



***Waiora*: Towards planetary health promotion for the wellbeing of all**

Sione Tu'itahi

International Union for Health Promotion and Education

September 20-22, 2023

29th International Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services

Vienna, Austria





Jürgen M. Pelikan 1940-2023

- The Executive Board of IUHPE reflects with gratefulness on the life and contributions of Prof. Emeritus, Jürgen M. Pelikan, PhD. He was professor emeritus of sociology at the University of Vienna, Austria and Adjunct professor at the Centre for Environment and Public Health, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.
- Prof. Pelikan was a long-time supporter of IUHPE and an elected member of the board of trustees from 2007 to 2013, as well as a founding member of the IUHPE Global Working Group on Health Literacy. He co-authored the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) Position Statement on Health Literacy (2018). He was also active on the Global Working Groups for Salutogenesis and Healthy Settings.
- IUHPE continues to build on the strong foundation and legacy that dedicated co-workers such as Prof. Pelikan laid.

Our planet is broken

- *“the state of the planet is broken. Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal. Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century. It must be the top, top priority for everyone, everywhere...Indigenous knowledge, distilled over millennia of close and direct contact with nature, can help to point the way. . . it is time to heed their voices, reward their knowledge and respect their rights.” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres (2020)*

“Humans are to blame...The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived. Leaders must lead. No more excuses. No more waiting for others to move first. There is simply no more time for that... Some positive steps from sectors as shipping. But none of this is going far enough or fast enough. Accelerating temperatures demand accelerated action. (Guterres, July 27, 2023)





Not one, but five converging global challenges

- Convergence of geo-political conflicts, economic crises, environmental catastrophes, pandemics, moral crisis
- *We face tests as far as the eye can see – from the climate emergency ... to a global cost-of-living crisis ... to raging conflicts ... to growing poverty, hunger, and inequalities. All these challenges are aggravated by rising geopolitical tensions. There is a real risk of fragmentation – of a Great Fracture in world economic and financial systems; with diverging strategies on technology and artificial intelligence and conflicting security frameworks. (Guterres, September 07, 2023)*



IUHPE and planetary health

- Waiora is an Indigenous concept of our host country, Aotearoa New Zealand, which expresses the interconnections between peoples' health and the natural environment, and the imperative of sustainable development... Planetary health is the health of humanity and the natural systems of which we are part. It builds on Indigenous peoples' principles of holism and interconnectedness, strengthening public health and health promotion action on ecological and social determinants of health. It puts the wellbeing of people and the planet at the heart of decision-making, recognising that the economy, as a social construct, must be a supportive tool fit for this purpose in the 21st century. (IUHPE, Rotorua Statement, 2019)*

Obsolete political and economic paradigms

- *Urgent action is needed because mounting evidence tells us that the current economic and social development paradigm of infinite growth and endless exploitation of limited natural resources is unjust and unsustainable, leading to inequities within and among countries and across generations.*
- (IUHPE, Rotorua Statement, 2019)



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23rd World Conference
on Health Promotion

7 – 11 APRIL 2019 ROTORUA,
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND



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Waiora – Indigenous Peoples' Statement for Planetary Health and Sustainable Development

This Statement from Indigenous participants in the 23rd IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion (Rotorua, Aotearoa New Zealand) is a call on the health promotion community and the wider global community to make space for and privilege Indigenous peoples' voices and Indigenous knowledges in promoting planetary health and sustainable development for the benefit of all. It should be read alongside the Rotorua Statement from all participants in this Conference.

Tiohtià:ke Statement

Catalysing policies for health, well-being and equity



"Skywoman" by Mark Kawesoton Light, artist from Akwesasne

24th IUHPE World Conference (2022)
October 2022

Tiohtià:ke Statement ¹

Catalysing policies for health, well-being and equity

We endeavour through this statement to honour and carry forward the messages of the 2019 IUHPE companion [Waiora](#) and [Rotorua](#) Legacy Statements calling on health promotion communities and other global communities to make space for and privilege Indigenous peoples' voices and knowledges in taking concerted action to promote the health of all people, of Mother Earth and all life, now and for the future. Our health promoting actions emphasise promoting policies for health, well-being and equity.

The 2022 IUHPE conference opened with a protocol to welcome participants to the host Indigenous territory. A respected Kanien'kehá:ka (People of the Flint, Mohawk) knowledge holder offered '*Ohénton Karihwatéhkwén* - the words that are said before discussing matters of importance' which serve to bring our minds together as one by expressing our profound gratitude and appreciation to: the natural world; the People; our Mother Earth; the Waters; the Fish life, the Roots, the Plants, the Insects, the Foods that sustain our lives; the Fruits; the Medicines, the Animals; the Trees; the Birds; the Four Sacred Winds; the Thunders; our Grandmother Moon; our Elder Brother Sun; the Stars; the Four Sacred Beings, and the Creator.

