

MINOSH Communication No. 2018-16 : OSH language finalized in UNTB Declaration-further news

Dear MinOSH Members:

Greetings!

Please find further news from Marilyn Fingerhut below on the success of ICOH and MINOSH in the inclusion of highly vulnerable workers and commitment on the use of occupational preventive measures in the UN Declaration on Tuberculosis. Please see our story <http://www.icohweb.org/site/news-detail.asp?id=154#>.

Again, thank you, Marilyn and Perry from our MinOSH subcommittee, that this effort of ours has been finally achieved. As we said before, this is the brainchild of MinOSH as it all started in our Odense Conference when the initial plans were made.

As a result of this ICOH-OSH policy statement in the UNTB Declaration, it will be beyond our comprehension how many miners' and health workers' lives will be saved from TB, and how much of their families will be changed forever.

...It is because we did not turn our back away from their plight, We decided as a scientific committee to pause, and hear their stories through our scientific data informed by raw reality itself. Their pain became our pain. Now, their joy will become our joy too.

Together, we stand and influence!

Erik and Jinky

From Marilyn,

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to inform you about our success achieving inclusion of highly vulnerable workers and commitment on the use of occupational preventive measures into the UN Declaration on Tuberculosis. Our story is at <http://www.icohweb.org/site/news-detail.asp?id=154#>.

ICOH and IOHA participated in the September 26, 2018 United Nations General Assembly Meeting on Tuberculosis (TB) in New York City. There the World Leaders endorsed the UN Political Declaration on TB: **United to End Tuberculosis: An Urgent Global Response to a Global Epidemic**".

We are happy to confirm that thanks to an intense year of effort by ICOH, IOHA, many of you, and other partners, our suggested language related to workers is successfully included in this endorsed Declaration. Click on this link http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/3 to see Paragraph 17, which identifies "health care workers, miners and others exposed to silica" as high-risk vulnerable groups. Also see Paragraph 31, which says: **"Commit to... implementing primary prevention in high-risk occupations by reducing silica dust exposures in mining, construction and other dusty workplaces, and worker tuberculosis surveillance and infection prevention and control in healthcare settings"**.

Marilyn Fingerhut, Perry Gottesfeld, Sophie Kisting, and Gwen Brachman represented ICOH at the TB Meeting. Andrea Hiddinga, immediate past President International Occupational Hygiene Association, represented IOHA.

Our next steps will include development of workplans to facilitate assistance to countries and organizations to implement workplace practices to reduce silica in workplaces and to protect health workers. These efforts will take place via the ICOH SC MinOSH TB-Silica Subcommittee, co-chaired by Marilyn and Perry, and via the SC OH Health Workers TB-Health Worker Subcommittee, co-chaired by Gwen and Sophie. IOHA will also be forming TB Subcommittees.

We will be reaching out to ICOH SCs and members, IOHA, and to you, our currently 66 organizations which endorsed one or both ICOH TB Statements. The Statements and endorsers are located at <http://www.icohweb.org/site/ICOH-TB-Statements.asp>. The ICOH homepage is at www.icohweb.org. The ICOH Scientific Committees are at <http://www.icohweb.org/site/scientific-committees.asp>.

If you would like to collaborate actively with the TB-Silica Subcommittee, please contact Marilyn at mfingerhut1@aol.com. To express interest to collaborate actively with the HW-TB Subcommittee, please contact Gwen Brachman at gobmd@yahoo.com. If you have suggestions regarding how we could move forward, please also send them to Marilyn and/or Gwen.

In case you had difficulty reaching the TB Declaration via the link in the second paragraph above, put this into your browser: <http://www.stoptb.org/webadmin/cms/docs/Political-Declaraion-on-the-Fight-against-Tuberculosis.pdf> .

Warm regards,
Marilyn, Perry, Gwen and Sophie