



112th Session of IOM Council
Statement of Bangladesh in General Debate
(01 December 2021, 15:00 hrs)

Madam Chair

Director-General

Distinguished delegates,

Good afternoon to you all!

At the outset, I welcome you, Madam Chair, for assuming the Chair of the IOM Council. We appreciate the leadership of Ambassador Evan Garcia during the last year. We thank the Director-General for presenting a detailed report.

Madam Chair,

It is now two years that we have been witnessing the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic on human lives and livelihoods. Migrants have been among the hardest hit. Thousands of migrant workers have lost their jobs and returned home without any prospect of regaining them. The uncertainty over their livelihood looms large.

In Bangladesh, we have received thousands of our migrant workers since the pandemic outbreak. Many of them could not go back to their destination countries. Against this backdrop, our government has initiated several short-term and long-term measures for creating livelihood opportunities for them.

Madam Chair,

None of us was prepared for this multifaceted catastrophe. Yet, it provides us an opportunity to identify challenges in different sectors beyond health that require a holistic as well as collective approach to fix them sustainably. In the same vein, it is imperative that safe, orderly, and regular migration is resumed as early as possible for the benefit of all. A universal and standard system to address the challenges in human mobility is urgently needed.

Migrants have always been a significant driver of development. However, it is alarming that an anti-migration narrative is on the rise. It has the potential to inflame the politics of fear and division denying the positive impacts of migration on development. Hence, Governments must make serious efforts for an economic recovery ensuring inclusion of all migrants.

Bangladesh underlines the critical role of IOM to mobilize the global and regional measures for resuming regular pathways of international migration and reinforcing migrants' protection everywhere. We reiterate our full support for the work of IOM in this regard.

Finally, we appreciate that Director-General has duly highlighted the climate change-migration nexus in his report. As the Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), we have been raising the issue of displacement of climate-vulnerable communities in different regional and international forums. Bangladesh believes that the international community should commence discussion on creating an appropriate framework to address the needs of climate migrants.

I thank you.

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