

**Asia Pacific Group's statement for
IOM Council General Debate
(30 November 2022, 16:30-17:00)**

Mr. Chair, Director General

I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group. I would first like to appreciate DG Vitorino's overview on IOM's activities and progresses during the year we have had so far.

As we look back on 2022, there are three significant achievements we consider worth highlighting.

First is IOM's response to the situation in Ukraine. The war in Ukraine has presented profound challenges, principally for the people of Ukraine but also across its neighbours and globally. IOM has been at the forefront of the international community's response to these challenges. We commend IOM for its ability to respond with agility and flexibility to new, emerging challenges – in Ukraine; in response to the devastating flooding in Pakistan; in response to the ongoing situation in Afghanistan - while continuing to deliver on business as usual activities in support of migration management globally.

Secondly, the decision we collectively took on budget reform with the adoption of Standing Committee Resolution No. 31 in June was a significant endorsement by Member States of IOM's increasing relevance and value, including as the leading International Organisation on migration. Through adoption of this resolution, we have set a course for the progressive strengthening of the Organisation's core resources. In relation to this, we support the Organisation's flexible approach on assessed contributions as well as the approach for the allocation of the additional budget capacity in 2023

across delivery, oversight and advancement. Through increased investments in oversight and accountability, and the progressive incorporation of Chief of Mission and Resource Management Officer positions into the core structure, we encourage IOM to continue to strengthen internal governance and its ability to deliver in support of Member States' effort to realise safe, orderly and regular migration, including in countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants as well as in developing countries.

Thirdly, we commend IOM for the successful delivery of the inaugural International Migration Review Forum in May. The IMRF was an important opportunity for the international community to come together to consider the state of global migration governance. It would not have been possible without the dedication and leadership of the United Nations Network on Migration, with IOM at its core.

Mr. Chair, Director General

Looking ahead, 2023 continues to present ongoing operational and reform challenges for IOM. Member States' demand for IOM work is likely to continue to increase, as a result of climate change, disasters, conflict and socioeconomic and other crises.

This Council will be entrusted to elect the Organisation's next Director-General in June. The hope and expectation of the Asia Pacific Group would be cooperation among stakeholders and efficient management and implementation of the Organisation's mandate notwithstanding the forthcoming Director-General election.

We look forward to discussing, as a Council, better ways to strengthen and facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, including identifying global skills

gaps and the portability of migrants' social security entitlements as proposed by the delegation from India.

We also look forward to participating in ongoing discussions regarding the Organisation's language requirement for staff. IOM's international staff should have geographically diverse backgrounds and nationalities so they can contribute to IOM's valuable work in a flexible manner. The Asia Pacific Group encourages IOM to champion inclusiveness by embracing more diverse and competent staff.

Thank you.

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