

78th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 14: Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Committee A

Geneva, May 2025

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes this timely report. Progress on the health-related SDGs must account for the realities of human mobility in an increasingly interconnected and crisis-prone world.

Migrants, refugees and displaced persons often face systemic barriers to health care due to legal, financial, and linguistic obstacles. Yet they also contribute significantly to health systems—as care workers, remittance senders, and agents of resilience and innovation. As emphasized in IOM’s institutional submission to the 2025 High-Level Political Forum, advancing SDG 3 requires inclusive, mobility-aware strategies that translate political commitments into practical results.

To that end, IOM encourages greater investment in:

- ❑ **Extending universal health coverage and social protection to all migrants**, enabling their access to safe, quality, and affordable health services, including health promotion, diagnostics, medicines, and vaccines.
- ❑ **Strengthening national data and surveillance systems to include migration and displacement variables**—ensuring evidence-based policies, early warning, preparedness, and effective emergency response across the mobility continuum.
- ❑ **Investing in balanced programmes that support migrant health and care workers**, while reinforcing workforce development in countries of origin through ethical recruitment, skills transfer, and diaspora engagement.
- ❑ **Advancing transnational and multisectoral partnerships** that embed migration into national and sectoral health strategies, and address broader determinants of health in mobile and crisis-affected populations.

The 2025 progress report on the WHO Global Action Plan on Promoting the Health of Refugees and Migrants (WHA76.14) reinforces this imperative highlighting not only persistent gaps such as fragmented service delivery and limited financial protection, but also a growing momentum toward more inclusive, accountable health systems.

IOM stands ready to build on this momentum and work with WHO and Member States to translate commitments into action—realizing health for all.

Thank you.