



**The International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) fully endorses the International Labour Organization's (ILO) message and action on 28 April 2021,
‘World Day for Safety and Health at Work’**

As indicated in the recent ICOH statement on ‘Safety and Health is a Fundamental Right at Work’ in connection with the discussion and decision item at the February 2021 ILO Governing Body, it was emphasized that:

‘...we have estimated some 60,000 COVID-19 work-related deaths occurred in 2020 and the numbers continue to grow. We anticipate that work-related COVID-19 disease cases will continue to be significantly under-diagnosed and under-reported, for various reasons. The share of infections at workplaces is close to 20% of all infections based on Italian compensation data. These data come not only from the highly exposed health workers but cover a large number of jobs and occupations, which have a significantly elevated risk. Such workers include painters and cleaners at construction sites, drivers, several industry sector workers in mining, manufacturing, and food industries, teachers, day care workers, and other service sector workers...’

(See the full ICOH statement at <http://www.icohweb.org/site/news-detail.asp?id=193>)

Global disasters like the current COVID-19 pandemic affect the world of work very seriously and are difficult to foresee. There is an urgent need to proactively develop the resilience and preparedness that are called for in the ‘ILO Safe Day’ documentation, and to ensure their sustainability.

The ICOH finds it important to call upon the 14th Meeting of the *ILO/WHO Joint Committee on Occupational Health* to discuss the actions required in work-life for overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and any possible future pandemics. Actions for securing occupational health services for all workers are needed in line with the ILO Convention No. 161 Occupational Health Services and related Recommendation No. 171.

The ICOH is pleased to support these valuable endeavours of the ILO.

On 28 April 2021, the ICOH will be joining the Moroccan Government, Workers and Employers to discuss and commemorate the ‘ILO Safe Day’ in Rabat.