



76th World Health Assembly

Theme: Universal Health Coverage

General Discussion under Agenda Item 13.1

Geneva, May 2023

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Universal health coverage will not be universal, unless it includes migrants, irrespective of status, in all countries. The United Nations' International Organization for Migration has witnessed the health needs of migrants and the need for their inclusion in Universal Health Coverage. To achieve this and fulfil the SDGs and Agenda 2030, we must integrate migrants and human mobility into the political commitments. The WHO Director-General's report on agenda item 13.1 and decision EB152(5) adopted by the Executive Board in January 2023 underline that Universal Health Coverage "should be prioritized for populations in the most vulnerable situations, those experiencing greatest financial hardship, and underrecognized and underserved populations, including refugees and migrants".

There can be no Health for All without including migrants in Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care, recognizing the right to health of everyone, everywhere. Societies cannot develop without healthy migrant communities. Migrants are part of the solution, as co-developers and providers of health services and innovation.

Averages of progress on Universal Health Coverage often mask inequalities, such as for vulnerable populations including migrants. High quality, disaggregated data is essential to the development of effective, equitable, evidence-based policies.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how the inclusion of people on the move is necessary to protect Health for All. We witnessed the importance of not leaving anyone behind in health and social protection policies. No one is safe until everyone is safe. No One Left Behind requires the meaningful inclusion of migrants in Universal Health Coverage.

Thank you.