

**German statement during the High Level Segment of the 112th IOM
Council**

Mr. Niels Annen, Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Chair, Director General, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and
Gentlemen,

- On behalf of the German government, I would like to **congratulate and thank IOM** and its staff for 70 years of assistance to migrants and support to governments committed to making migration humane and orderly for the benefit of all.
- **German cooperation with IOM covers a wide spectrum of aspects.** We appreciate, that **IOM's work is building bridges between countries of destination, transit and origin.**
- This was confirmed in 2018, when the **overwhelming majority of IOM's member states committed with the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) to common principles and objectives to manage migration in a safe, orderly and regular manner for the benefit of all and declared IOM the UN Migration Network coordinator.**
- We welcome this strong support for the **Global Compact** from members as well as the fact that **membership of IOM is approaching universal membership.**
- **Partnership is the heart of the GCM. But partnership depends on trust and on all partners living up to their commitments and fulfilling their obligations in line with their word and spirit**

and in good faith.

- **We are highly concerned about recent developments where migrants and refugees are being cynically instrumentalized for political purposes contrary to principles and objectives of the GCM.**
- We would like to express our gratitude to all partners – in all regions – with whom we could forge close and fruitful relationships over the past decades. And we are looking forward to expanding the scope of our cooperation e.g. in the framework of our new **Skilled Labour Immigration Act. Bilateral programmes with partner countries** of origin help to match migrants' skills and job opportunities in countries of destination.
- **The Covid crisis has shown us, how dependent our economies are on human mobility and migration, but also how dangerous and vulnerable irregular migration is.** Irregular migration has burdened countries of origin and transit in particular with unexpected costs, when irregular migrants returned and the need for Covid prevention and protection exceeded capacities in countries of origin and transit. In many countries – including Germany – Covid response relied heavily on workers with migration background working in the health sector and in other essential services.
Health and social protection for migrant workers is a commitment of governments under the GCM. But irregular migration escapes this safety net.

- We have moved quickly at the beginning of the Covid crisis to provide IOM with funds and flexibility to help member states in urgent need.
- Currently IOM is confronted with yet another acute crises: the situation in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries. Germany has provided additional emergency funding over the equivalent of approximately 660 Mio. USD – including 22 Mio. USD for IOM – to respond to the acute humanitarian and socio-economic crisis **in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries** *this* year. IOM and especially its staff on the ground are essential to be able to reach the most vulnerable.
- Germany is the **second strongest national donor of IOM**. But funds for IOM can neither be continuously increased nor can humanitarian assistance alone provide durable solutions. **Sustainable and durable solutions are only possible, where root causes are successfully addressed**. Therefore we encourage IOM to further strengthen its profile as humanitarian and development organization and to continue to work on improving the humanitarian-development-peace nexus of its engagement.
- **We commend IOM for its strong gender mainstreaming policy. Gender equality and social diversity is not a zero sum game. Lack of gender equality in particular is a limiting, or rather detrimental factor** to sustainable development and economic resilience of societies. It is **one of the root causes of displacement, irregular migration, poverty and humanitarian need**. We therefore need also in migration policy a strong

leadership role of women and need to take into account the diverse needs of all genders in order to leverage their potential. Irregular migration can exacerbate poverty with resources wasted for trafficking and women and children left behind in precarious situations.

- **Other root causes like climate change and contagious diseases require joint and coherent approaches of the multilateral system and its member states.**

Germany is therefore supporting national and UN agencies in their efforts to better understand, **anticipate** and deal with related risks and their consequences. We are assisting the new **WHO Hub on epidemic and pandemic intelligence in Berlin** and their cooperation with German research institutions. And we are encouraging **IOM's Global Data Analysis Center (GMDAC)** to link up with the Hub and promote **health safety in human mobility**. We welcome networking between IOM's GMDAC and the new **Complex Risk Analytics Fund**, which is supported by Germany and implemented by the UN, because we need to unlock the power of data and analysis to save lives and resources.

- With increasing climate change, demographic shifts, gender inequalities and the socio economic impact of the Covid crisis, **humanitarian and development needs are increasingly outgrowing capacities** for assistance.
- **Anticipatory action based on better evidence and understanding is needed to turn the tide.**

- **We need the UN System to work as one organism**, coherently and complementary, forward looking and innovative.
- **The Migration Trust Fund**, which is only accessible for teams of at least two UN agencies proves to be a successful catalyst for innovative approaches on crucial aspects like climate action, pandemic prevention, gender boosted resilience and development, community centred border management to mention just a few.
- This is, why **Germany is supporting the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund with an additional contribution of 5 Mio. € - or 5.5 Mio. USD before the end of 2021.**

Thank you for your attention!

