



Towards healthier, safer and more resilient workplaces Global Forum

Concept Note

22-24 November 2023

In Person: World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, Salle V 1 and
Auditorium Z 1 / 2

Zoom via Zoom. Register in advance at

<https://who.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpdOGgrTMrGtBa9CsJM43pDkqNiRz-O9Ak>

Scope and Purpose

Background

With Resolution 60.26 the World Health Assembly in 2007 endorsed the WHO global plan of action on workers' health 2008-2017 and urged Member States to develop policies, regulatory frameworks, institutions and services to protect and promote the health of working populations and the prevention and control of occupational and work-related diseases and injuries.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has adopted more than 50 legal instruments on the protection of workers from occupational safety and health (OSH) risks, notably the Fundamental OSH Conventions, the Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 187) which provide a framework for managing occupational safety and health, in order to prevent occupational injuries, diseases and deaths by the development, in consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers, of a national policy, national system and national programme.

In 2010, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a global model for healthy workplaces, encompassing actions on physical and psycho-social environments, personal health resources and community enterprise engagements.

Since then there have been several other international initiatives addressing health determinants and risk factors at the workplace in a comprehensive way, such as Vision Zero of the International Social Security Association, the Total Worker Health of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States of America, The Workers' Health Plan of Action of the Pan-American Health Organization and the Healthy Workplaces Campaign of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work. The ILO's work on OSH includes development cooperation projects working at the global, regional, and national level, under the Safety + Health for All Flagship Programme and the Vision Zero Fund.

At the 2019 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting (HLM) on Universal Health Coverage, the heads of state and governments committed to scaling up efforts to promote healthier and safer workplaces and access to occupational health services for all workers and to improve the working conditions of health workers (A/RES/74/2). The 2023 HLM on UHC reconfirmed these commitments in its political declaration, "Universal Health coverage: expanding our ambition for health and well-being in a post-COVID world". In addition, at the 2018 UN HLM on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), governments committed to work with the private sector to address NCDs and mental health at the workplace, in particular, by creating healthy and safe working environments through occupational health measures, workplace health promotion, tobacco-free workplaces and health coverage of workers (A/RES/73/2).

The 110th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2022 decided to include "a safe and healthy working environment" as a fundamental principle and right at work under the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) and to make consequential amendments to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008) and the Global Jobs Pact (2009) and the 349th Session of the ILO Governing Body in 2023 adopted a new Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health.

The 76th World Health Assembly in 2023 adopted "Achieving well-being: A global framework for integrating well-being into public health utilizing a health promotion approach" which is expected to accelerate actions outlined by existing WHO global action plans that assist countries to meet agreed targets for overcoming the burden of disease and promote healthier populations, including in workplaces.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the role of businesses and workplaces as essential settings for public health and social measures to contain the spread of the disease. Action at workplaces is also vital to protect workers from other public health threats such as periods of severe air pollution, extreme weather events, chemical, radiological and other public emergency hazards.

The WHO Programme Budget for 2022-23 identified the workplace as a key setting for health interventions for all. The WHO Programme Budget 2024-25 requests the Secretariat to develop a WHO platform on health at the workplace supporting countries to implement initiatives on

healthy, safe and resilient workplaces for all workers and to improve occupational health and safety measures to protect the lives of health workers.

WHO and ILO share the vision and objectives of healthier working populations in safe and healthy work environments. Therefore, this meeting is convened by WHO with technical support from ILO.

Objectives

The meeting aims to:

- Share experience from international agencies, countries and about implementing comprehensive workplace health programmes
- Outline the principles and strategies for health action in work settings
- Define the role of work and workplaces in achieving global health goals.

Participants

The participants will be subject matter experts on occupational and workplace health, health promotion and health security in international agencies and stakeholders, national governments, businesses, workers' organizations, and health service providers.

The meeting will include keynote speeches, thematic presentations, and moderated discussion forums. The working language will be English. There will be an opportunity for remote participation.

Deliberations

The meeting is expected to result in a set of strategies to achieve healthy, safe and resilient workplaces for all in the context of universal health coverage, which together with the review of evidence on comprehensive workplace health programmes will inform the development of a WHO/ILO global framework on healthy, safe and resilient workplaces to preventing disease, protecting, serving and promoting health in work settings.

