



International Commission on Occupational Health - ICOH
Commission Internationale de la Santé au Travail - CIST

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission



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WHO Special Session of the Executive Board: Draft Thirteenth General Programme of Work

ICOH Statement

Safe and decent work is prerequisite for good health and wellbeing, and healthy workforce is essential for sustainable economic growth. ICOH, the largest scientific and professional association in the field of workers' health founded in 1906 with representation in 93 countries, applauds the focus on SDGs, and we call for increased intersectoral work on health and labour, i.e. between SDG3 on health and wellbeing and SDG8 on decent work. We encourage WHO and ILO to work closer on addressing health in the future of work and on strengthening the collaboration between health and labour ministries. We are happy to see that WHO intends to scale up its capacities at the country level for workplace health in the context of universal health coverage. The WHO global plan of action on workers' health (2008-2017) approved by the 60th World Health Assembly has created good basis for this work. Would like to see continuation of WHO's global leadership on health and labour in the context of the SDGs. The health workers in the informal economy, migrant and domestic workers will benefit from better health coverage. International data, indicators and methods for measuring the health impacts of work and unemployment can be further improved. Health systems should be able to detect and manage occupational diseases and disabilities, and working life should be considered in the people centre health care. Working in health services and in emergencies should be made safer. The new Framework for Engagement with Non-state Actors provides opportunities for WHO to work with organizations of workers and employers to increase the uptake and implementation of its norms and standards about workers' health. ICOH is committed to mobilize the occupational health professionals in academia, public and private sectors to make sure that the 3,5 billion workers also benefit from WHO action by promoting health at the workplace, keeping the world of work safe, and serve the vulnerable workers.

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INFO

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