

IOM Council - 111th Session

29 November – 1 December 2021

General Debate

Statement by Portugal

Thank you Chair

Portugal aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Let me start by congratulating IOM for its 7 decades of dedicated work to migrants and to the promotion of humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.

We thank the Director-General for his statement and update on current activities, and we praise his continued efforts to the reform agenda, which is crucial to keep the Organisation fit-for-purpose, on a multi-crisis global setting and an ongoing pandemic.

The current context only makes more urgent to restructure IOM's core funding, in order to improve its much-needed ability to quickly react to crisis. This can only be achieved with an adequate and sustainable funding of the core functions.

We welcome DDG Pope and DDG Ugoshi to their new functions. They are key in the efforts to better adapt and respond to the current challenges. We also praise the IOM staff for their continuous engagement to deliver under demanding conditions in the field.

Chair,

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Portugal recognizes migration as a powerful driver of sustainable development. We believe migrants play a vital part in our communities, and provide a positive contribution both in countries of origin and destination.

The recent deterioration in various humanitarian situations reminds us of the importance of a more effective and holistic

migration governance, in line with the **Global Compact on Migration**. We all need to minimize factors that exacerbate the vulnerability of migrants at different stages.

Portugal:

- continues advocating for a multilateral approach to migration, based on solidarity and human rights within a rules-based approach;

- believes that the governance of migratory movements means establishing clear and sustainable regular migration routes, tackling irregular migration and fighting human trafficking networks;

- and we strengthen our cooperation with countries of origin and transit, as no migration strategy will succeed without this. We have signed or are negotiating several Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements with key partner countries.

During the Portuguese Presidency of the European Council we adopted a cross-cutting perspective on migration management.

Furthermore, Portugal is proud to be a “**champion country**” of the GCM, which gathers countries from all regions and we hope to see expanding further as we head to the **International Migration Review Forum**. This will be a key opportunity to showcase the tangible benefits of migration and the importance of a people centred migration governance.

Finally, Portugal has been making **voluntary unearmarked contributions**, as we believe it provides a much necessary flexibility to the Organization. We have also contributed to the **UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund** and invite others to join on this effort.

I thank you