

IOM – 108th Session of the Council

Thank you Madame Chair.

Firstly, let me join others in congratulating the bureau of the Council for their election and assuring them of our full support.

Cyprus aligns itself with the statement made by the EU earlier this week and wishes to add some remarks of its own.

The 108th Session of the Council marks a successful year for the development of a global and comprehensive approach regarding the management of migration with respect to safeguarding human rights in a dignified manner. It has become now, more than ever evident that the multiple challenges of migratory crises in different areas of the globe can only be addressed through global cooperation, solidarity and responsibility sharing.

The objectives identified in the New York Declaration and the 2030 Sustainable Agenda, clearly characterize the contemporary global migration as unprecedented to which particular characteristics derive from the underlying causes of migration, from environmental to serious violations of human rights and organized crime, making efforts to combat the maltreatment of people urgent and imperative. IOM with its valuable expertise contributes significantly to the process leading towards the Global Compact on Migration. As the global lead agency on migration and from last year, a member of the UN Family, IOM's role should be strengthened in the follow up of the review process of the global compact of safe, orderly and legal migration. To this end, my delegation welcomes the adoption of the Resolution on the First Anniversary of IOM within the UN system and thanks the Bureau for this initiative.

Global discussions on migration should be followed with targeted actions at global, regional and national level. Thus, we strongly believe that an effective migration management should include close cooperation with IOM, in particular through its regional and Country offices. It is within this framework that the Cyprus Government actively supports the IOM Office in Cyprus, including through voluntary financial contributions and substantial assistance and cooperation in cases of voluntary returns and reintegration. We stand ready to continue and enhance this collaboration.

Due to our own painful past experience in forced displacement and migration, Cyprus is always advocating for a comprehensive approach that will address the root causes, whilst at the same time keeping the focus very much on the urgent need to save lives and alleviate the pain and suffering of people on the move. In this regard, Cyprus responded on the emerging migratory flows at sea with timely and effective rescues

within its geographical limitations and with the reception of all in need in a dignified manner.

Allow me to conclude by expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation towards Director General Amb. William Lacy Swing for his leadership of IOM and for his tireless work and guidance in addressing the current challenges in a comprehensive and sustainable manner for the benefit of migrants. His wisdom, dedication and personal engagement have contributed in placing migration at the top of the global political agenda.

Thank you.