Provisional agenda

Day 1, 22 November 2023

Salle V 1

8:30-9:15 Welcome coffee/tea

9:15 – 10:15 Opening – [Ivan Ivanov master of ceremony]

- Welcome by:
 - Maria Neira, WHO Director for Environment, Climate Change and Health
 - Manuela Tomei, ILO Assistant Director-General for Governance, Rights and Dialogue, by video
- Objectives of the meeting, organization and techniques - Ivan Ivanov, WHO
- Election of chairs

10:15-10:45 Coffee/tea break

10:45 – 12:30 Session 1. Existing international initiatives and programmes [chair Vanessa Harwood-Whitcher, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland]

10:45 – 11:45 Presentations (10 mins per speaker)

- Healthy workplace model - Ivan Ivanov, WHO
- Integrated approach and strategy to managing health and safety at work – Manal Azzi, ILO
- Vision Zero - Bernd Treichel, International Social Security Association
- Total Worker Health – by video CDC National Institute of Occupational safety and Health
- Healthy Workplaces campaign - Tim Tregenza, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
- Healthy Workforce -Ruma Bhargava, World Economic Forum

11:45 – 12:30 Q&As and discussion on common threads of international initiatives

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 16:45 Session 2. Workplace safety and health [chair Joseph Birago, Tanzania]

13:30 – 15.00

Intro: Maria Neira, WHO Director for Environment, Health and Climate Change

Presentations (10 mins each)

- Principles for health and safety at work – Ruth Wilkinson, Institution of Occupational Safety and Health
- An occupational safety and health management systems approach to addressing risks - Francisco Santos-O'Connor, ILO
- Managing occupational diseases and injuries – Diana Gagliardi, International Commission on Occupational Health
- Mental health at work – Aiysha Malik, WHO
- Psychosocial risks and the ILO's Violence and Harassment Convention, No. 190 – t.b.d. ILO

Q&As

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee/tea break

15:30 – 16:30 Interactive discussion – how to address the diversity of occupational hazards in a work setting – [moderator Tom Gassert, WHO]

Factors

- Physical
- Chemical
- Biological
- Ergonomic
- Psychosocial risks
- Risks of injury
- General hygiene/WASH

Suggested topics for discussion

- common principles for hazard control in work settings,
- hierarchy of controls
- effectiveness, feasibility and acceptability of interventions

16:30 – 16:45 Statement by the Mr William Cockburn, Executive Director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work,

16-45 - 17:30 Afternoon tea and networking

Day 2, 23 November 2023

Auditorium Z 1/2

8:30-9:00 Welcome coffee/tea

9:00 – 12:00 Session 3: Workplace emergency preparedness [chair Barry Kistnasamy, South Africa]

9:00 – 10:30

Intro: Sylvie Briand, Head of the Secretariat for the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, WHO

Keynote – Workers' health in emergency preparedness - CDC NIOSH, USA, by video (20 min)

Presentations (10 min each)

- Pandemic preparedness for businesses – Sarah Hess, WHO
- Climate change, extreme weather events and heat stress– Balint Nafradi, ILO
- Health in business continuity plans – Deloitte/WEF (t.b.c.)

Q&As

11:00 -12:00 Interactive discussion – How workplaces can prepare for health emergencies? [moderator Sarah Hess, WHO]

Public health emergencies

- Outbreaks and pandemics
- Heatwaves
- Floods
- Chemical emergencies
- Radiological emergencies
- Industrial disasters

Suggested topics for discussion

- Principles for emergency preparedness in work settings
- General vs hazard emergency preparedness
- Collaboration between work settings, regional and national emergency preparedness authorities

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 -16:00 Session 4. Promoting health and wellbeing at work [chair Inoka Suraweera, Sri Lanka]

13:00 – 14:45

Intro: Ruediger Krech, WHO Director for Health Promotion

Keynote – Health and wellbeing at work – Faten ben Abdelaziz, WHO, 20 mins

Presentations (10 mins each)

- Tobacco and smoke-free workplaces –Dr Kerstin Schotte/Dr Hebe Gouda (tbd), Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO
- Physical activity –Juana Willumsen, Physical Activity, WHO (remote)
- Alcohol – Juan Trello, No Tobacco, Less Alcohol, More Physical Activity, WHO

Q&As

15:45 – 15:00 Coffee/tea break

15:00 – 16:00 Interactive discussions - how workplaces can support healthy choices, enhance health literacy and promote wellbeing? [moderated by Dorothy Ngajilo, WHO]

Risk factors

- Tobacco
- Obesity
- Sleeping disorders
- Alcohol and substance use
- Unhealthy food
- Sedentary work

Suggested topics for discussion

- Individual vs organizational interventions?
- From wellness to wellbeing?
- Health literacy empowerment for healthy choices?
- Workplace culture and the role of employers?

