

MinOSH Communication NO. 2019-35 : UN Political Declaration on UHC includes occupational diseases

Dear MinOSH Members,

A pleasant greetings!

We are once more glad to inform and share with you that occupational diseases and injuries are now a priority action in the final draft of the United Nations Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage. This will be adopted by Heads of State in the United Nations General Assembly.

Specifically, under the *Section on Healthy Lives, no. 29*, it states:

29. Scale up efforts to provide healthier and safer workplaces and access to occupational health services, and to ensure health coverage for all workers, noting that more than 2 million people die every year from preventable occupational diseases and injuries;

Further, under Strong health and social workforce, no. 52 states,

52. Protect health workers from all forms of violence, attacks, and discriminatory practices, and to ensure their safe working environment and conditions at all times.

Please be guided accordingly. See the attached draft and other information below.

Truly yours,
Erik and Jinky

It is my great pleasure to share with you the inclusion of wording about workers in the United Nations Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage final draft, which will be adopted by Heads of State in the United Nations General Assembly.

The wording highlights the necessity of actions to prevent occupational diseases and injuries, and also calls for a particular focus on protecting health workers. The email below, sent by Dr. Sergio Iavicoli, Secretary General of ICOH, quotes the wording. His effort along with others resulted in this inclusion.

Thanks to efforts by ICOH and partners, we now have wording highlighting workers in the September 2018 UN TB Resolution, and the wording provided below will be in the upcoming September 2019 UN Universal Health Care Resolution. Let us continue to move forward and assist countries to implement these actions.

Warm regards,
Marilyn Fingerhut

From: Iavicoli Sergio <s.iavicoli@inail.it>

Sent: Saturday, June 1, 2019 6:44 PM

Subject: I: UN GA political declaration of HLM on UHC

Dear All,

ON April 29-30 I represented ICOH at the United Nations to promote the inclusion of occupational health in the High Level meeting final draft to be adopted by Heads of State and Government meeting in September Meeting.

I am pleased to attach the draft declaration which now is available as approved at the <https://www.un.org/pga/73/2019/05/17/universal-health-coverage-8/> and inform you that our proposals have been included see paragraph 29 :

"Scale up efforts to provide healthier and safer workplaces and access to occupational health services, and to ensure health coverage for all workers, noting that more than 2 million people die every year from preventable occupational diseases and injuries" and paragraph 52: "Protect health workers from all forms of violence, attacks, and discriminatory practices, and to ensure their safe working environment and conditions at all times"

This a great achievement and we will continue to support for its final adoption and implementation. I thank those in ICOH and WHO HQ who worked on this for the support and particularly the Assistant Director General Ranieri Guerra who has been very sensitive to occupational health and very instrumental to make it happen.

Best Regards,

Sergio Iavicoli