

General debate Statement
by Ambassador LEE Taeho of the Republic of Korea
General Debate of the 112th IOM Council
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Madam Chair,

Like others, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on assuming the role of Chairperson of the Council. It is my great pleasure to serve as a new Bureau member under your leadership. I also extend my appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Garcia of the Philippines.

Madam Chair,

This year, we marked the 70th Anniversary of the IOM Council. However, as the Director-General rightly mentioned at his statement, the international community is facing ever-growing challenges both in global mobility and humanitarian response.

First, the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the flow of people and goods has been a sobering reminder that "Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration," the purpose of the Global Compact on Migration, is not something we can take for granted.

The topic of yesterday's high-level segment couldn't be more relevant and timely. My country was one of the countries hardest hit by the first wave of COVID-19. Weathering sudden and uncoordinated mobility restrictions from almost all countries, my government chose to keep our border open, included all residents regardless of their migrant status into our national health response, and shared relevant information with the public transparently. I believe Korea's experience showcased how a successful pandemic response could be compatible with global mobility.

It is evident that health is ever more integral part of border management under this 'new normal.' I hope that our discussion on the future of mobility, most importantly at the first International Migration Review Forum to be held next May, will go hand in hand with the discussion for a better global health architecture currently underway at the World Health Organization (WHO).

Second, while cross-cutting challenges like the pandemic have added additional layers of burden on people in need, there is no shortage of new humanitarian needs, including most recently in Afghanistan and Ethiopia. We value the IOM's solid

footprints on the grounds and the dedication of its staff who are staying behind and delivering under harsh circumstances.

My government has continuously increased its financial support to help the IOM's life-saving mandate. Following our already-disbursed contributions to Bangladesh, Lebanon, Iraq, and Colombia, I am pleased to announce my government's additional 3 million USD contribution to support the IOM's response in Afghanistan, in response to the IOM's appeal.

While mobilizing resources is always important, it is equally vital to make efforts to raise the efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian assistance. In this regard, My government supports Director-General's Strategic Vision and reform efforts such as IGF and Business Transformation.

I hope my government's first-ever multi-year unearmarked contribution to the IOM with a total of 2 million USD for this year and next year will help make the IOM a better, well-equipped organization in the face of ever-changing humanitarian landscape.

I thank you, Madam Chair.

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