16:00 – 17:00 – Afternoon tea and networking

17:00 – Reception (alcohol free)

Day 3, 24 November 2023

Auditorium Z 1/2

9:00 – 10:30 Session 5. Equity and inclusion at the workplace [chair Fatma al Hakmani, Oman]

Keynote

- Empowering workers and fairness at the workplace - Christy Hoffman, Council of Global Unions (t.b.c.) 202015 mins

Presentations (10 mins each)

- Migrant workers, Tom Gassert, WHO
- Women in the informal and gig economy – Christy Braham, Women in Informal Economy (WIEGO)
- Workers in the public sector – Daria Cibrario, PSI

Q&As

Discussion: How to achieve health equity in work settings

11:00 – 12:30 Session 6. Health services for workplaces [chair Somkiat Siriruttanapruk, Thailand]

Intro: Ivan Ivanov, UHC/Healthier Populations, WHO

Keynote – The changing role of occupational health services – Shriti Pattani, UK Society of Occupational Medicine – 20 mins

Presentations (10 minutes each)

- Improving the coverage of occupational health services – Jorma Rantanen, International Commission on Occupational Health
- Building workforce for healthy, safe and resilient workplaces – Richard Heron, International Occupational Medicine Society Cooperative
- Primary health care for workers – Rafael Buralli, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Q&As

Discussion: What is the role of work settings to achieve universal health coverage?

13:00 – 17:00 Session 7. Regional, national and workplace health initiatives [chair Ivan Ivanov, WHO]

13:30 – 14:00 Keynote: Evidence on comprehensive workplace health programmes – Karen Walker-Bone – Monash University, Australia – 20 mins

- Q&A

14:00 – 14:30 Action by WHO Regional Offices:(8 mins per presentations)

- WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean - Rola Al Emam
- WHO Regional Office for Southeast Asia - Nasir Hassan (t.b.c.)
- WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific - Akeem Ali
- Workers' Health Action Plan in the Americas, Anaclaudia Gastal Fassa (remote)

Q&As

14:30 – 15:15 Action by Countries (10 mins per presentation)

- Occupational Health in Healthy Israel 2020: Lessons Learned and Follow Up – Eliot Rosenberg, Israel (remote)
- Occupational and workplace health in Healthy China 2030 - Min Zhang, China
- Lessons Learned from Workers' Health Action Plan in Tanzania - Joseph Birago, Tanzania
- Thailand's Happy Workplace Initiative - Somkiat Siriruttanapruk Thailand
- Healthy workplaces in the Philippines - Bonifacio Magtibay, WHO Country Office

Q&A

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 16:30 *Action by private sector* – panel moderated by Natha Somjaivong, WHO

- Andreas Tautz, Chief Medical Officer, DHL Group,
- Kees de Rooij, Global Occupational Health Manager, IPIECA/IOGP Health Committee [remote]
- Ehimare Iden, Chief executive officer, Occupational Health and Safety Managers in Africa (remote)
- Diana Han, Chief Wellbeing Officer Unilever (by video)
- Q&As

16:30 – 17:00 Discussion on workplace health initiatives and their support by governments and national stakeholders

17:00 – 17:30 Next steps, summary, and closure [moderator Ivan Ivanov, WHO]

- International Occupational Health Summit, 2024, Muscat, Oman, Humaid Al Bulushi (10 mins)
- International Initiative for Safety, Health and Wellbeing at Work, Expo 25, Osaka, Japan, Toshihiro Fujita by video (10 mins)
- Closing remarks by Ailan Li, WHO Assistant Director-General for Healthier Populations

Tentative list of participants

As of 13 October 2023

MEMBER STATES

Brazil

Flavia Sousa, Health worker health and safety coordinator, Ministry of Health, Brasília

