

# 4TH ALL AFRICA CONGRESS DECLARATION



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## **DECLARATION**

1. We the delegates of the 4<sup>th</sup> All Africa Congress on Environmental Health
  - a. Having met in Ekurhuleni, South Africa, from 11 November to 13 November 2024, under the theme “ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN AFRICA: READINESS FOR THE 4th INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION”
  - b. Expressing deep appreciation to the South Africa Institute of Environmental Health, Department of Health, South African Local Government Association, Swiss Embassy, Nnumabaranda Group of Companies, and Old mutual for hosting this 4th All Africa Congress,
  - c. Drawing inspiration from the heroic struggle of the environmental health practitioners of Africa in their fight for ensuring food safety, water quality, pollution control, chemical safety, vector control, climate change, communicable diseases, diseases outbreaks, hazardous substances control, malaria control, and safe disposal of the dead, recalling in this context the important contribution to that struggle of the African community and, in particular, the pivotal role of the people and Governments of Africa, and noting the important role that different actors of civil society, professional bodies research and academic institutions.
  - d. Noting with grave concern that despite the efforts of the African community, the work of combating environmental hazards have not been attained and that countless human beings continue to the present day to be victims of environmental health outbreaks.
  - e. Recognizing the fundamental importance of technology, health information management information, research, training and development in strengthening environmental health services in Africa.
  - f. Having taken note of the presentations made by the different speakers highlighting challenges and proposing solutions in different areas of the scope of practice of environmental health.
  - g. Reaffirming our commitment to ensuring that everyone lives in the environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being.
  - h. Noting the gross shortage of environmental health practitioners and shortage of tools of trade particularly in local authorities.
  - i. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration and partnership in comforting the environmental health challenges facing our communities today.
  - j. Recognizing that national, continental and international actions are required to environmental health threats, to ensure the full enjoyment of a safe and healthy environment.

- k. Determined to enhance the delivery of environmental health in the era of 4th industrial revolution.
- l. Noting with appreciation the commitment made by the political leaders in supporting the advancement of environmental health in Africa
- m. Reaffirming our commitment to ensuring that everyone's lives in the environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being.
- n. Noting the gross shortage of environmental health practitioners and shortage of tools of trade in particularly in local authorities.
- o. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration and partnership in confronting the environmental health challenges facing our communities today.
- p. Recognizing that national, continental and international actions are required to environmental health threats, in order to ensure the full enjoyment of a safe and healthy environment.
- q. Determined to enhance the delivery of environmental health in the era of 4th industrial revolution.
- r. Joining together in a spirit of renewed political will and commitment to safeguard our environment universally, all over the continent and solemnly adopt the Ekurhuleni Declaration.

## **2. Congress Declaration**

- a. We declare that we are going to strengthen collaboration between all sectors locally and regionally to deal with EH challenges within Africa
- b. We recognise the urgent need to develop common approaches for Local Government challenges facing our continent especially in the area of service delivery
- c. We acknowledge that under sourcing of Local Government especially for Environmental Health needs urgent attention.
- d. We commit to strengthen efforts to reduce carbon footprint to combat climate change
- e. We reaffirm the need to strengthen technological systems to support decision making within the Environmental Health field.
- f. We acknowledge need to unit as a profession to mobilize as a united force to deal with Environmental Health issues in Africa.

- g. We commit to strengthen our role within the Environmental impact assessment process to influence decision making in multi-disciplinary specialist teams.
- h. We recognize the need for increased utilization of alternative technologies to deal with basic service delivery issues
- i. We acknowledge the need for use of data mapping and targeted interventions for improved Environmental Health surveillance and monitoring
- j. We recognize the need for private sector and NGOs to identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership with government and academia in creating investment opportunities and financing models required for the 4th industrial revolution
- k. We recognize the need for researchers and environmental health practitioners to use the opportunities brought about by the 4th Industrial Revolution to anticipate emerging environmental health threats and think of technologies which have immense potential to promote predictability and transparency in risk preparedness and responses.
- l. We note the need to strengthen awareness and advocacy to capacitate communities and business sector (Developmental)
- m. We reaffirm the need for Government, Private sector, civil society, research institutions and professional bodies to work together in dealing with illegal chemicals that cross our borders and have detrimental health impact on the vulnerable communities and children

**The above declaration was finally adopted on the 17 December 2024**

**Signatures:**



**CHAIRPERSON**



**SECRETARY**