

Human Security Network

Statement by H.E. Ramon Morales, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva at General Debate, 108th Session of the IOM Council

Madame Chair,

Panamá congratulates you on your election, as we also do the other new members of the Bureau. We are pleased, and offer all our cooperation so that this period of the Council of the International Organization for Migration will be as fruitful as the one we recognize in Ambassador John Quinn.

Madame Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional Network comprising Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand and my own country, Panama, and with South Africa as an observer. Because this text has been accorded in English, with your permission I will now proceed in this language.

Madame Chair,

The Human Security Network is an informal group of States that promotes the integration of the human security approach in policies and programmes at international, regional and national levels.

I would like to congratulate the Bureau for their coordination that led to another successful session of the IOM Council, and on that note, we would like to congratulate the IOM on the occasion of its first anniversary of integration into the UN system as a related organization.

I would also like to commend the Director General and his team for the organization of timely panel discussions, and his important role jointly with the Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration, towards a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

International Migration is a growing phenomenon that needs to be addressed globally, taking into consideration the reality of migrants, their needs and the

challenges they have to face and are exposed to, but at the same time taking in consideration the needs and integration possibilities of receiving countries as well.

In order to capitalize on the many benefits that regular migration can offer and minimize the risks migrants are exposed to, the international community must focus its efforts on collaborating across sectors and institutions as well as on addressing the root causes and underlying drivers of irregular migration that force people to move.

The comprehensive, prevention-oriented and context-specific approach of human security can help to draw attention to current, emerging and future risks at the local and national level and call for proactive responses to stem crises that may lead to large involuntary movements of people. Paying greater attention to the needs and vulnerabilities at the community level can support the development or strengthening of early warning systems and guide preemptive resilience-building responses that reduce the likelihood of larger crises developing.

Madame Chair,

Migrants can find themselves even more vulnerable when relocating to areas prone to natural disasters or conflicts. Moreover, climate change and disasters can be a key driver in human mobility. The application of the human security approach can help national and local governments identify varying levels and types of vulnerability among local populations in order to develop comprehensive yet targeted strategies that account for the specific needs of both diverse communities and vulnerable groups within these communities. Doing so can help reduce the human, economic and social costs of such crises and prevent or mitigate further forced migration and displacement.

A methodological framework such as the human security approach can facilitate actions that are needed in order to advance safe, orderly and regular migration. Therefore, it is crucial to provide support to and expand the application of existing and proven mechanisms, such as the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, that provides a framework for comprehensive, integrated, people-centred and preventive action.

The Human Security Network believes that special attention should be paid to ensure human security and is convinced that human dignity and respect for the human rights of migrants as well as the local population should be at the heart of our action.

Thank you.