

**IOM 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council**  
**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus,**  
**Ambassador Olympia Neocleous**  
**Geneva, November 2022**

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair,

Cyprus aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU.

I wish to express our gratitude to the IOM and to Director General Vitorino for his leadership during these particularly challenging times.

Cyprus shares global concerns on the ever-rising number of forcibly displaced persons, driven by interlinking reasons such as conflicts, the effects of climate change and the enduring negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The unlawful invasion of Ukraine by Russia has created the displacement of millions of Ukrainians. The ensuing energy and exacerbated food insecurity crises have hit the most vulnerable around the world and will continue forcing ever more people to flee.

Cyprus remains a frontline state in terms of facing multifaceted migratory challenges. It remains the European Union Member State with the highest number of applications for international protection in relation to its population size for the fifth time in a row. Applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in Cyprus amount to 6% of the country's population.

While striving to manage these challenges, our capacities are undeniably being tested. As we continuously adapt our national policies, the cornerstone of our efforts remains the respect for international law and EU obligations, including respecting the rights of migrants irrespective of their status.

To this end, we have been enhancing our legal framework;  
Have been focusing on capacity building;  
and opening up new avenues for regular migration to Cyprus.

We are stepping up the fight against smugglers and human traffickers.

Within the European Union, we are committed to the principle of the fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity in all respects of migration management. Cooperating with countries outside the EU is a critical priority for us, with a view to better managing migratory flows.

Complementing our national policies, the IOM's Cyprus Office runs targeted programmes on capacity building for children and on the voluntary solidarity mechanism, while the AVVR programme contribute greatly to the implementation of our national policies. We would like to express our gratitude to the Organisation for their help.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Last but not least, from the very beginning of the invasion of Ukraine, Cyprus has offered temporary protection to Ukrainian citizens in need, receiving tens of thousands of new applications for international protection, and per capita received the second highest number of Ukrainians in the EU this past Spring.

Excellencies,

IOM's work has and will continue to have an indispensable and positive impact on populations and communities across the world. As the challenges of our world and of vulnerable human beings magnify, the only answer is that, we, together strengthen our resolve in attaining a global framework for comprehensive migration management. Cyprus remains committed to this goal.

Thank you.