

**WHO statement on occasion of  
International Dialogue on Migration 2017  
19 July 2017**

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Health is a pre-requisite of sustainable development. The SDGs provide the context for responding to the health needs of migrants. In this regard, addressing their health needs and the public health implications of migration must be an essential component of the GCM as well as in achieving the SDG vision.
- The resolution 70.15 on 'Promoting the health of refugees and migrants' was endorsed this May. Member States want to ensure that the health aspects of refugees and migrants are adequately addressed in the two Global Compacts. We have been working closely with MSs, IOM and UNHCR and other partners both in Geneva and New York to support the development of both Compacts. In addition the side events and periodic informal information sessions were organized.
- Achieving UHC is vital not only for migrants and the overall population health but also as an acknowledgement of the fundamental human right to health for all. We cannot meet the SDGs including 3.8 on UHC which is WHO's first priority unless the health needs of migrants are addressed. To do so we need:
  - ✓ National health policies, strategies and plans that are inclusive, taking into account all aspects of migrant health and having a broad intersectoral approach and with whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches based on shared values, evidence and multisectoral policy dialogue.
  - ✓ In order to move towards UHC, some countries may require modifying certain regulations that determine the access to services of migrants.
  - ✓ Health systems need to be prepared, resilience and migrant sensitive taking into account cultural diversities and the different needs of migrants. This implies overcoming formal and informal barriers to health care. Short- and longer-term public health interventions should be available.
  - ✓ Addressing the social determinants of health is essential to meet the immediate health needs of migrants, as well as to ensure the longer-term provision of health care and good health.
- The issues surrounding health and migration cannot be solved by the health sector or one country alone. Any solution, therefore, requires solidarity, cooperation and coordination among a wide constituency within and across countries and the UN agencies and civil societies and private sectors.
- We have a lot more to do in this area. WHO with partners stands ready to provide any technical support needed in the development of the GCM, to ensure that the health aspects of refugees and migrants are adequately addressed.
- I will conclude by saying that there is no public health without the health of migrants

Thank you.