

IHF statement on sustainability

Addressing climate change as an integral part of healthcare delivery

Hospitals and healthcare organizations hold a unique responsibility to provide safe quality care that protects and enhances the health potential of their communities.

Climate change has a direct and increasingly damaging impact on both the health of communities and the delivery of healthcare.

Hospital and health system leaders therefore need to incorporate every effort to decarbonize and build climate resilience into their decisions, strategic and operational plans. It is a natural fit with our core purpose.

This call to action speaks directly to all hospitals and healthcare organizations to take concrete steps in line with the Paris Agreement.

At the International Hospital Federation, we reaffirm our commitment to raise awareness, advocate for and take robust action towards sustainable, net zero healthcare systems. We will work with other global actors, so this becomes an integral part of every aspect of healthcare delivery.

Background

At the International Hospital Federation, we join our voice to those recognizing the impact of the healthcare sector on the environment and human health. We equally recognize that good leadership is paramount to drive the organizational changes which will generate positive impact for the generations to come.

This IHF statement has been approved by the IHF General Assembly on 8 November 2022. It illustrates the conviction of IHF Members that every healthcare organization has a role to play in its community in addressing the sustainability challenges. We also consider it as the starting point of our long-term engagement to take action on climate change.

Through our newly established Geneva Sustainability Centre, we are committed to keep bringing value to IHF Members. The Centre's team is fully dedicated to responding to your needs and to equipping current and future hospital leaders with the required information, tools and skills.

Here are the organizations and partners of the IHF that endorsed the statement so far:

International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) • International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals & Health Services (HPH) • International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) • Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) • World Federation of Public Health Associations • World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) • World Patients Alliance

