

WHO 140th Executive Board Session – 23 January to 1 February 2017

Statement in support of Provisional Agenda Item 8.7 [EB140/24](#)

Promoting the Health of Migrants

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) representing occupational therapists internationally welcomes the report on promoting the health of migrants.

As pointed out in the report pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including Goal 3.8 on universal health coverage, will help address the interrelated influences of economic, social and environmental determinants that influence the health of refugees and migrants.

Addressing the social determinants of health that generate inequalities especially in the longer-term provision of health care for those who remain in host countries will also protect, without discrimination, the public health of the host population. Occupational therapists make a significant contribution by enabling migrants to participate in valued occupations that help bridge a former life to the current situation. This participation helps meet human needs, and helps people experience human rights. When occupational therapists enable successful participation in everyday occupation, life roles, and the fabric of the community, people can move beyond the negative effects of displacement. This participation also strengthens inclusion and health and well-being within the community.

The WFOT supports the priorities stated in the report, in particular the development of migrant-sensitive health policies and multilateral social protection agreements with the inclusion of healthcare benefits.

In closing, the WFOT and its member organisations are deeply committed to working with governments at all levels, non-governmental organisations and persons effected to promote the health of migrants.

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January 2017