

## MinOSH Communication No 2018- 14 : Success Story of OSH Language in the UN TB Declaration

**From: Marilyn Fingerhut**

*Dear Colleagues,*

*It is thanks to all of you and some key others that we have had this success. We look forward to working with you to move forward. Please feel welcome to share this email with others.*

This email is to inform you about our success achieving inclusion of highly vulnerable workers and commitment on the use of occupational preventive measures into the UN Declaration on Tuberculosis. **Our story is at <http://www.icohweb.org/site/news-detail.asp?id=154#>.**

ICOH and IOHA participated in the September 26, 2018 United Nations General Assembly Meeting on Tuberculosis (TB) in New York City. There the World Leaders endorsed the [UN Political Declaration on TB](#) “**United to End Tuberculosis: An Urgent Global Response to a Global Epidemic**”.

We are happy to confirm that thanks to an intense year of effort by ICOH, IOHA, many of you, and other partners, our suggested language related to workers is successfully included in this endorsed Declaration. Click on the link just above to see Paragraph 17, which identifies “health care workers, miners and others exposed to silica” as high-risk vulnerable groups. Also see Paragraph 31, which says: “**Commit to... implementing primary prevention in high-risk occupations by reducing silica dust exposures in mining, construction and other dusty workplaces, and worker tuberculosis surveillance and infection prevention and control in healthcare settings**”.

Marilyn Fingerhut, Perry Gottesfeld, Sophie Kisting, and Gwen Brachman represented ICOH at the TB Meeting. Andrea Hiddinga, immediate past President International Occupational Hygiene Association, represented IOHA.

Our next steps will include development of workplans to facilitate assistance to countries and organizations to implement workplace practices to reduce silica in workplaces and to protect health workers. These efforts will take place via the ICOH SC MinOSH TB-Silica Subcommittee, co-chaired by Marilyn and Perry, and via the SC OH Health Workers TB-Health Worker Subcommittee, co-chaired by Gwen and Sophie. **We will be reaching out** to ICOH SCs and members, IOHA, the (currently 65) organizations which endorsed the ICOH TB Statements, and to all of you. The Statements and endorsers are located at <http://www.icohweb.org/site/ICOH-TB-Statements.asp>. **If your organization has not endorsed one or both TB Statements, please consider inviting endorsement.** Instructions are at that website.

**If you would like to join the TB-Silica Subcommittee, please contact Marilyn at [mfingerhut1@aol.com](mailto:mfingerhut1@aol.com). To join the HW-TB Subcommittee, please contact Gwen Brachman at [gobmd@yahoo.com](mailto:gobmd@yahoo.com). If you have suggestions regarding how we could move forward, please also send them to Marilyn and/or Gwen.**

In case you had difficulty reaching the TB Declaration via the link in the second paragraph, put this into your browser: <http://www.stoptb.org/webadmin/cms/docs/Political-Declaration-on-the-Fight-against-Tuberculosis.pdf>.

Warm regards,

**Marilyn, Perry, Gwen and Sophie**

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