

ILO Statement

Labour migration and decent work, as a theme of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, GCM, is a high priority for the International Labour Organization.

International migration is, in general, considered as positive for the economies of countries of origin and destination, and migrant workers are recognized as key actors in economic growth and sustainable development. Yet, their rights to decent work are not sufficiently protected.

Migrant workers tend to concentrate in occupations doing dirty, dangerous, or degrading work, whether in agriculture, construction, manufacturing, or domestic work. At the same time, too often, occupational safety and health and other working conditions are poorly regulated, and their access to necessary occupational safety and health services is limited. As a consequence, it is estimated that globally, migrant workers have twice the injury and mortality rate of national workers. Those in an irregular migration situation, in precarious employment or in the informal economy face even higher risks.

The Sustainable Development Goals call for renewed efforts to protect migrant workers. SDG 8.8, which requires member States to “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.” In this respect, International Labour Standards apply equally to migrants as to national workers, and offer the greatest preventative strategy for protecting migrant workers’ health and safety. Also, as the custodian agency, ILO is developing the tools which assist member States to measure progress on the SDG Indicator 8.8.1 “Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status”.

ILO, in close collaboration with IOM and WHO, commits the promotion of health of migrant workers and strongly supports the joint proposal to ensure that health is adequately addressed in the GCM.

I thank you.