



Statement by Finland - 112th Session of the IOM Council

30 November 2021

*[*Check against delivery*]*

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

Congratulations: I would like to start by congratulating IOM on its 70th birthday. Over the decades, IOM has proved its unique value as global leader on migration and an essential part of the international humanitarian system. IOM has successfully assisted the Member States in managing international migration and supporting migrants themselves. We appreciate the excellent cooperation between Finland and IOM very much.

COVID19: We also appreciate the commitment of IOM to address multifaceted migration challenges even during these exceptional times marked by the COVID19 pandemic. The personnel of the organization have proven their ability to function efficiently even in the most complicated circumstances.

Afghanistan: Afghanistan has been one of the biggest receivers of Finland's development aid, and it remains a priority country for us. We all must do our best to relieve human suffering and prevent socio-economic collapse there. To support the country, we have doubled our humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan this year. In addition, we are considering reallocating additional development funds to humanitarian response. Furthermore, Finland will increase the annual refugee quota for 2022 from 1,050 to 1,500 places as a response to the situation in Afghanistan. Finland will resettle a total of 600 Afghan refugees from Iran in 2022.

Inclusion: We welcome IOM's institutional commitments, including strengthening disability inclusion in its internal and external work. Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities is a long-standing priority in Finland's development policy and a crosscutting objective across all our development cooperation. We urge IOM to pay particular attention to addressing the needs of migrant women, children and persons with disabilities affected by the pandemic.

Migration forum: We find that the GCM (the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration) sets the proper standards for migration and can react to concerns of countries of origin, transit and destination. The International Migration Review Forum in 2022 will be an excellent opportunity to discuss and evaluate progress on implementing the Global Compact. We fully support IOM in organizing the event.

Mr/Ms Chairperson,

The EU and its Member States continue to pursue a comprehensive approach to migration, both internally and externally. Finland finds it of utmost importance that the EU continue puts effort in building broad, balanced and mutually beneficial partnerships with countries and regions of origin and transit. We think that all relations must be based on true dialogue and mutual respect.

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