



International Ergonomics Association

International Ergonomics Association (IEA) Statement at the 148th session of the Executive Board, 18 to 26 January 2021

Nonstate Actor (NSA) representatives:

Dr. Michelle Robertson, International Ergonomics Association (IEA) Chair of Communications and Public Relations

Agenda item: Global action on patient safety

IEA is a global federation of 5 regional networks and 54 societies that apply human factors/ergonomics (HFE) to design systems for well-being and system performance.

The critical importance of patient safety is gaining global recognition and has come to the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.6, 'Global action on patient safety,' IEA contributed in the **Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030** development particularly in elaborating the need and approach to apply human factors/ergonomics for improving safety in health care, and also participated in the 2020 World Patient Safety Day. Moreover, recognizing that human factors/ergonomics has a central role in the design of safe patient safety systems, WHO and IEA are working jointly to develop and disseminate guidance and tools for applying HFE for safety in health care. IEA will urge its networks, member societies and all relevant stakeholders to adopt and promote the recommendations of these and other programmatic documents.

IEA recognizes the importance of advocating for patient safety especially now, to combat the continuing challenges of the global COVID-19 crisis. IEA supports WHO in the call to action to Member States and all relevant stakeholders on patient safety and encourages adoption of the following actions:

1. Prioritize the implementation of Global Patient Safety Action Plan in the national context at the political and policy level and also at the point of care, for eliminating avoidable harm in health care.
2. Work with HFE experts to incorporate a human factors systems approach in the design of health care systems, recognizing the link between health worker safety and patient safety.
3. Foster technical support and guidance for human factors training and education of designers and managers of health care system processes and health care workers.