

Agenda Item: 8.7 Promoting the health of migrants

Statement

MMI would like to address agenda item 8.7. Our statement is supported by PHM.

We welcome efforts of the WHO to improve health of migrants and refugees. As migration isn't confined to one part of the world it is imperative for all countries to work together.

Migrants and refugees continually face barriers in accessing healthcare; with many countries introducing policies that act as barriers for migrants who seek secure access to quality healthcare. We remind Member States of their duty to uphold the universal human rights of migrants from access healthcare by 'instituting changes in law and policy to ensure that migrants and refugees are included in national and local health planning.

We urge MS to go beyond health policy and introduce labour, education and social policies which provide equal access to migrants. These rights need to be extended to all children including unaccompanied children who are particularly vulnerable. We urge the WHO and MS to put in place measures to identify, support and uphold their human rights enabling them to achieve the principles of the Global Strategy for Women, Children and Adolescents: 'survive, thrive and transform.

Instead of just leading a discussion, we encourage the WHO to implement cash-based programming for health activities in emergency situations. Evidence shows them to be more effective in achieving better health outcomes. We urge MS to improve cooperation in this regard and not tie their contributions to activities which not only do not address the needs of the recipients but also end up subsidising TNCs.

Lastly we urge the Secretariat to include strategies to address the issue of human trafficking as a cause of forced migration, an area that is missing in this report. We urge the inclusion of policies that protect the rights of trafficked people and give them access to specialised services.