



150th Executive Board Session of the World Health Organization

Agenda Item 15

Public health emergencies: Preparedness and response

Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies

Geneva, January 2022

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Honorable Chair, Director General, and Distinguished Delegates,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes the steps taken by Member States, WHO and partners to establish a Standing Committee on Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness and Response and remains a committed partner in these efforts.

IOM advocates for truly universal health coverage in health emergencies so that all migrants, have equitable access to health services. This continues to be a challenge in the COVID-19 response to date, where for example, our analyses of field data in December 2021 reveal that several migrant groups still lack access to COVID-19 vaccines in at least 45 countries.

IOM strongly recommends strengthening capacities to address migration within the International Health Regulations (IHR) requirements, and any future preparedness efforts. IOM's Health, Border and Mobility Management Framework can be a useful tool in the deliberations of the Standing Committee; it articulates a strategic approach based on our lessons learned for the prevention/ detection of and response to communicable diseases in the context of widespread human mobility.

A multisectoral approach that accounts for human mobility is essential to address the lessons being learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, and prepare for a whole-of-society and whole-of government future pandemic response.

Thank you.