



79th World Health Assembly

**Agenda Item 14.1: WHO's work in health emergencies**

**Committee A**

Geneva, May 2026

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Honorable Chair, Director General, and Distinguished Delegates,

The International Organization for Migration welcomes continued efforts to strengthen global health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience.

As crises grow more complex and interconnected, preparedness systems must better reflect the realities of human mobility and displacement. Migrants, internally displaced persons, and mobile populations remain disproportionately affected during emergencies, while often insufficiently integrated into preparedness, surveillance, continuity-of-care, and financing frameworks.

We welcome the emphasis on equity and leaving no one behind. In this regard, IOM reaffirms its commitment to coordinated humanitarian and public health action, including through its leadership role in the new Shelter, Land and Site Management Cluster. Safe shelter, dignified site planning, and effective settlement management are critical determinants of health in crises settings. These efforts are also important to reducing epidemic risk, strengthening community resilience, and supporting durable solutions to displacement. IOM calls for the explicit inclusion of migrants and internally displaced persons in national health emergency preparedness plans, stronger integration of health considerations within shelter and site management responses and improved disaggregation of data by displacement and migration status.

As the UN migration agency, IOM brings operational experience in shelter, site management, last-mile delivery and displacement data expertise that is directly relevant to protecting health, particularly in regions facing complex humanitarian crises. IOM stands ready to continue working with Member States, World Health Organization, UN partners, and humanitarian actors to advance integrated, inclusive, and mobility-sensitive approaches to health emergency preparedness and response.

Thank you.