Seventy-second World Health Assembly
Committee A
Agenda item 12.4 Promoting the health of refugees and migrants (Document A72/25 Rev.1)

Statement by International Labour Organization

The ILO would like to congratulate the WHO on the development of the new global tool to protect and promote refugees’ and migrants’ health.

Even when employment is not the primary driver of the migration, given that 86.5 per cent of migrants are in the working age, ensuring occupational health and safety as well as adequate social protection coverage is essential and urgent.

SDG Goals 1 and 8 target the protection of labour rights, the promotion of safe and secure working environments and the access to social protection for all workers, including migrant workers.

Yet, most migrants do not enjoy their rights to healthy and safe work. They are often employed in hazardous work in informal sectors such as agriculture, construction or domestic work where the work is of intensive and temporary or seasonal nature.

Migrants and refugees face multiple challenges in accessing social protection and health coverage and are at risk of being left behind, especially in the context of protracted instability.

The ILO has been jointly working with the WHO in several programmes, including Joint estimates on work-related diseases and injuries and Working for Health. In order to materialize decent work for all refugees and migrants, the ILO expresses our commitment to promote, through continued collaboration with the WHO, the implementation of the Global Action Plan.