



Dear Colleagues,

the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, our Association, is also involved in helping to contrast the Sars-Cov-2 pandemic that is devastating (and not only from a health point of view), practically the whole planet. Once again, the poorest nations and the least privileged populations are paying the highest price during this world crisis.

A warm greeting and great encouragement to those who directly or indirectly seek to offer help and comfort to the populations affected by the disease. The moment is very difficult, but, with everyone's contribution - ISDE among them -, this huge and unprecedented emergency will also be overcome.

In Italy, as you know, the situation is very serious even if there are signs of slight improvement. However, lockdown remains the most important preventive measure. Therapies are not yet codified and the vaccine is currently only a hope. How is the situation in your countries?

All are aware of the graveness of the situation, but perhaps we at ISDE, more than others, understand the reasons that have contributed to determining it: once again the environmental causes are the determining factors. The incredible illusion of being capable of maintaining good health in a sick world continues. Sick because of us.

Air pollution and climate change are among the most important causes of Earth's disease, but we cannot forget many other emergencies: the progressive urbanization of populations, with the creation of increasingly large and less liveable cities; the violation of natural sanctuaries - in which animals and viruses had found a stable but precarious balance - through wild deforestations; intensive breeding, often without any respect for animals forced into dramatic living conditions; intensive cultivation with an indiscriminating use of pesticides. All conditions that have certainly favoured the spillover of the current pandemic.

I believe, however, that in this moment and time we must have the strength to look forward, think positively and not lose hope, work and fight so that this planetary crisis can finally teach all that the humanity's wellbeing is linked to that of our common home - Planet Earth - and that poverty, inequalities, wars and the senseless exploitation of natural resources are the main enemies against which we definitely need to fight.

Anyway I hope we can talk about all this and more, to be together, if the situation allows us, at the Congress for the 30th anniversary of ISDE, next November.

Greetings to All.

Ferdinando Laghi

(ISDE President)