

**IAPO Statement on Agenda 14.7 Promoting the health of migrants
69th Session of the World Health Assembly**

Speaker: Chair IAPO Board Jolanta Bilińska

Thank you Chair, honourable members, distinguished delegates.

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) is an alliance of patient groups in official relationship with the WHO and representing the interests of patients worldwide. Our 250 member organizations are based in more than 65 countries covering over 60 different conditions.

We welcome the Secretariat's report *Promoting the health of migrants* and WHO's ongoing partnership with the *International Organization for Migration and the UNHCR* to address migrants' health through the development of regional and national health strategies promoting ongoing dialogue and cooperation among all Member States involved in the migratory process as an interagency, interregional and international cooperation.

IAPO, however, expresses concerns for the welfare and security of chronically ill migrant, displaced and refugee patients, especially child patients, whose health is at risk due discontinued health care and risk of abuse, violence, exploitation and discrimination.

IAPO notes that despite the existence of ratified international human rights standards and conventions to protect the rights of migrant and refugee patients, including their right to health, many such patients lack access to health care services and financial protection for health.

We want the Member States to note the Secretariat's report and endorse the priorities identified in *Section 11 Future Priorities for Member States, partners and other stakeholders in addressing the health needs of migrants and refugees*.

IAPO urges that Member States to develop and adopt coherent migrant-patient sensitive health policies that ensure equitable access to culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services regardless of status and without discrimination or stigmatization, and to develop a culturally competent health workforce able to address the needs of such patients.

Thank you for your attention.