3rd NİLÜFER ONE HEALTH SYMPOSIUM FINAL DECLARATION

3 Nov 2025, Nazım Hikmet Kültürevi

In the 3rd Nilüfer One Health Symposium, organized with the theme "Climate Crisis" in cooperation with Nilüfer Municipality and the Bursa One Health Platform ; the following findings and recommendations were shared with the public as a result of addressing the strong bond between Human, Animal, and Environmental health, which forms the basis of planetary health, with a multidisciplinary approach focusing on the Climate Crisis, which has deepened with the exceeding of the **1.5-degree** safe limit in global warming.

1. Key Findings and Conceptual Framework

1.1. Climate Crisis: Is a Socio-Ecological Symptom

1.1.1. The Climate Crisis has emerged as a symptom of human actions and **social policies** that ignore the demands of nature.The entire planet is now opened up to urban relations and uncontrolled development areas.

1.1.2. Cities are not just physical structures but **socio-ecological systems** where social policies lie at the root of the problems.

1.1.3. The climate crisis is a factor that deepens existing **inequalities**, and vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by this situation. This situation indicates that the climate crisis is also a **class issue**.

1.2. The Necessity of the One Health Approach

1.2.1. It has been proven by events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and disasters (earthquakes) that human, animal, and environmental health are tightly interconnected and cannot be thought of separately.

1.2.1.1. No system that prioritizes only human health, animals, or the environment can be successful and sustainable for a city to be healthy. The **One Health** approach must become a fundamental policy.

1.2.1.2. In protecting health, rather than disease treatment, **preventive health services** and the **integrated and collaborative** effort of different disciplines (Medical Doctor, Veterinarian, Agricultural Engineer, Urban Planner, Public Health Specialist, etc.) are of vital importance.

2. Problems Awaiting Non-Resilient Cities

2.1. Usurpation of nature's rights (for example, villages whose water is cut off due to the **Anthropocene effect**, housing and road projects) and disproportionately bad urbanization make cities non-resilient.

2.2. Cities that are not resilient to the climate crisis face **migrations, disasters (floods, drought), air pollution, water poverty, food security problems, mental health issues, infectious diseases**, and the **health effects of severe heat waves**.

3. Recommendations and Calls for Action

3.1. Rights-Based and Transformative Local Government Policies

3.1.1. Local governments should adopt the understanding of **Rights-Based Municipalism** in their activities and decisions and use the One Health approach as a policy tool.

3.1.2. Resilience efforts should be handled holistically with their **physical, environmental, social, economic, and institutional** dimensions.

3.1.3. As seen in Nilüfer Municipality's works during the pandemic period (mask workshop, support to healthcare workers) and in the field of environmental health (waste management, compost, carbon emission reduction), success is possible with cooperation and correct planning, and this effort will never end.

3.2. Nature-Based Solutions and Urban Planning

3.2.1. The **One Health approach** should be taken as a basis in urban planning, and agricultural areas should be utilized to prevent the uncontrolled expansion of the city.

3.2.2. Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) must be implemented to increase urban resilience:

3.2.2.1. Sponge Cities (Water Management): Flood and overflow control should be provided with solutions such as rain parks, green roofs, and green buildings.

3.2.2.2. Urban Heat Islands: Green and blue areas should be increased, the urban heat island effect should be reduced through afforestation, and the double-sided negative effect of the increase in air conditioner usage should be prevented.

3.2.2.3. Energy and Transportation: Buildings that generate their own energy should be encouraged, and carbon emissions should be reduced through **sustainable transportation** that reduces fossil fuel use and urban planning.

3.3. Strengthening Rural Areas and Food Security

3.3.1. Considering the disproportionate nature of population distribution, **return to the countryside should be encouraged**, and agriculture should be supported.

3.3.2. Considering that approximately **14.8 million people in Turkey are undernourished** and food security (availability, access, utilization, stability) is under threat by crises, very urgent actions must be taken.

3.3.3. As in the example of **Bursa Agriculture**, olive groves, especially in regions with irrigated agriculture, must be protected, and support models that will not lead to alternative production must be developed.

3.3.4. The primitive conditions of **seasonal workers**, far from a humane life, must be urgently improved. It must be ensured that they live in a healthy environment and their children benefit from education and nursery opportunities.

3.3.5. Contract farming models should be structured to protect the producer from exploitation.

3.4. Integrated Health Practices and Data Management

3.4.1. At the central and local levels, studies should be carried out to minimize the health effects of environmental destruction such as mining, cement, and coal pollution (approximately 200 thousand human deaths per year due to coal pollution in Turkey).

3.4.2. Social Impact Assessment (SIA) applications should be implemented by integrating them into Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes.

3.4.3. Animal health should be prioritized; awareness and education activities regarding protection methods from zoonotic diseases (hygiene, vaccination, quarantine, wildlife protection) should be disseminated.

3.4.4. Health literacy should be increased by going to where the society is, and local knowledge should be included in decision-making processes.

3.4.5. To create an example for Bursa, a **Bursa Epidemiological Epidemic Diseases Database** can be created for the early diagnosis of epidemic diseases and prevention of their spread

4. Integrated Solution Framework and Final Call for Action

The conclusion jointly reached by this symposium is that permanent solutions cannot be produced for the problems caused by the climate crisis without an integrated approach that balances human, animal, and environmental health, that is, without adopting the One Health approach.

4.1. Basic Principles and Approach

4.1.1. Interdisciplinary collaboration is essential; the equality of all humans, intercultural equality, equality of rights and opportunities, and socio-ecological equality must be accepted.

4.1.2. Humans should be seen not as the owner but as a **part** of the ecosystem; responsibility for animal welfare and its harmony with the ecosystem must be taken.

4.1.3. Health measures should be withdrawn from the perspective of fighting against nature and made **compatible with nature**.

4.2. Policy and Action Calls

4.2.1. Alignment of International Plans with National Guidelines: The One Health Joint Plan of Action prepared by WHO, WOAH, FAO, and UNEP should be aligned with the national guideline. Projects should be produced to benefit from European Union budgets.

4.2.2. Education and Social Participation: Climate change, environment, water and waste management, zoonotic diseases, and food security issues should be addressed in the context of One Health. **Awareness-raising activities through trainings** and **participatory works reaching the public** through organized community mechanisms such as neighborhood committees should be carried out.

4.2.3. Integrated Intervention and Inter-institutional Cooperation: The One Health approach should be taken as a basis in interventions such as the prevention of zoonotic diseases and stopping their spread. Cooperation between public institutions and local governments should be strengthened.

4.2.4.. Data Management and Early Warning System: In a province like Bursa where rural and urban life are intertwined, a **Bursa Epidemiological Epidemic Diseases Database** should be created for the purpose of early diagnosis of epidemic diseases.

One Health policies that observe the right to a healthy life for animals and the environment can easily reach the general public starting from the local level with political pressure. The process is closely monitored by academic chambers and citizens, and more effective works are expected at the central and local levels.

Compliers:

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