



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus
Geneva**

Thank you Chair,

Cyprus aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States and wishes to add the following comments.

At the outset, please accept our warmest congratulations on IOM's 70th anniversary.

I would like to thank the Director General Vitorino for his comprehensive opening remarks, showcasing IOM's integral role in managing the ever-increasing migratory flows in different parts of the world, despite the severe challenges including the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cyprus appreciates its cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, including its valuable assistance in managing relocation, family reunification and transition to independent living, meeting **objectives 3,7,15 and 21** of the **Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**.

In this respect, it is my great pleasure to announce that **Cyprus will be making an increased voluntary financial contribution** to IOM this week.

Chair,

Cyprus' top priority has always been the protection and safety of migrants. Despite the mounting migratory pressures on Cyprus, especially in the asylum system, the government has taken all necessary measures to ensure the safety of vulnerable migrants, and asylum seekers. We remain determined in protecting the health of every migrant, particularly women and children, victims of trafficking and persons with disabilities.

Since migration affects us all, solidarity and shared responsibility are key to effectively addressing the challenges. Cyprus hopes therefore that the **EU Pact on Migration and Asylum**, will strike the balance between responsibility and solidarity.

We all need to uphold the values we stand for, such as human dignity and cooperation. In this context, **international and regional Agreements must be fully implemented**, including the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement. The Statement's full application without discrimination, is essential for Cyprus, since over 80% of the migrants who have entered Cyprus in the past 4 years arrived either directly from Turkey by boat or via the occupied areas.



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Instrumentalizing the plight of refugees and migrants for political purposes is intolerable, and yet this is what Cyprus too, has been experiencing. As a result, we are the highest per capita recipient of applications for international protection among EU member states for four consecutive years. Cyprus' asylum and reception centres are well beyond their capacity.

Chair,

Cyprus fully supports the **Global Compact on Migration**, and we are looking forward to the UN Secretary-General's next report and subsequent discussions in the course of the International Migration Review Forum.

We share the profound concern following the current instability and uncertainty in places such as Ethiopia and Afghanistan, which has led to tens of thousands of vulnerable persons fleeing their homes and countries. We stand in solidarity with them and neighboring countries most affected.

Lastly, Cyprus as a member of the **Geneva group of friends to eliminate sexual harassment** across Organizations headquartered in Geneva fully supports initiatives aiming at countering sexual harassment and intimidation.

Thank you!