



Statement by Finland - 111th Session of the IOM Council

24 – 27 November 2020

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Mr/Ms Chairperson, Director General, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, Finland aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and adds the following in its national capacity.

This exceptional and challenging year has shown the ability of IOM to function effectively and operationally in even more difficult situations. We appreciate the commitment of IOM to address today's multifaceted migration challenges and its' cooperation with all actors. The cooperation between Finland and IOM is excellent and solidly established.

We need to ensure that IOM is well equipped to do what it does best. That is, assisting Member States in their daily work to manage international migration, providing assistance to migrants themselves, as well as being an important actor in the international humanitarian system.

Thus, we warmly welcome the decision in the 4th special session of the Council on a second Deputy Director General. This strengthens IOM including its senior leadership in the times when the size of the organization and the weight of its

responsibilities has grown, and paves the way to effectively work on further reform processes.

We welcome the proactive approach that IOM's leadership has taken to develop and adapt the organization so far. Strengthening internal mechanisms, such as result-based management, evaluation, and risk supervision, even in these challenging circumstances, is important in order to support the growing organization. Finland also commends IOM on its Strategic Vision and Migration Data Strategy which is a helpful tool for strengthening the humanitarian, development and peace nexus.

We welcome IOM's institutional commitments, including strengthening disability inclusion in its internal and external work, enhanced work towards combatting sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as efforts on environmental sustainability. Increasing further the cooperation with other relevant UN organizations and humanitarian agencies is crucial, also in the field. Here we urge IOM to pay particular attention to address the needs of migrant women, children and persons with disabilities, who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

We support IOM as the Coordinator for the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration GCM and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration. The first Regional Review conducted by IOM and UNECE for Europe recently was an important milestone and an essential step towards the global International Migration Review Forum of 2022. We would also like to thank IOM of hosting the UN Network on Migration and ensuring effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States.

We believe that the global compact can contribute to a sustainable and better-coordinated migration governance as it addresses the migration in a comprehensive manner taking into consideration the whole migration cycle and

different concerns of countries of origin, transit and destination. We look forward to cooperate with the Network while we move on towards the global review forum in two years.

Mr/Ms Chairperson,

The EU and its Member States continue to pursue a comprehensive approach to migration, both internally and externally, by the New Pact on Migration and Asylum proposed by the European Commission recently. Finland finds it of utmost importance that the EU continue building comprehensive, balanced and mutually beneficial partnerships with countries and regions of origin and transit.

Let me conclude by reiterating Finland's appreciation and support for the important role and work of IOM, and we look forward to continuing our cooperation.

Thank you.