



Bridging the science, technology and innovation divides to eradicate poverty and end hunger (SDGs 1 and 2)

World Federation of Neurology

As we convene at the ECOSOC 9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the World Federation of Neurology would like to emphasize the importance of addressing the divide in access to health science and technologies which exacerbates the disparities in quality of life and opportunity. Disability caused by neurological disease and gaps in access to universal health coverage are part of the driving force of poverty, particularly in lower income countries, but also in developed regions of the world. The pursuit of sustainable development demands holistic approaches that address the health needs of all individuals, including those affected by neurological disorders. By prioritizing health science, technologies and innovation on the international agenda, we can make significant strides towards eliminating poverty and building a more inclusive and resilient world.

Neurological disorders pose formidable challenges to public health, social equity, and economic prosperity. Millions of individuals worldwide are affected by conditions such as epilepsy, stroke, neuro-muscular-disorders, Alzheimer's disease, and multiple sclerosis, which not only diminish quality of life but also place immense strain on individuals, families, healthcare systems and societies at large. In this context, it is imperative that we elevate the importance of neurological care, research, and policies as integral components of our sustainable development efforts.

Bridging the health science, technology and innovation divides is essential for addressing the burden of neurological disorders and promoting health equity. Many individuals in underserved communities lack access to basic neurological healthcare, including diagnostic tools, essential treatments, and support services. In this regard, technological advancement must begin with making the existing scientific and technological resources available to all individuals, regardless of their background or geographical location.

Moreover, robust research efforts are critical for advancing our understanding of neurological disorders and developing innovative solutions. Basic and clinical research plays pivotal roles in identifying the underlying mechanisms of neurological conditions, exploring novel therapeutic approaches, and enhancing preventive and diagnostic capabilities. By fostering international collaboration among researchers, healthcare professionals, and policymakers, we can deliver innovative health resources to more persons, ultimately improving health outcomes and quality of life for millions of individuals worldwide.

Bringing the necessary health science and technological resources to disadvantaged areas will not be effective without building a skilled professional workforce. The World Federation of

Neurology is investing in and promoting education-related work, providing Junior Traveling Fellowships, grants, joint courses with other societies, and congresses. Our organization has successfully implemented Department Visits for medical specialists and Training Centers with currently four Teaching Centers in Africa and one in Mexico. We plan on expanding neurological education activities globally with a focus on countries in need, particularly in underserved regions of the world, where neurological services are lacking. We stress the importance of providing individuals and institutions in all areas with the tools and expertise needed to tackle the complex challenges posed by neurological disorders and other debilitating diseases.

We urge the esteemed delegates to recognize the importance of neurological care, scientific research, health technologies and innovation in our collective pursuit of sustainable development. By prioritizing neurological health on the international agenda, we can address the multidimensional challenges posed by neurological disorders and build healthier, more resilient, and inclusive societies for all.