

**Statement of H.E. Mr. BUI Thanh Son,**  
**At high-level segment of the 112<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the IOM**  
*(November 29, 2021)*

***Theme: The impact of COVID-19 on borders, migration, and mobility: learning lessons and preparing for the future (7 minutes)***

As prepared

*Your Excellency, Mr. António Vitorino, Director General of the International Organization for Migration,*

*Distinguished delegates,*

Let me first extend Viet Nam's congratulations to the IOM on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment and the fifth anniversary of becoming a UN agency.

Over the past 70 years, the IOM has proven its leading role in the field of migration, working closely with governments and stakeholders to respond effectively to migration issues, while upholding the dignity and well-being of migrants.

We highly value the IOM's important contributions to the development and the adoption of the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**. We also appreciate your current role as the coordinator and secretariat of the UN Network on Migration in assisting participating countries to implement the Global Compact.

Viet Nam became a member of the IOM in 2007 after years of engagement. And since signing of the Cooperation Agreement in 2010, the IOM has provided generous support to Viet Nam's efforts in strengthening our migration governance and protection capacity, and especially in fulfilling our commitments to the Global Compact during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Distinguished delegates,*

For nearly two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has had profound impacts on all nations, causing not only a global health crisis, but also economic depression and other social problems such as worsening gender inequality. We have seen migrants unemployed and stranded in countries of destination and transit, infected by the virus while having limited access to health care, housing, and social protection. It is quite clear that migrants are among the most vulnerable groups in this pandemic.

We have also seen the high risk of unsafe migration pathways as smugglers and traffickers adjust their methods and tactics to scout for potential victims and take advantages of those in desperate situations. Therefore, we need to scale up

our collective actions to tackle transnational organized crimes, people trafficking and smuggling to ensure migration in a safe, orderly and regular manner for the benefits of all relevant sides.

Looking beyond COVID-19 pandemic, we should learn from the experience of the last 2 years to prepare for the future through:

- strengthening border management, while harmonizing cross-border health measures to advance safe migration and ensure migrant health;
- enhancing coordination in migration governance between agencies and countries for effective response to migration dynamics; and
- designing workable contingency plans to proactively protect the rights of migrants and timely tackle migration issues.

We strongly believe that the IOM, with its Strategic Vision, will help member states to improve preparedness for emerging issues and effectively manage the changing patterns of migration in the future.

Viet Nam is committed to supporting IOM's mandates and will work closely with IOM and other member countries and partners to promote migration governance and safe, orderly, and regular migration for sustainable and equitable development.

I would like to wish you a fruitful discussion.

Thank you./.