China

Guangsheng Peng, Occupational Health Department, National Health Commission, Beijing

Israel

Rosenberg Elliot, Director, Department of Occupational Health, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem

Oman

Fatma Mahmood AlHikmani, Director of Department of environmental and occupational health, Ministry of Health, Muscat

South Africa

Malcolm Barry Kistnasamy, Compensation Commissioner / Head of Occupational Health, Randburg 2193

Sri Lanka

Inoka Suraweera, Unit Head, Environmental and Occupational Health, Ministry of Health, Colombo

Tanzania (United Republic of)

Joseph Birago, Head of OHS, Ministry of Health, Dodoma

Thailand

Somkiat Siriruttanapruk, Senior advisor, Division of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Nonthaburi

Togo

Kokou Silvère Kevi, Head of Occupational Medecine Unit, Ministry of Health, Lome

ACADEMIA

Faculty of Medicine, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Rafael Buralli, Researcher, Sao Paulo

Monash University, Australia

Karen Walker-Bone, Director, Monash Centre for Occupational & Environmental Health,
Melbourne

Tessa Keegel, Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne

Peking Union Medical College, China

Min Zhang, Professor, Beijing

St. George University, Grenada

Lindonne Telesford, St. George

Martin Forde, Professor, St. George

UAE University

Balazs Adam, Associate professor, Al Ain

WHO COLLABORATING CENTERS

Division of occupational and environmental diseases, Nonthaburi, Thailand

Hirunwut Praekunatham, Medical epidemiologist

Jongrak Borsup, Public Health Technical Officer

Kaewalee Soontornmon, Medical physician, senior professional level

Kulrisa Kuntamung, Public Health Technical Officer

Ornuma Kalawa, Public Health Technical Officer

Piyaporn Thangdee, Public Health Technical Officer

Thanawat Rattanawitton, Public Health Technical Officer

Oubonpun Werajong, Occupational medicine Physician

Chamaiphon Chari, Public Health Technical Officer

Yaowalak Kaeokaem, Public Health Technical Officer

ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, India

Santaasabuj Das, Director a.i.

Institute of Occupational Health, Skopje, North Macedonia

Jovanka Bislimovska, Professor, Head of WHO CC

National Center of Public Health and Analyses, Sofia, Bulgaria

Katya Vangelova, Head of Dept. "Health at Work"

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA

Casey Chosewood, Director, Office of Total Worker Health, Atlanta

National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, Hanoi, Viet Nam

Hai Doan Ngoc, General Director

Sri Ramachandra Institute for Higher Education and Research, Chennai, India

Kalpana Balakrishnan, Dean (Research) and head of WHO-CC

University of El Bosque, Bogotá, Colombia

Alexandra Yepes Boada, Director Occupational Health Program

University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health, Chicago, USA

Linda Forst, Professor

University of Maryland at Baltimore, USA

Melissa McDiarmid, Director, Division of Occupational Medicine

NON-STATE ACTORS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO

International Commission on Occupational Health

Jorma Rantanen, Past President, Helsinki

Diana Gagliardi, Secretary-General

International Council of Nurses

Karine Lavoie, Senior Nursing Advisor, Geneva

International Ergonomics Association

Maggie Graf, Vice President - Secretary General, 6344 Meierskappel

Public Services International

Babatunde Adebola Aiyelabola, Health and Social Services Policy Officer, Ferney
Voltaire

Daria Cibrario, Policy Officer, Local and Regional Government Sector, Ferney Voltaire

The World Medical Association, Inc.

Julia Tainijoki, Senior Medical Advisor, Geneva

OTHER NON-STATE ACTORS

Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)

Liam O'Brien, Assistant Secretary, Melbourne

Commonwealth Women Network

Nana Wanjau, Vice President, Nairobi

GMB Union

Lynsey Mann, National health, safety and environment officer, Greater London

IndustriALL Global Union

Kan Matsuzaki, Assistant General Secretary, Geneva

Glen Mpufane, Director, Sandton, Johannesburg

Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)

Vanessa Harwood-Whitcher, Chief Executive, Lincolnshire
Harnam Gill, Policy and Strategic Relationship Manager, Leicester
Alan Stevens, Head of Strategic Engagement, Braintree
Alison van Keulen, Strategic Relationship Business Manager, Leicester
Karen Michell, Research programme Lead Occupational Health, Leicester
Marijana Zivkovic Mtegha, Strategic Engagement Manger, Bar
Natalie Thomas, Project Manager, Coventry
Ruth Wilkinson, Head of Policy, Walsall

International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative

Richard Heron, Co-Chair, Guildford
Ron Loeppke MD, Co-Chair, Franklin, Tennessee

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Rory O'Neill, labour standards and occupational health and safety adviser, Bradford

ITUC - International Trade Union Confederation

Owen Tudor, Deputy General Secretary, Brussels

Oman Energy Association

Abdulrahman Al Yahyaei, Chief Executive Officer, Muscat
Humaid Al Bulushi, GM HSE & Standardization, Muscat
Khalid Al Siyabi, GM Quality & Accreditation, Muscat

Society of Occupational Medicine

Nick Pahl, CEO, London
Shriti Pattani, Past President, London
William Ponsonby, Past President, London

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation

Cyrene Martinsson Waern, International Secretary, Stockholm

UNI global union

Christy Hoffman, Secretary General, Nyon

Unite the Union

Luke Collins, National Health and Safety Advisor, Lydney

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

Christy Braham, Workers' Health Coordinator, Brussels

World Economic Forum

Nga Leopold, Programming and Community Lead, Geneva
Ruma Bhargava, Geneva

PRIVATE SECTOR

DHL Group

Andreas Tautz, Chief Medical Officer, Velbert

IPIECA / IOGP Health Committee

Kees de Rooij, Global Occupational Health Manager, 4761VB Zevenbergen

Occupational Health and Safety Managers

Ehimare Iden, Chief executive officer, Lagos

Unilever

Diana Han, Chief Health and Wellbeing Officer, Kentucky

REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ORGANIZATIONS

European Union

William Cockburn, Executive Director, Bilbao

Timothy Tregenza, Senior Network Manager, Bilbao

UN & AFP

ILO

Francisco Santos O'Connor, Senior Specialist in Occupational Safety and Health, Geneva

Balint Nafradi, Technical Specialist, Geneva

Joaquim Pintado Nunes, Branch Chief LabAdminOSH, Geneva

Manal Azzi, Team Lead, Occupational Safety and Health, Geneva

ISSA

Bernd Treichel, Senior Technical Specialist in Prevention and Social Security, Geneva

SECRETARIAT

AFRO

Mr G. Mbayo, Technical Officer (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene), Climate change, Health and Environment

Cynthia Davis, Technical Officer, Climate change, Health and Environment

AMRO

Ms Anaclaudia Fassa, Advisor, Worker's Health

EMRO

Mr Mohammed AlAbri, Public Health Officer, WHO Country office in Oman, Muscat

Ms Rola Al-Emam, Technical Officer, Climate Change, Health and Environment, Amman

EURO

Ms Dorota Jarosinska, Programme Manager, European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn

SEARO

Mr Mohd Nasir Hassan, Regional Adviser for Air Pollution, Environment & Chemical, New Delhi

WPRO

Mr Bonifacio Magtibay, Technical Officer, WHO Country Office in the Philippines, Imus City
Mr Akeem Ali, Head of Office, WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region, Seoul

HQ

Ailan Li, ADG Healthier populations
Maria Neira, Director Environment, climate change and health
Sylvie Briand, Emergency Preparedness
Ruediger Krech, Health Promotion
Ivan Ivanov, Occupational and Workplace Health
Thomas Gassert, Occupational and Workplace Health
Dorothy Ngajilo, Occupational and Workplace Health
Aubrey Musngi-Anouar, Air Quality
Sarah Hess, Emergency Preparedness
Faten ben Abdelaziz, Health Promotion
Aiysha Malik, Mental Health
Juan Tello, HPR Less Alcohol
Francesca Celetti, Obesity
Natha Somjaivong, Multilateral Affairs, Private Sector
Lesley Onyon, Chemical Safety
Emilie van Deventer, Radiation
Bruce Gordon, Water and Sanitation
Sophie Gummy, Air Pollution
Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, Climate Change
Rokho Kim, Science Division
Berit Kieselbach, Violence
Kerstin Schotte, Tobacco Free Initiative
Hebe Gouda Tobacco Free Initiative
Juana Willumsen, Physical activity