



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS MONGOLIA

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MUNKHJIN BATSUMBER,  
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF MONGOLIA  
AT THE 111<sup>TH</sup> IOM COUNCIL SESSION**

Tuesday, 24 November 2020

Chair, Director General,  
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the able leadership of the Director General and the Deputy Director General, as well as for the laudable efforts of the IOM staff during this unprecedented crisis time.

Let me also congratulate Chairperson and other bureau members on their recent election.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I wish to give my warm welcome to the Russian Federation joining IOM as an official member.

Chair,

We all witness that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused drastic economic and social disruptions and have had devastating effects on well-being of people, including migrants, all around the world.

During this challenging time, Mongolia commends the agility of IOM to endure negative implications of the pandemic through its commitment and continued assistance to migrants.

Global displacement arising from climate change, environmental degradation, conflict, and persecution exacerbated by the current pandemic demand us to take immediate and resolute actions.

Therefore, the unique role of IOM, as the leading UN organization in migration, is more critical than ever to tackle these emerging and ongoing upheavals. By virtue of the concerted measures in collaboration with IOM, we could alleviate these humanitarian crises.

Chair,

Both international and internal migration flows have an immense impact on socio-economic development of Mongolia. Due to an increasing number of labor migrants seeking employment abroad and lack of economic opportunities in rural and remote areas, we are experiencing a difficulty in mainstreaming migration into development policies in an effective and timely manner.

With this in mind, Mongolia is deeply convinced that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) plays a pivotal role for not only bolstering international

cooperation in global migration governance, but developing a national system for migration management.

The Government of Mongolia attaches a great Importance in prioritizing migration policies. We have included:

- Protection of migrants' human rights;
- Improving access to education;
- Establishing mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits;
- And increasing the positive impact of migration

as one of key issues in the national development agenda.

Since becoming a member in 2008, Mongolia has received support from IOM in improving migration management and building capacity for improved border management and counter trafficking.

Moreover, the Government of Mongolia has been working actively with IOM Mongolia. Since 2011 over 6,000 Mongolians have been repatriated safely from 22 countries with the support from the IOM. In addition to that, IOM has assisted over 2,300 individuals, including victims of human trafficking, to reintegrate into society.

As one of the countries that have adopted the GCM in Marrakesh in 2018, Mongolia is committed to the implementation of its 23 objectives. I'm pleased to note that Mongolia has made a steady progress in GCM implementation. In October 2020, the Government of Mongolia and IOM Mongolia have co-organized a workshop for both public and private institutions on the review of the GCM in Mongolia, which was an impetus to the compilation and submission of a first voluntary GCM review of Mongolia.

Chair,

This year, every economy and almost every family in the world are suffering from the pandemic-induced lockdown, travel restrictions and border closures.

Thanks to IOM Mongolia's full commitment and active support, we have successfully brought back 544 Mongolian nationals stranded overseas, including 174 most vulnerable migrants who had no means to support themselves or to return via usual return channels.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia and the people who were able to return to their homeland, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to IOM and IOM Mongolia for their valuable support and excellent cooperation during these unprecedented times.

Chair,

In conclusion, we reaffirm our support to the IOM for taking its crucial role on migration and commitment to working closely in the years ahead to enhance the whole-of-our approach managing migration in a humane and orderly manner.

Thank you, Chair