



15th World Congress on Public Health

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Integrating ecological determinants into Public Health Practice

Tuesday 4 April 2017, 1330 – 1530, Plenary Hall 2

Lead	Dr Peter Tait, WFPHA Ecology Working Group Dr Joanne Walker, WFPHA Ecology Working Group Professor Peter Orris, WFPHA Ecology Working Group
Speakers	Dr Maria Neira, World Health Organisation Dr Colin Tuikitonga, Secretariat of the Pacific Community Professor Kerry Arabena, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and International Association of Ecology and Health

As we begin implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is critical to understand the importance of a 'health from ecological and social systems (eco-social) approach'. Ecological means humans relationship with the natural world. The eco-social approach recognises that human wellbeing, prosperity and health primarily derives from intact ecosystem functions and societal arrangements. A well-functioning ecosystem provides clean air, fresh water, fertile soil and materials, regulates climate, and enriches our spirit. How society arranges wealth equity, the built environment, waste and pollution disposal determines many aspects of health. The eco-social approach is fundamental to nations and the international community effectively achieving the health aspects of the SDGs. Without this approach, human civilisation and the health benefits it confers faces the real possibility of collapse. This World Leadership Dialogue will initiate discussion and identify solutions by:

1. Promoting recognition that an eco-social approach that protects our ecosystem is integral to quality primary health care.
2. Identifying key research questions and the need for evidence-based research to impact policy effectively.
3. The beginning of an international action plan to coordinate policy development and implementation for building an eco-social approach into public health work everywhere.

