



76th World Health Assembly

Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

General Discussion under Agenda Item 15.1

Geneva, May 2023

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Honorable Chair, Director General, and Distinguished Delegates,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is honoured to address the World Health Assembly. IOM welcomes the steps taken by Member States, the WHO and partners to strengthen the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience.

IOM expresses its support for the three main HEPR pillars – governance, systems and financing – and commends the commitment to strengthen core capacities with the International Health Regulations through utilization and improvements of national actions plans for health security as well as encouraging Universal Health Preparedness Reviews, taking into account migration as a key social determinant.

To strengthen the global community's ability to respond to health emergencies, IOM supports the integration of mobility data to inform public health interventions, including cross border coordination and communication, and the inclusion of migrants and displaced persons in the new global architecture.

IOM advocates for and works at country level to promote universal health coverage so that all migrants, regardless of migration status, have equitable access to health services. Learning from the shared experience of Covid-19, it is essential to include migrants and displaced persons in preparedness plans from the beginning, ensuring they are not left out of health emergency responses.

IOM remains committed to work closely with the WHO, Member States, local communities and partners to advocate for the inclusion of migrants and human mobility in discussions during the high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in the General Assembly in September of this year. Thank you.