



**Statement of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
at the 112th session of the IOM Council
29 November-1st December 2021
General Debate**

Chairperson,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the outset, the OIC extends its warmest congratulations to IOM on its 70th Anniversary. IOM's mandate and operational responses have never been as relevant as today to meet the ever-growing needs of people on the move.

This already vulnerable population, driven away from home by a complex set of interlinking factors, is being severely affected by the multi-faceted impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which further compounds existing challenges related to migration, development and climate change.

IOM's action to respond to their pressing needs through assistance and the promotion of inclusion is key to support safe, orderly and dignified migration.

Chairperson,

The OIC remains deeply concerned over the increasing number of people pushed by despair into dangerous and deadly migration routes, exposing them to many human rights abuses.

A human rights-based approach to migration is central to reaffirm and operationalize existing State commitments to uphold the human rights and dignity of all people, regardless of their migration status, as promoted in the Global Compact on Migration (GCM).

The OIC is equally worried about the rising religious intolerance notably islamophobia discourse that misconstrues migration, in many receiving countries, as an identity and security threat, especially during pre-electoral periods and political campaigns.

This discourse, that incites hatred, needs to be deconstructed by all relevant stakeholders to demonstrate the many benefits of migration not only for host communities but also for the sustainable development of countries of origin.

Against this backdrop, the link between migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to be further concretized through an effective implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Chairperson,

To conclude, the OIC is looking forward to the upcoming International Migration Review Forum, which will, no doubt, help advance the global debate on migration.

Thank you