

Editorial

The work environment at COP 30

O meio ambiente do trabalho na COP 30

El ambiente de trabajo en la COP 30

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Abstract

Concern for the work environment and worker health must be part of the discussions and concrete action proposals at COP 30, for a holistic ecology. The eradication of precarious working conditions, ills, and inequalities must also be on the planet's agenda.

Keywords: Work environment; Worker Health; Climate Change; Integral Ecology.

Resumo

A preocupação com o meio ambiente do trabalho e com a saúde do trabalhador deve integrar as discussões e propostas concretas de ações da COP 30, para uma ecologia integral. A erradicação das precárias condições de trabalho, das mazelas e das desigualdades sociais também deve estar na pauta das urgências do planeta.

Palavras-chave: Meio Ambiente do Trabalho; Saúde do Trabalhador; Mudanças Climáticas; Ecologia Integral.

Resumen

La preocupación por el entorno laboral y la salud de los trabajadores debe formar parte de los debates y las propuestas de acción concretas de la COP 30, para una ecología holística. La erradicación de las condiciones laborales precarias, los males y las desigualdades también debe estar en la agenda del planeta.

Palabras clave: Ambiente de Trabajo; Salud del Trabajador; Cambio Climático; Ecología Integral.

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The Editorial of the last editions of this journal highlighted the concern that the Amazon should not be reduced to exotic aspects or economic assets during the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 30) in Brazil in 2025, pointing to the need to transcend the diplomatic environmental character⁽¹⁾.

The intersectoral approach, with dialogue between climate, health, food safety, basic sanitation and social justice policies, is rightly indicated as a necessity, going beyond the traditional boundaries of environmental diplomacy.

In addition, there is concern about the serious occupational risks posed by climate change. Beyond the traditional view of the environmental or scientific problem, social and labor issues are exacerbated by the deterioration of the work environment, both in the acute effects of extreme heat waves, floods, prolonged droughts and fires, and the chronic manifestations that present themselves as health problems for workers.

The World Health Organization lists among the social determinants of health the conditions in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age⁽²⁾. Different working conditions and people's access to power, money and resources have a decisive influence on health inequalities, leading to "unfair and avoidable differences in health status observed within and between countries".

In the same vein, the 2023 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)⁽³⁾, points to the effects of the climate crisis, which, in addition to being increasingly frequent, intense and unequally distributed, hit vulnerable populations the hardest, such as the poor, blacks and residents of the suburbs, who are also more likely to be involved in informal, precarious and dangerous work.

The importance of decent and inclusive work in achieving the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is expressly stated in SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all⁽⁴⁾.

Concern for the working environment and workers' health which is the responsibility of the Unified Health System (SUS), was expressly included in the 1988 Constitution, which also established the right to reduce the risks inherent in work, through health, hygiene and safety standards.

This perception of ecology, which is environmental but also human, was embraced by Pope Francis who, in the forceful environmental warning of the Encyclical *Si*⁽⁵⁾, evoked the Earth as "our common home", overcoming the traditional view of the environment and intertwining social, labor, economic and spiritual issues, by calling for action to protect the planet, in an integral ecology.

It is essential that the COP30 discussions provide concrete and effective measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change, which undeniably have urgent implications for global public health. The signs of health collapse, which is already appearing as devastating, need to be understood from to eradicate precarious working conditions and differences in access to resources, which are at the root of the problems and inequalities within and between countries.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest

Authors' contributions

Daroncho L contributed to the conception/design of the editorial, writing, critical review of its content, and approval of the final version. Zimmermann CL contributed to the conception/design of the editorial, writing, critical review of its content, and approval of the final version.

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