

**Statement of Ambassador Nassima Baghli,
Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
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Chairperson, Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

In the face of the Covid- 19 pandemic, we commend the efforts deployed by IOM to mitigate its impacts on migrants in all aspects of their life.

The report of the Director General is very informative about the ways IOM is adapting to the current situation in the best interest of migrants, with a special focus on the most vulnerable ones.

IOM assistance to migrants has extended to many areas, including health screening, help to return, and broader support for migrant inclusion.

The pandemic will have long -term effects specially on migrants. The international community should handle this issue in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity based on the Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration and in line with the Sustainable Agenda 2030.

In the face of the many crises and conflicts the world is experiencing, IOM assistance and expertise are more needed than ever. Its work, at the intersection of humanitarian activities, development and peace make it a valuable tool to mitigate impacts on the populations and improve their resilience.

We would like to commend here, the assistance provided by IOM to the Rohingya refugees who were forced to flee their home country.

Chairperson,

Due to a variety of factors, OIC Member States are often countries of origin, transit and destination of displaced persons.

The Secretary General of OIC, Dr. Yousef Al Othaimen, has recently underlined that OIC States are greatly contributing to hosting refugees and called on the international community to grant them the necessary assistance as required by the principles of responsibility and burden sharing.

Regarding the Covid- 19 pandemic, OIC and its specialized agencies, notably the Islamic Bank of Development, have set up mechanisms to help Member States mitigate the socio- economic impacts of the pandemic.

Chairperson,

OIC is concerned by the growing rise of negative feelings including islamophobia towards migrants. The COVID-19 pandemic has further aggravated this phenomenon.

There is an urgent need to curb this dangerous trend.

In this regard, OIC provided some insights to the document “Shaping the Public Narrative on Migration and Migrants” developed at the 12th session of the GFMD in Quito.

Countries should take the necessary measures to fully implement the recommendations contained in this document.

I thank you.