



78th World Health Assembly

**Agenda Item 16.2 - Intergovernmental Negotiating Body  
to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other  
international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and  
response**

**Committee A**

Geneva, May 2025

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Honorable Chair, Director General, and Distinguished Delegates,

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) commends Member States and the INB Bureau in the adoption of a forward-looking and inclusive international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR).

We welcome the recognition of the disproportionate risks faced by **persons in vulnerable situations** due to social and structural barriers in accessing health services during pandemics. From our decades of experience in addressing disease outbreak response and preparedness, we have seen firsthand how migrants, displaced persons and other people on the move are very often excluded from accessing health services, including timely access to accurate and culturally appropriate risk communication, and essential medical countermeasures during outbreaks. IOM advocates for inclusive health systems that deliver essential and scalable services to migrants – particularly in fragile and cross-border settings.

We support the focus on **strengthening national public health capacities, investing in prevention and surveillance especially at borders** and the commitment to **whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches**. Investment into interoperable health information systems, cross-border referral mechanisms, and mobile health service delivery is key to resilience, as is ensuring capacity strengthening at points of entry and health screening points for outbreak preparedness and response.

IOM stands ready to support the implementation of the future agreement through its technical expertise and operational presence in over 170 countries. We remain committed to continue working closely with Member States, regional economic integration organizations, and WHO as the next steps in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response will be taken at national, regional, and global levels.

Thank you.