146th Session Executive Board

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Public health preparedness and response
WHO’s work in health emergencies
Report by the Director General

Statement by
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Honourable Chair, Director General, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to collaborating with the World Health Organization in the ongoing global discussion regarding public health preparedness and response through active membership in various networks such as the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and the Global Health Cluster.

Population mobility is a key consideration in the preparedness and response to health emergencies, as illustrated most recently by the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Together, IOM and WHO have collaborated on a methodology to map population mobility to enhance evidence-based public health decision making and in line with the Emergency Committee’s recommendations from July of last year.

In light of the current outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus, IOM stands ready to offer technical support to governments and partners on understanding population mobility trends and, in partnership with WHO, to support sound public health measures that minimize disruption to society and the economy. Global health security should be expanded to include global health solidarity. In line with international health principles, WHO’s Emergency Committee recently cautioned against actions that promote stigma or discrimination. To address global health security in a meaningful way, IOM advocates that population mobility be taken into account in national preparedness and response efforts.