based implementation of sustainable development. All countries will greatly profit from policy concepts, technology, scientific expertise and exchange of practical experience in the implementation of internationally successful policies.
2. Development of an Action Plan using the experiences from national as well as relevant international organizations will support the implementation of environmental health objectives to reach sustainable development. Special attention should be given to the concept and practice of equity as the cornerstone of SDGs, without which the five pillars of SDGs: people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnership would not be materialized.
3. It is necessary to expand the educational programs related to sustainable development and environmental health throughout Iran by providing the needed education and training programs as well as the targeted allocation of human and financial resources.
4. Design and implementation of coherent and internationally comparable environmental health monitoring systems will be crucial to evaluate attainment of sustainable development goals. This tool would be pivotal to get support from international organizations in the implementation of the plan and to prevent deviations from the agreed goals.



5. Coordination should be strengthened between national and international organizations to facilitate the implementation of environmental health goals for sustainable development.
6. Involvement of environmental health professionals and all individuals in enhancing environmental health conditions is vital. Providing the necessary education and implementation of the Action Plan, by emphasizing on the use of political support and capabilities of academic members and young professionals, can pave the way to accomplish these goals.
7. Extensive efforts should be made by all relevant organizations and institutions to establish Iran as a globally recognized center of excellence for environmental health research, education and advocacy and, thus, as a respected research partner of international community. In this regard, TUMS is prepared to establish the hub for research, advocacy and education on the interrelation between environmental health and SDGs, for the region as well as the global level. Development of a coherent and country-wide road-map for basic, developmental, and applied research in the field of environmental health, embracing all relevant disciplines, including natural sciences, social sciences, health policy and technologies is crucial to fulfill SDGs in all settings. The Iranian Environmental Health Research Network will play the coordinator role in this regard.



8. The plan should integrate the improvement of knowledge-based activities, capacity building, commercialization and marketing. Special attention should be given to threatening pollutants in the water, air, soil and food throughout the country.
9. Current environmental regulations must be revised to create new regulations related to hazardous pollutants such as traffic related pollutants, chemical contaminants and pesticides, aiming to adopt appropriate policies in order to protect public health. All countries, including Iran need to adopt state-of-the-art environmental standards and regulations to ensure national and international companies deliver only the best available environmentally friendly technologies, to enhance people's quality of life, not threatening their health by technologies.
10. Employment opportunities for environmental health professionals should consistently be provided by the relevant governmental sector and by facilitating the process of setting up science-based corporations.



**1<sup>st</sup> 22-24 Oct 2016**  
**International and 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference on**  
**Environmental Health and Sustainable Development**  
**Tehran, I.R.Iran**

---

---

---

Sustainable development can only be achieved through widespread and long-term participation in all levels of strategic development, decision-making and implementation. Hence, every individual should be committed to improve and strengthen the interrelated and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, that is, economic development, social development, environmental preservation and public health protection at local, regional and global levels. It is only through meaningful partnership that sustainable development can be achieved. Higher Research and Education institutes active in environmental health around the globe are invited to work together in partnership to interpret the very crucial impact of environmental health on sustainable development into day to day policy making, research and training to materialize SDGs.