



112th Session of IOM Council: Statement for General Debate

Thank you Chair and thank you Director General.

As we have listened to the interventions during this session of the IOM Council we have heard examples of policies during the pandemic which mitigated the human cost to migrants but also a clear recognition of the disproportionate impact on migrants. Including as a result of border closures and travel restrictions[, shocking at first,] which continue, and indeed expand, today. We are glad to have heard a clear sense from most that lessons must be learned from what has worked and what has not.

We are interested to see how you take forward work on health security and border governance and encourage you to reflect on whose expertise and experience should inform that work.

We've heard a lot these last three days about migrants but we have heard little or nothing directly from them. As you continue to take a leading and coordinating role, we ask that you also take a listening role. And we ask that of your Member States too.

Migrants are not a monolithic group and steps should be taken to engage with the broadest possible range of their expertise and experience as you work to support States in developing responses to border governance in this evolving pandemic and potential future pandemics that is:

- evidence-based
- cognisant of the impacts of vaccine inequality
- in line with international obligations, [including international refugee law and international human rights law]
- and which has at its heart an aim to lower the human cost for migrants.

*** ENDS ***

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