

MinOSH 2018-2a : Support for the UN TB STATEMENT

Dear MinOSH Members,

Re: Support for the UN TB STATEMENT

As some of you may be aware of, ICOH and MinOSH are now at the forefront of advocating an occupational safety and health perspective in the **TB Declaration at the UN General Assembly** by the end of September, 2018. This is a UN **High Level Meeting (HLM)**, and the declaration is now being drafted, and will be finalized in the next 3-4 weeks----SOON!

Prevention of TB is broadly a public health issue, and specifically, it is also an occupational health issue/ workplace issue. Primary prevention should include primary prevention strategies in high-risk occupations such as in silica-exposed jobs. Hence, we need to pursue aggressively as occupational safety and health practitioners, coming from different backgrounds as we are, the **language and terminology of the UN TB Declaration**. Evidence-based researches show that TB is prevalent among silica-exposed workers and health workers. This was discussed thoroughly during our workshop on TB in Dublin, Ireland.

For an occupational safety and health language, we are pursuing this STATEMENT to be inserted into the UN TB Declaration:

STATEMENT:

Pursue primary prevention opportunities in high-risk occupations by reducing silica dust exposures in mining, construction and other dusty workplaces and implementing worker TB surveillance and infection prevention and control in healthcare settings.

A. This is where we would need your support/help:

1. To have your Ministry of Health, or Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or any government contact write and endorse the **above Statement** in the UN TB Declaration.

Attached is an example letter for you to send to any government contacts which contains the brief language below that we are asking them to request to be included in the UN HLM TB declaration (from Perry and Marilyn).

2. ICOH is also soliciting support and endorsement from organizations (professional, civil society, government), for one or both of these two statements:

- a. **ICOH Statement Preventing Tuberculosis among Health Workers,**
- b. **ICOH Statement Preventing TB Among Silica Dust Exposed Workers**

If your organization is interested, please indicate your support to one or both ICOH TB Statements by sending a letter to ICOH indicating support of the above STATEMENT addressed to Marilyn Fingerhut at mfingerhuti@aol.com. The email or letter should indicate the full name of your organization, country, and website; and also your name, position with the organization and your email address to Marilyn Fingerhut.

ICOH will be adding a list of endorsing organizations/associations (endorsers) for one or both ICOH TB Statements on the website posted online at [http://www.ichoweb.org/site/news-detail.asp?id=141?](http://www.ichoweb.org/site/news-detail.asp?id=141)

Assuming the UN TB Declaration includes this language, then we look forward to working with these organizations and other partners to assist countries to implement OSH practices.

B. Please take note of the timeline and process to influence the political declaration which are summarized below:

- * The UN missions for Japan and Antigua and Barbuda have extra weight as they are chairing the process and are working on the zero (initial) draft right now. Note that they have received a letter from ICOH and have taken note of our request.
- * There will be two ways to influence the HLM Political declaration: (1) reach out to Ministries of Health and/or Foreign Affairs in your country with the attached request to include our suggested language; and (2) engage the UN missions in New York, who are receiving their marching orders from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
- * Timeline for influencing the HLM political declaration:
 - o The month of May: reach out to your Ministries of Health and/or Foreign Affairs.
 - o June 5 – zero (initial) draft negotiations for the HLM declaration begin.

Again, please see attached an example letter of support which contains the ICOH Statement.

Your support and prompt reply is highly encouraged and appreciated. Thank you again.

Warm Regards, Erik and Jinky

MinOSH 2018-2b : Support for the UN TB STATEMENT

Dear Colleagues,

You are receiving this forwarded message as we missed out including you in the email address list earlier. This will put you in the communication loop. This is the second message we sent out earlier for MinOSH members.

Truly yours, Erik and Jinky

MinOSH 2018-2c : Support for the UN TB STATEMENT

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings! We are writing to you as you were participants and presenters in the MinOSH International Conference held in Odense, Denmark last year. ICOH and MinoSH are now engaging and spearheading a strategic policy to prevent TB among silica dust- exposed workers and health workers. We must be honored to say that the original idea and plan for this campaign started in our Conference in Odense; it is the brainchild of our MinOSH Conference. We therefore earnestly hope that you can

join us, as our partners, in having this come into full fruition. Please see below for further details and how to engage yourselves and your organization in this important OSH effort.

(For MinOSH members, please bear with us if you are receiving this twice).