

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**94TH SESSION OF
THE COUNCIL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)**

UK STATEMENT

Thank you Chair.

The UK aligns itself with the statement made by the delegation of Portugal on behalf of the European Union and thanks the Director General and Deputy Director General for their statements.

The continuing effective partnership between the UK and the IOM is one that we greatly value, particularly the organisation's operational flexibility and engagement in a variety of migration management activities. We have particularly welcomed IOM's capacity building work in East Africa, humanitarian support to migrants in Zimbabwe and its work on our returns and readmission programmes. We look forward to continuing to develop with you the increased reintegration assistance that we are providing as part of our successful voluntary returns scheme.

The UK Department for International Development continues to value the role that IOM plays in the delivery of humanitarian relief and assistance around the globe. Your constructive engagement within the framework of the cluster system has also been welcomed.

The UK welcomes the adoption of the IOM Strategy at the Council in June. The Strategy is an important and clear statement for both the organisation and its members of the IOM's objectives and priority activities, against which performance can be measured. The establishment of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, with its role in overseeing the policies and programmes of the organisation is also welcome for the coherent focus it will give to the implementation of the Strategy.

Global migration needs global solutions. The UN estimates that the number of people living abroad has doubled in the last forty years and that movement of large numbers of people will continue. Global migration presents challenges and opportunities for the international community. Governments and international organisations must work together to address the challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities to ensure that migration is a voluntary and informed choice, and the needs of migrants are met.

There is growing recognition of the links between migration and development. The UK believes that migration, if well managed, can make a positive contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. To do this, countries need more coherent policies that take account of the impacts of migration on development, and vice versa.

It is important that the international response to the challenges and opportunities raised by migration and development is co-ordinated and avoids duplication. The EU's Global Approach to Migration and the Global Forum on Migration and Development have been positive steps in this regard. The voluntary and informal nature of the forum has allowed states to begin dialogue on complex and sensitive issues. To ensure the GFMD continues to be fruitful states must take the lead in taking forward its recommendations. The UK urges caution in relation to IOM's suggestion for an International Partnership on Migration and Development. The proposal risks duplicating work which is already going on elsewhere and undermining states' sovereignty in this area.

The UK remains committed to working with the IOM to ensure that it is a well governed organisation with a tightly managed budget, that plays a valuable part in providing services for migrants. In this context we support the IOM's efforts to resolve the issue of non-payment by Member States of their annual administrative budget contributions and we urge those Member States in arrears to work with the IOM to find solutions to this situation.

We look forward to continuing to work with IOM.

Thank you Chair.