



ESMO Statement
74th World Health Assembly, 24 May – 1 June 2021
Agenda item 22.1: Social Determinants of Health

Honourable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) is a global network of more than 25,000 cancer professionals from over 160 countries.

ESMO welcomes the Resolution on 'Social Determinants of Health' and its support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), many of which address the social, economic, and environmental determinants of health that can positively influence SDG 3 on health and well-being.

Addressing the social determinants of health is imperative to achieve the goals of the 2017 World Health Assembly Cancer Resolution to reduce the burden of cancer. ESMO recently supported a webinar by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) that highlighted the findings in IARC's 2020 World Cancer Report that people who have lower socioeconomic status or are part of marginalised groups tend to have a higher incidence of certain types of cancers, and higher mortality rates from most cancer types compared with people who have higher socioeconomic status.

The current pandemic has shown us that we need coordinated global solutions to harness the potential of science, technology, and innovation to effectively address and monitor the social determinants of health, in order to reduce health inequalities, to increase equal access to essential medicines and health services, to improve health literacy, and to build resilient and sustainable health systems that benefit the health and well-being of people everywhere.

Thank you.