

WHA70

13.7 Promoting the health of refugees and migrants

EU Statement

Addressing the health of refugees and migrants is a health issue of major concern.

Chair,

we are well aware and remain committed to the fact that tackling the causes and consequences of the large movements of people that we have witnessed recently, is a shared responsibility for all stakeholders involved.

The EU and its Member States call on WHO to step up its engagement, to collaborate with its Member States and provide them with relevant scientific data and technical assistance in order to address the health needs of refugees and migrants.

The EU welcomes (depending on outcome of negotiations) the «Framework of priorities and guiding principles» prepared by WHO in consultation with its Member States.

The EU is looking forward to reaching a consensus in adopting a procedural Resolution, to accompany this text. During this process, and ahead of the development of a Global Action Plan, WHO's increased engagement is of utmost importance.

The EU encourages WHO to make every possible effort to ensure that health aspects are adequately addressed in the development of the two Global Compacts following the adoption of the NY Declaration in September 2016. To achieve this, close collaboration with relevant international organizations, especially UNHCR and IOM will be essential.

The EU acknowledges the contribution of WHO to the first thematic consultation on the Global Compact on Migration, including the side-event “Mainstreaming Migrant Health into the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration”, and calls on WHO to continue keeping health considerations visible during consultations to follow.

The EU welcomes WHO's global and regional efforts, in collaboration with its Member States, to respond to the on-going challenges and reaffirm the relevance of the first-ever Strategy and Action Plan for Refugees and Migrant Health in the WHO European Region, adopted in September 2016.

Better information and data provided by WHO in each region will facilitate cooperation and responses from all stakeholders involved, at the international and regional levels and pave the way towards the development of a Global Action Plan called for in decision 140(9) of the Executive Board.

Finally, the EU and its Member States remain committed to engaging in efforts on the international level and to assisting WHO in the process ahead. At the same time, the EU and its Member States urge WHO to continue actively engaging and assisting its Member States in this shared responsibility.