



78th World Health Assembly

**Agenda Item 16.1 – Strengthening the global architecture for health
emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience**

Committee A

Geneva, May 2025

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes the Director General's report (A78/9) and reaffirms its support for WHO's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (HEPR) Framework as a tool *"to protect communities and strengthen HEPR capacity to prepare for and respond to current and future health crises"*¹.

Human mobility intersects with and can intensify vulnerability. Therefore, mobility-responsive surveillance and service delivery, especially in cross-border and crisis-affected areas must be part of the HEPR implementation. IOM supports Member States in building such capacities and contributes to each of the HEPR pillars:

- IOM contributes to **collaborate disease surveillance** through its Health, Border and Mobility Management (HBMM) Framework, supporting Member States and communities to prevent, detect and respond to health threats across the mobility continuum. Tools such as the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and other cross-border surveillance initiatives help to close critical surveillance gaps in underserved and hard-to-reach settings.
- **Community protection** is central to IOM's health emergency preparedness work. We engage with community health workers, mobile teams, and trusted local actors including migrants and displaced populations, to deliver culturally adapted risk communication, mental health and psychosocial support, and promote vaccine confidence. IOM builds trust and increase access to essential health services before, during and after emergencies, and for persons on the move.
- **Safe and scalable care** must reach people on the move, especially in cases where continuity of care is disrupted and health systems overstretched. IOM delivers flexible solutions, for example through mobile clinics and cross-border referrals, and health in emergencies trainings - all tailored to fragile and crisis contexts.
- IOM supports member states to deliver equitable access of essential **medical countermeasures**, including diagnostics, vaccines, and treatment, especially in cross-border areas. We help build national capacities that include migrants, displaced persons and other mobile populations in national vaccination plans and health emergency strategies.
- IOM is actively involved in **emergency coordination**, not only at global level through participating in the Strategic Advisory Group of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Global Health Cluster and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), but also at country level including in many contexts co-leading technical working groups on Points of Entry. These platforms are

¹ See WHO (2023) Strengthening health emergency prevention, preparedness and response and resilience. Geneva: WHO, p. 2.

critical to ensure a coherent, cross-sectoral response, specifically in cross border settings.

As Member States deliberate on the future of the HEPR Framework, IOM underscores the importance of continued investment in surveillance, community protection, medical countermeasures, and coordination that reflect mobility realities and the vital role of migrants, border communities, and displaced populations.

For this IOM remains ready to assist.

Thank you.