

## Statement of Support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2015, the United Nations agreed on and endorsed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (United Nations, 2015), building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address unfinished business. The Agenda defines 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), setting an ambitious transformational vision. Giving full recognition to the fundamental importance of these goals, IEH commits to considering and contributing to the respective SDGs in its overall efforts to provide the best available information, independent advice and opinion on the hazards and risks posed by environmental and workplace exposure to noxious substances.

Health and well-being for all at all ages and the determinants of health are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, which are universal, integrated, interdependent and indivisible. The 2030 Agenda recognises that people's health is inseparable from the health of societies and the planet and endorses a model in which economic development is measured by its contribution to human, social and planetary progress (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2017). The implementation of the SDGs will contribute to "the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health" (United Nations Human Rights Council, 2017).

SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. The Goal addresses all major health priorities, including sexual and reproductive health, newborn, child and adolescent health, communicable, non-communicable and environmental diseases, as well as health systems issues including universal health coverage and access to medicines and vaccines. It also calls for strengthening research and development, increasing and diversifying health financing, and enhancing the health workforce and the capacity of all countries in health risk reduction and management (HLPF, 2017). Target 3.9, for example, specifically addresses health effects from environmental hazards such as exposure to chemicals and the pollution and contamination of air, water and soil.

The targets of Goal 3 are, as for all the other SDG targets, interwoven with those of other Goals within the 2030 Agenda. The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable development (HLPF) has identified examples of such interlinkages; these include (HLPF, 2017) target 2.2 (end all forms of malnutrition), targets 4.1 (free, equitable and good-quality secondary education), 4.2 (good-quality early childhood development) and 4.7 (knowledge and skills for sustainable development), targets 5.2 (eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres), 5.3 (eliminate all harmful practices, including female genital mutilation) and 5.6 (universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights), targets 6.1 (access to drinking water) and 6.2 (access to sanitation), target 7.1 (access to modern energy services), target 9.5 (enhance scientific research/increase number of R&D workers), target 11.6 (air quality and municipal waste), target 12.4 (environmentally sound management of chemicals), target 13.1 (resilience to natural disasters), and target 16.1 (reduce violence and related death rates).

Examples of work already undertaken by IEH Consulting that clearly link to these goals include a review of human health impacts of dioxins (undertaken for EFSA), an evaluation of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the environment (for WHO), the identification of literature highlighting health issues relevant to industry (for ECFIA and Vanitec), and the assessment of household products most suitable for susceptible individuals (for Allergy UK). In addition, new projects are underway evaluating microplastics as an emerging pollution and health issue (UK Drinking Water Inspectorate and the University of Leicester).

## References

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