



### **III. International City, Environment and Health Congress and I. International Health and Climate Change Congress Joint Congress Declaration 21.04.2021**

The 3rd International City, Environment and Health Congress and the 1st International Health and Climate Change Congress, which were held in a virtual environment due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the congress continued for seven days between 15-21 April 2021.

Before the 26th Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) will be held in November 2021, two congresses were held together in Turkey, addressing the solutions to overcome climate change, which carries all of the global risks, with the least damage for a healthy future.

About ten countries participated with live connections in the congresses held with many supporting institutions and organizations, including the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Ministry of Health, WHO and UNDP Turkey representatives.

Common theme of congresses was selected as "Climate Change and a Healthy Future".

Congresses have achieved their goal. The expected future impacts of climate change have been evaluated with realistic, evidence-based approaches that offer suggestions and models, based on the experiences experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic process.

Congresses responded to expectations. The congresses have made the voice of different disciplines and sectors working to be prepared for the effects of climate change, to be informed early, to respond quickly, to fight strongly against the effects of climate change, to be a resilient society, to be able to manage urgent and / or continuous changes that arise and to be able to continue life strongly from where it left off after the event is over. The opportunity to meet in the ministries, local administrations and academia triangle has been provided and it has been understood that each of them is ready and willing to work on the subject.

In the 3rd International City, Environment and Health Congress under the coordination of 23 Organizing Committees, 54 Scientific Committee Members and two scientific secretaries; 21 Conferences, 15 Panels were held; 116



papers submitted. In the 1st International Health and Climate Change Congress under the coordination of 16 Organizing Committees, 28 Scientific Committee Members and a scientific secretary; 14 Conferences, 21 Panels were held; 45 papers were submitted.

A total of 232 events, including one training, 35 conferences, 36 panels, and 161 paper presentations, were held in the congresses that lasted for a total of seven days.

In both congresses, many different disciplines and sectors came together on the same platform. They both learned from each other, taught each other and met at common points for "Climate Change and a Healthy Future" below:

1. These are the cities that will be most affected by climate change.
2. Rural areas that will be preferred by the affected people in cities to breathe should be developed, protected and reserved for emergencies.
3. Leaders who adopt "health in all policies" and "one health" views will shape the future.
4. There is a need for scientific research on subjects such as "Multiple hazard / risk management", "Decision making based on social evidence", "Blockchain, IT, artificial intelligence and public health".
5. "The health of the planet has deteriorated", the health of the planet can be improved with a culture of working together.
6. Awareness raising, literacy and further education curriculum on climate crisis should be determined at every stage from pre-school to university, in-service training to social education, and it should be implemented rapidly.
7. Pollution, city health, environmental health, primary health care and other health services, and climate change mitigation issues should be emphasized. At the same time, efforts to increase harmony and social resilience must be started very quickly and urgently.
8. National, regional and city level adaptation plans to the health effects of climate change should be prepared, focusing on vulnerable points and groups. Early warning systems should be established and efforts to keep the society together and prepare for the future in a healthy way should be supported.



9. Climate adaptation efforts at national, regional and city level should be institutionalized. Trained, experienced and open-to-develop manpower employment, budget allocation, data collection, monitoring, evaluation and sharing processes should be planned in a way that can handle and manage the impact of climate change on every sector.
10. Health-oriented evaluations and analyzes should be made in existing structures regarding the effects of climate change.
11. There are promising, innovative studies, experiences, lessons learned, models and examples that will shape the future in the world and in Turkey. It seems beneficial to introduce and disseminate them.
12. It is beneficial to evaluate the health effects of climate change with a public health perspective focused on Ecology and Biodiversity.
13. We should not leave anything and anyone behind, including natural life.

The 13 items above are a historic signature to ensure a healthy future within the framework of climate change.

**We present our endless gratitude to all those who worked, devoted time, contributed, supported and organized for the 3rd International City, Environment and Health Congress and the 1st International Health and Climate Change Congress.**

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