



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr Chair, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you on assuming your role and offer Australia's support, as Vice Chair, to the work ahead of the Bureau.

Australia would also like to welcome new members to the IOM, including friends from our region in the Pacific. It's good to have you in the family.

Director-General, let me also express Australia's appreciation for our partnership with the IOM, which has strengthened and expanded under your leadership.

In particular, thank you for your visit to Australia earlier this year which included the signing of a Strategic Partnership Framework with our Government. It's a long way to come, we know, and we are most grateful. In a sense, this was merely a formality, as Australia's partnership with IOM has endured more than 60 years. This Framework provides a modest but important articulation of the strong history, connections and concerns that we share.

Mr Chair, much has been said this week about the current state of forced displacement. We join others in reflecting with concern about both the volume and nature of this displacement; that it is simply unsustainable on a long term basis; and that it is patently self-evident that it is well beyond the capacity of any one country or even group of countries to tackle. We need a sustained and multifaceted effort. We need differentiated and nuanced responses. To this end we value our engagement in the Council, to consider these issues in depth together and we value IOM's support to

regional processes in particular, such as the Bali Process, where practical responses can be closely designed.

2015 has been a dramatic year for migration, but also a significant year for how we think about it. The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda is an important milestone marking our agreed commitment to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, address trafficking, and the costs of migration.

The real challenge before us all though, is how we address the gap between the reality of the relentless front page news stories on migration, and these Sustainable Development Goal aspirations.

Mr Chair, we have a lot of work to do. There is not only the refugee and forced migration challenges but responsiveness to the world of globalised travel and labour mobility. IOM's Migration Governance Framework is a helpful tool for us to consider our own progress against the SDG commitment, and for states to reach out to IOM for support.

In the absence of adequate and responsible approaches coupled with humanitarian burden sharing, the bad actors of migration - traffickers, smugglers, pernicious intermediaries - will flourish. IOM's role in supporting states to do migration well is its great strength and we encourage sustained focus on these efforts. Modest but effective measures such as our partnership in supporting ASEAN countries to combat trafficking in persons in the fishing sector and help vulnerable migrants get back home, is a good practical example of this strength.