

Statement of the Slovak Republic

Mr. Chairman, Director General of IOM, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Slovakia aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional comments and observations.

Let me join others in congratulating all newly elected members of the bureau and welcome Lebanon as a new IOM member and the International Commission on Missing Persons as a new observer.

The growing number of member states and partners joining the Organization is a clear sign of the need to meet the challenges of complex migratory movements and the shifting dynamics of migration in a more inclusive and collaborative manner at a time when human mobility has never been as high.

It also demonstrates the increasing importance of the IOM as the global leader on migration, the Sustainable Development Goals and as the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, established by the Secretary-General last year.

Mr. Chairman,

Every organization must adapt, transform, and innovate in order to stay relevant. My delegation takes note with appreciation of the work done by IOM to develop its Strategic Vision to change its operating model in order to address the challenges of the future. We are of the view the Strategic Vision defines the aspired future of IOM in a comprehensive and applicable fashion and constitutes a good base for the organization to meet the requirements placed upon it by the international community.

Similarly, Slovakia welcomes the start of the process leading to development of an effective and efficient Internal Governance Framework and looks forward to continuous discussion with member states during its implementation. It is important to preserve and further strengthen the operational effectiveness and flexibility of the IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

The work of the IOM in emergency response has been growing over time, reaching millions of people, including internally displaced persons. The increasing level of IDPs all over the world remains alarming.

We therefore strongly welcome the establishment of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement by the Secretary General with a view of developing

concrete recommendations for the international community to improve the approach and response to the issue, with a particular focus on durable solutions.

Mr Chair,

Before, concluding, I would like to commend the IOM and its workers for their tireless efforts carried out during last year, often in particularly difficult and life-threatening environments. Finally, I wish to reiterate the strong commitment of Slovakia to further strengthen its cooperation with IOM in the critical period that lies ahead for the organization itself and the international cooperation on migration in general.

Thank you.