

112th Session of the IOM Council

Draft National Statement by Ireland

Ambassador Michael Gaffey

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Chair, Director General, Excellences and Distinguished Delegates,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new IOM Deputy Directors General, Ugochi Daniels and Amy Pope. They will have our full support in their important work.

2021 has been another challenging year. Conflict, disease, climate change and other crises have continued to force people from their homes and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded suffering and hardship. And while limited progress has been made, including on vaccine-sharing, recent developments demonstrate the urgent challenge we must face together.

Ireland salutes the work of IOM's staff throughout the world for their essential work in ensuring that people on the move are included in the response to the pandemic. Migrants continue to play a vital role in supporting their communities of origin, as well as in the response to the pandemic in their new communities.

Migrants and their communities of origin are particularly vulnerable to the loss of essential remittances during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is noteworthy that officially recorded remittance flows to low and middle income countries in 2020 were just 1.6% below 2019 levels. Migrants have made the extra effort to ensure that the reduction in remittances was not as severe as anticipated.

But we have not only had to deal this year with the ongoing challenge of Covid-19. Director-General Vitorino's statement of 4 November, following his visit to Afghanistan, on the situation in that country was a stark reminder that new challenges continue to emerge with tragic regularity. It is therefore essential that IOM should have the means, both financially and in terms of its organisational structure, to react quickly to emerging situations.

Clearly, the issues of adequate core resources - which can provide the necessary flexibility to allow IOM to carry out its role in a changing environment - and organisational structure, are closely linked. In this regard, the ongoing budget reform process is of vital importance and Ireland welcomes the efforts being made by IOM to respond to the questions that are being posed by Member States.

As Member States, we want IOM to be able to carry out its mandate effectively. By working together, and recognising that we share the same objective, we can move the process forward to a satisfactory conclusion.

Whilst recognising that earmarked funding has an important place, we renew our call to Member States that are not already doing so to provide voluntary, unearmarked core resources. Ireland will maintain our core funding to IOM.

Let me conclude by once again expressing our appreciation to the staff of the IOM, national and international. Humanitarian workers embody the best of our principles, and Ireland will remain a consistent promoter of your work.

Thank you.