CONCEPT NOTE

High-level side event on the margins of the UN General Assembly 2nd High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR)

Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and Human Mobility: From Global Commitments to Operational Action

Date & Time:	24 September 2026, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM
Venue:	Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ Building, New York
Host:	Government of the Philippines
Co-host:	IOM
Possible Member State speakers:	TBC- Canada, Germany, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya
Co-sponsors:	Pandemic Fund, WHO, Africa CDC (TBC), Diaspora Perspective Speaker (TBC)

Background and rationale

As governments and partners advance implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), the Pandemic Agreement, and follow on the outcomes of the second UN High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR), it is increasingly clear that pandemic preparedness efforts must better reflect population mobility realities.

Human mobility—through regular migration pathways as well as forced displacement due to climate change, conflict and other crises—shapes the effectiveness of disease detection, risk mitigation, service continuity and health system resilience. Migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and other mobile populations are often disproportionately affected during health emergencies, yet remain at times, insufficiently integrated into national and global PPPR planning.

Recent global commitments, including the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, underscore the importance of migrant-inclusive, equity-centered approaches to health and emergency preparedness. However, translation of these commitments into operational practice remains uneven. Persistent gaps include the inclusion of mobile populations in planning and surveillance systems, access to countermeasures—including vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics—and continuity of care across borders, as well as coordination across health, migration, labour and disaster risk management sectors. At the same time, several governments, regional entities and partners are advancing mobility-sensitive PPPR approaches, including innovative, sustainable and cross-border initiatives, demonstrating how global commitments can be translated into practical action through collaboration, shared systems and coordinated preparedness.

International health worker migration further highlights both vulnerabilities and opportunities within PPPR. Mobility of health workers underscores the need for resilient and inclusive workforce strategies that support both source and destination countries, while also harnessing the contribution of health workers to broader health systems strengthening and preparedness. The event will aim to showcase that mobility-sensitive preparedness needs to be embedded within resilient primary health care and routine health systems.

Against this backdrop, the proposed high-level event will provide a platform to spotlight how countries and partners are translating high-level commitments into operational action, and to invite renewed political engagement on migrant-inclusive, mobility-sensitive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society PPPR.

Objectives of the Side Event:

The event will aim to:

- Recognize human mobility as an integral and cross-cutting dimension of PPPR at global and national levels;
- Showcase how countries and partners are including human movement, including migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons in planning, surveillance and access to countermeasures, including vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and emergency response;
- Examine mechanisms for strengthening cross-border and multisectoral collaboration;
- Promote migrant-inclusive, equity-centered PPPR that strengthens primary health care systems to advance both universal health coverage and health security;
- Promote investment in sustainable, nationally owned preparedness capacities—including primary health care, community-based systems, health workforces, surveillance, Points of Entry and cross-border mechanisms—to ensure that mobility-sensitive PPPR can be maintained between emergencies;
- Invite renewed political pledges and partnerships for whole-of-government and whole-of-society PPPR in the context of human mobility in line with the 2030 Agenda.

Proposed Outcomes:

- Encourage renewed political commitment and recommendations for integrating human mobility considerations into PPPR
- Highlight actionable approaches for migrant-inclusive PPPR
- Promote stronger multisectoral collaboration and implementation of global PPPR commitments at country and regional levels

Discussion Questions:

- Drawing on recent experiences with health emergencies, what are the most important operational lessons learned in ensuring the inclusion of mobile populations in surveillance, preparedness planning, access to countermeasures and continuity of care across borders, and how can these lessons be institutionalized before the next pandemic?
- Pandemic preparedness and response requires coordination across health, migration, labour, border management, disaster risk reduction and other sectors. What mechanisms or partnerships have proven most effective in fostering sustained multisectoral collaboration to address the health needs of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and other mobile populations, and what gaps still need to be addressed?
- The UNGA PPPR Political Declaration and other global commitments recognize the importance of equity, inclusion and human mobility in preparedness efforts. What concrete investments, policy reforms and accountability mechanisms are needed to translate these commitments into sustainable, nationally owned and mobility-sensitive preparedness capacities at country and regional levels?

Format and structure (tentative)

- High-level opening remarks from Host

- High-level keynote remarks co-host and co-sponsors
- Panel discussion with Member States and partners
- Interactive Q&A discussion
- Closing remarks

Panel discussion – 75 minutes

Moderator: Dr. Poonam Dhavan, Director Migration Health, IOM

Time	Session & Speaker
13:15 – 13:20 5 minutes	**High-Level Opening Remarks** H.E. Dr. Edwin Mercado, *Secretary of the Department of Health, Government of the Philippines*
13:20 – 13:30 3 minutes each	**High-Level Keynote Remarks** High-Level Member State representative x 1 *(TBC, pending level of representation)* Ms. Ugochi Daniels, *Deputy Director General for Operations, IOM* Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, *Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme*
13:30 – 14:05 5 minutes each	**Panel Discussion** Dr. Jean Kaseya, *Director General, Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) (TBC)* Ms. Priya Basu, *Executive Head, Pandemic Fund* Dr. Gerna M. Manatad, Assistant Secretary of Health, *Government of the Philippines* (TBC) *Diaspora Perspective Speaker (TBC)* Member State representatives x 2-3 *(TBC)*
14:05 – 14:25 20 minutes	**Q&A Session** Questions from audience for panelists
14:25-14:30 5 minutes	**Closing Remarks**