



2025 Manifesto of the Association of Doctors for the Environment - ISDE on the occasion of its 35th anniversary.

“For a health that embraces the planet, people, and builds peace”

Thirty-five years after its founding, ISDE renews and expands its ethical, scientific, and civic commitment in light of the global challenges facing human health, the environment, and the democratic structures of our societies.

1. Continuity and change

Founded with the aim of protecting health through environmental protection, ISDE has denounced, with scientific rigor and civic responsibility, the links between pollution, environmental degradation, and disease. Thirty-five years later, we strongly reaffirm the centrality of the relationship between a **healthy environment and public health**, but we recognize that contemporary threats require us to broaden our action and vision.

Ecosystem crisis, social inequalities, armed conflicts, and the erosion of democratic rights are interconnected phenomena that can no longer be addressed separately.

2. A new systemic approach

We take as our guiding principle an **integrated and systemic approach**, combining health, environment, socioeconomic equity, and peace. This approach is based on the understanding that:

- **Human health** is not possible without **environmental justice and social equity** ;
- Peace is a necessary condition for any form of sustainable human progress; **disarmament** is an ethical and health priority: the production and use of weapons threaten humanity and the ecosystem at global levels.
- A parliamentary and representative **democracy**, independent of the market and finance, and the active participation of citizens in the decisions that affect them are the prerequisite for guaranteeing the fundamental right to health.

3. For planetary health

We live in an age marked by **closely intertwined environmental and democratic crises**.

Human health and that of the planet are today threatened not only by ecological degradation, but also by the spread of **misinformation, denial of scientific evidence, and the weakening of local and global public institutions**.

The manipulation of public opinion, the attack on freedom of information, and the reduction of environmental and health protections undermine the collective capacity to respond to ecosystem and social emergencies.

Furthermore, current processes of urbanization, infrastructure, and industrialization are having a serious impact on the living environment in general. In addition to the social, socioeconomic, and community disintegration, processes of land transformation and urbanization have been responsible for the deterioration of ecosystems, the consumption and pollution of land, water, and air, and the loss of fertile soil. These factors, in turn, interact with climate change in a mutually reinforcing spiral.

We recognize ourselves in the paradigm of global health that addresses all the determinants of health—social, economic, and environmental—integrating approaches such as Planetary Health and One Health, which affirm the interdependence between the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems.

AND time to act decisively for:

- Protect biodiversity, an essential element for the resilience of natural and human systems;
- Promote a **new model of society that opposes growth and development based on the exploitation of nature and its resources and instead orients itself toward a model** centered on the sustainable use of resources, critical and responsible consumption, intergenerational economic and social justice, care, moderation, solidarity, and cooperation;
- Combat all forms of predatory land exploitation, halting **all transformation and consumption of undeveloped land, and initiating land regeneration programs.**

4. Inspiring principles

As part of the ecological and social transition, ISDE is committed to:

- **Promote a *glocal approach*** , that is, promote shared responsibility at the local and global levels for peace, justice, equity, the environmental and social sustainability of all human activities, and the protection of ecosystems;
- **Reduce the environmental impact** of healthcare activities and promote sustainable forms of care;
- **Defend human and ecosystem rights** as the foundation of all health and environmental policies;
- **Tackling inequalities** in access to health, education, water, clean air and a healthy environment;
- **Protect** , also with the precautionary principle, **the groups of citizens who are most affected by environmental risks and the most susceptible categories** (due to age such as children or the elderly, poverty, social or cultural conditions, place of residence)
- **Contribute** to the reformulation of socio-ecological and health governance and planning rules systems;
- **Promote the culture of peace and disarmament** , also as a preventative response to health and humanitarian crises.

5. Medicine as a political and social act

Medicine can no longer be limited to individual care. Every medical act is also a **political act** , because it occurs within a social, economic, environmental, and cultural context.

ISDE recognizes that medicine must be impartial but not neutral.

Impartial, because guided by science and conscience, by respect for human rights, by non-discrimination, by service to suffering individuals and populations;

not neutral, because it cannot remain silent and indifferent in the face of injustice, environmental destruction, violence, oppression and inequality.

As doctors for the environment:

- We reaffirm our duty to **denounce the structural causes of the disease** , linked to unsustainable models of development, production and consumption;
- We are committed to **education and scientific dissemination** so that citizens are aware and participate in decisions for the common good;
- We support **independent research and scientific dialogue free from conflicts of interest** , especially in the environmental, industrial, biomedical and pharmaceutical technology fields.

Conclusion

As we celebrate ISDE's 35th anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment with renewed conviction: **health is a common, collective, indivisible, global, and political good** . There can be no health without peace, nor justice and equity without a healthy environment.

Today, more than ever, those who care for health must **defend life in all its forms** , and take on the responsibility of fighting for a more just, equitable and sustainable world.

“True and effective medicine is that which also heals the environment and pursues justice and peace.”

ISDE

35th Anniversary – November 2025