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Permanent Mission of Thailand



**World Health  
Organization**



International Catholic  
Migration Commission



**GMPA**



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency



**HEALTH AND MIGRATION:  
GLOBAL CHALLENGES, SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES,  
SHARED SOLUTIONS**

**Organized by the Governments of Argentina, Ecuador, Luxembourg, Mexico,  
Philippines, Switzerland, Thailand, IOM, WHO, and GMPA, ICMC**

**Monday 19 June 2017  
13.15-14.45; Salle XXI  
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

*Refreshments will be served at the event*

## **Health and Migration: Global Challenges, Shared Responsibilities, Shared Solutions**

**Side event organized by the Governments of Argentina, Luxembourg,  
Philippines, Switzerland and Thailand**

**WHO and IOM, NGOs – GMPA, ICMC**

**19 June 2017, 13.15-14.45, Room XXI, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

### **Introduction**

Large movements of refugees and migrants have political, economic, social, developmental, humanitarian and human rights ramifications which know no borders. These are global phenomena which call for global approaches and global solutions. They also require targeted and effective local, national and international policy and practical responses. Understanding and addressing the health dimension of this type of mobility, through enhanced international cooperation and improved governance, is of particular importance.

Migrants should be assisted in overcoming the difficulties associated with the migration process. Short- and longer-term public health interventions aimed at protecting and promoting the physical and mental health of migrants, as well as that of the host community should be available. In addition, health responses need to be harmonized, through bilateral and multilateral dialogue. Continuity of treatment for injuries, chronic conditions and diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS is critical. Preventive measures such as vaccinations, should also be ensured for people crossing borders. These responses will require adequate preparedness, rapid humanitarian responses, increased technical assistance and long-term health planning and response, as well as international cooperation.

As the migration process involves countries of origin, transit, destination and for some return, the population movements constitute a challenge to provide essential health education, services and care as well as communicable disease prevention and control programmes. This should be dealt with using the national and international framework and principles established by the *International Health Regulations (2005)* and respective Review Committee Report. Strengthening the IHR core capacities is essential in order to ensure effective public health interventions to prevent, detect and respond to health threats in transnational community contexts. This will require broader and more effective international cooperation, partnerships, networks, advocacy and exchange at the community, country, regional and global levels.

It is of paramount importance that we enhance the role of the health sector in responding to the varying needs of migrants, to public health imperatives and to addressing the multiple contextual affecting migrant health. At the same time, promoting coherence among the policies of various other sectors and countries that may affect their access to health services is essential.

Effective responses require a proactive public health policy approach as well as a health workforce that is sufficient in number and adequately trained and supported to respond to the prevailing needs. The fact that many health workers are themselves part of the refugee and migrant populations, coupled with difficulties of practicing outside their countries, has contributed to a gap in service provision both within their country of origin and in the main host communities. In some host countries, shortages of health workers have made it challenging to ensure appropriate access to care as service providers are stretched to the limit in terms of financing and human resources for health, due to the increased workload. With appropriate training, accreditation and other support, refugee and migrant health professionals who are currently underutilized might be better positioned to help address the prevailing health needs of refugees and host populations alike.

In addition, often unrecognized, the health sector is a leading and growing sector of employment. The international migration of health workers has escalated considerably over the past decade, with patterns of mobility also becoming increasingly complex. The WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel is a key international instrument aimed at better understanding and managing the international migration of health workers, by promoting good practices and preventing the negative effects of health worker migration.

The issues surrounding health and migration cannot be solved by the health sector or one country alone, since they are so inextricably linked to social protection, human welfare, development, foreign policy, security and the

environment. Any solution, therefore, requires cooperation and coordination among a wide constituency within and across countries too. This side event aims to provide a unique multisectoral dialogue for international cooperation and governance with regards to health and migration, facilitate the sharing of current perspectives and provide specific examples, existing instruments, initiatives and activities aimed at strengthening international cooperation and governance around migration.

### Proposed format

This 90-minute moderated session will include presentations from IOM, WHO and civil society, followed by a Q&A session.

- I. Opening remarks and introductions by co-sponsoring country, WHO and IOM : (10 mins)
- II. Panel: (60 mins)
  - A. Sustainable platform for multi-sectoral and international cooperation and governance to promote migrant health  
*Enrico Fos, Counsellor, Philippines*
  - B. Manage the influx: the role of the health sector in managing large movements of refugees and migrants  
*Santino Severoni, Coordinator, Vulnerability and Health, EURO*
  - C. Responding to the health needs of persons on the move  
*Tamam Aloudat, MSF*
  - D. Trends and governance of health worker migration  
*Ibadat Dhillon, Technical Officer, Health Workforce, WHO*
  - F. Tap the talent: practical country experience on integrating migrant and refugee health workers  
*Stacey Pillay, Chief Innovation Officer, Africa Health Placements, South Africa*
  - E. Working together across borders - experiences from West Africa  
*Teresa Zakaria, Migration Health Emergency Operations Officer, IOM*
- III. Moderated discussion (20 mins)
- IV. Closing remarks (3 mins)

Moderator: Dr James Campbell/WHO, Kanokporn Kaojaroen/WHO

### The distinguished panel will assist in responding to questions such as:

1. What health-related commitments could be included in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the context of international cooperation and governance, to effectively address health and migration?
2. How can international cooperation and responsibility sharing better support countries with limited resources and consequent challenges in addressing domestic health needs, meet the health needs of migrants, especially when faced with large influxes?
3. What could a sustainable platform and mechanism for multi-sectoral and international cooperation and governance on health and migration look like?
4. What have been some good practices by countries of origin, transit and destination in national governance and international cooperation to promote the health of migrants and that of host populations?
5. How can existing bilateral and global governance instruments on health worker migration help inform and benefit from the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration?