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Civil Society Joint statement on EUR/RC73/9 Action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region 2023–2030

Over 82 million people were forcibly displaced globally by the end of 2020, driven mainly by conflict (UNHCR Global Trends 2018). In recent years, Europe has experienced an unprecedented influx of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants. Due to the humanitarian and climate crises the demographics of this population has changed. They represent broader sections of the population and present increased vulnerability amid the women, children and elderly. These are not crises that will go away and can only be addressed by political commitment as well as inclusive approach in national health policies.

The European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Association ([EFNNMA](#)) with, International Council of Nurses ([ICN](#)), European early career nurses and nursing students' association ([ENSA](#)), Public Services International ([PSI](#)) European part, European Cancer Organisation ([ECO](#)), and International Diabetes Federation Europe ([IDF-E](#)) co-signing this statement welcome **Action plan for refugee and migrant health in the WHO European Region 2023–2030**. We recognise the role we have in supporting and enhancing the 'Five Action pillars' as stakeholders. We acknowledge the challenges and inequalities that migrants and displaced people face in accessing healthcare and achieving best possible health outcomes and quality of life. Therefore, European health systems must be equipped to care for migrant populations, many of them living with chronic diseases, and remove the barriers in accessing the necessary care and support. This will in turn contribute to the resilience and sustainability of European healthcare systems.

Furthermore, migrant health care workers are shown to experience challenges in health and mental well-being as well as economic and financial disparity in host countries. We agree with the principle that member states must ensure health work force recruitment complies with, and promotes, the ethical principles embedded in relevant global instruments and codes of practice.

To deliver the strengthened policies and realise the objectives in this action plan and to deliver person-centered, inclusive, and humane care in environment of social cohesion and equity, we need a health workforce that is governed by optimum supportive health systems. Seven years is a short time for the plan of action, so we call for all parties to recognise their responsibilities in not leaving anyone behind.