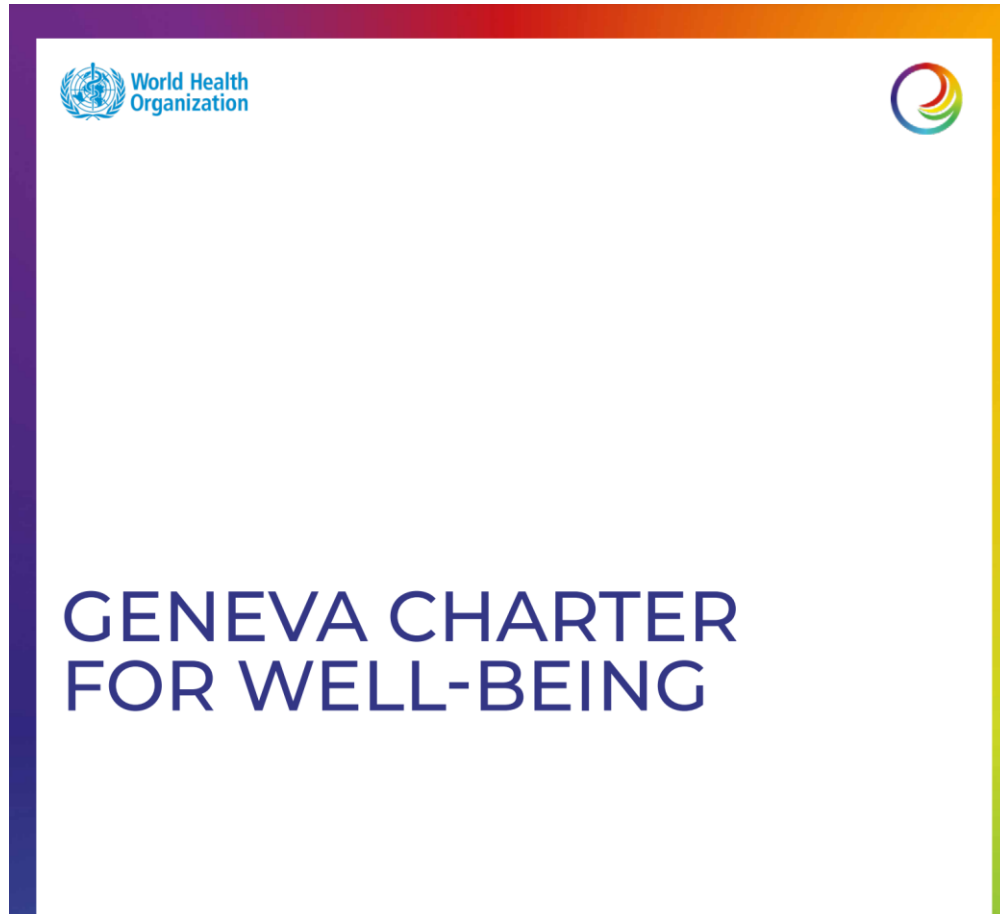
IUHPE Strategic Plan 2021-2026

*Position Statement on
Planetary Health
Promotion and
Indigenous World
Views and Knowledges*

2023



Global collaborative effort



- Collaborate with WHO and others such as the Planetary Health Alliance (PHA)

“A healthy planet is essential to the health and well-being of current and future generations and for enabling all to flourish. Well-being societies . . . [are] “committed to achieving equitable health now and for future generations without breaching ecological limits.”

The Geneva Charter for Well-being, December 2021

Action agenda

- The IUHPE Action Agenda for Planetary Health Promotion and Indigenous Knowledge includes:
 - IUHPE's own commitments to action
 - IUHPE's recommendations for action to:
 - Health promotion practitioners
 - Health promotion educators and researchers
 - National governments
 - WHO and other UN organisations
- In addition to strategic plan

World Health Organization (WHO)

- **Ottawa Charter**
- # 2 of five action strands
- **Geneva Charter for Well-being**
- ***Five priority areas:***
 - Value, respect and nurture Planet Earth and its ecosystems
 - Design an equitable economy that serves human development within planetary and local ecological boundaries
 - Develop healthy public policy for the common good
 - Achieve universal health coverage
 - Address the impacts of digital transformation

Our natural and social reality: Life and wellbeing is built on reciprocity and collaboration

Within Indigenous worldviews our relationship with the natural world is characterised by reverence and values that include sustainability, guardianship and love. Planetary health is understood as the health and wellbeing of Mother Earth and of humanity as an inextricable part of natural ecosystems. (IUHPE, Waiora Indigenous Peoples' Statement, 2019)

...In case, you still doubt me.

let me rephrase:

*At the molecular level,
like the planetary level of reality,
life is built, not on competition
but on collaboration and
complementarity.*

*Life is built, not on war and conflict,
but on love and unity.*


• Sione Tu'itahi@ Sept 3,2023

One home planet,
one human family,
one common future

- *Global vision*
- *Global citizens*
- *Local actions*
- *Inclusive natural laws*
- *Equitable social laws*
- *Collaboration and reciprocity*
- *Not competition and conflict*

***Our house is burning and
sinking...work together to live or we
will perish together***





Time to
come
together

My appeal to world leaders will be clear:

*This is not a time for posturing or positioning.
This is not a time for indifference or indecision.
This is a time to come together for real,
practical solutions. It is time for compromise
for a better tomorrow...If we want a future of
peace and prosperity based on equity and
solidarity, leaders have a special responsibility
to achieve compromise in designing our
common future for our common good.*

(UN Secretary General, September 13, 2023)



Thank you

- Kia Ora
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