

Edinburgh Statement: Goals

World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM)

Statement by the WADEM during the 14th World Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland
20 May 2005

Whereas, the number and severity of medical emergencies and disasters continue to increase globally; *and*

Whereas, recent events continue to illustrate that many of the deaths and much of the disability resulting from physical and psychosocial injuries secondary to such events potentially are preventable; *and*

Whereas, recent events have demonstrated a need for improvements in the coordination and control of responses to such events; *and*

Whereas, road transportation events are a major cause of death and disability worldwide; *and*

Whereas, there is a need for the development of operational medical, psychosocial, and public health standards and guidelines to cope with such events and the damage they produce; *and*

Whereas, the impact of natural and human-made hazards have adverse short- and long-term, direct and indirect public health consequences for those affected; *and*

Whereas, there exists a conceptual framework on which to base evaluations and research on disasters; *and*

Whereas, an operational framework and guidelines upon which to base evaluations and research are in development; *and*

Whereas, such frameworks are needed to address the elimination and/or modification of hazards and their associated risks, mitigation of the damage produced by events caused by such hazards, and the responses to such events; *and*

Whereas, the science of disaster and emergency medicine continues to develop and provides increasing evidence upon which to develop such standards; *and*

Whereas, there is a need to professionalize the workforce that copes with such events; *and*

Whereas, there is an urgent need to foster collaboration between all organizations and stakeholders that are associated with medical, psychosocial, and public health preparedness and responses to such events.

Therefore, be it resolved that the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) will:

1. Assist with the provision of the education and training of the workforce in accordance with accepted standards of practice based on medical evidence and/or consensus; *and*
2. Continue with the development of medical, psychosocial, and public health standards for education, operations, evaluation, and research based on medical evidence and/or consensus, and seek the institutionalization of such standards; *and*
3. Continue the development of standards and guidelines for disaster research and evaluations of interventions; *and*
4. Seek global recognition of these standards and guidelines; *and*
5. Distribute such standards and guidelines worldwide; *and*
6. Seek to streamline the integration of resources from entities originally not associated with humanitarian objectives; *and*
7. Attempt to collaborate with the many stakeholders that participate in the prevention of, mitigate the damage created by, and/or respond to the damage resulting from such hazards.

*Passed Unanimously
All Participants
Closing Session
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