

German statement during the General Debate of the 113th IOM Council

(1 December 2022, 16.00 - max. 3 min.)

Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

First of all: Thank you IOM for your strong leadership in the management of global migration and for many years of successful bilateral cooperation!

Germany values IOM as a reliable partner. We share the same aim to secure legal pathways for safe and regular migration. We also thank all IOM staff members for their relentless efforts to bring humanitarian assistance and relief to those who are in need.

Germany is pursuing a change in its migration policy towards a more modern approach: We want to set incentives for increased labour migration, pre-depart measures, streamline and improve our asylum law and procedure, strengthen resettlement programmes, while simultaneously focusing on return. All of this, we believe, enables safe, orderly and regular migration, eventually beneficial to all.

In terms of international cooperation, we inter alia aim at increased and strengthened cooperation with countries of origin and transit, both on causes of displacement and irregular migration and on legal pathways of migration, and also on return and reintegration. All these are necessary elements of a coherent, 360 degree approach to migration. Against this background, we welcome IOM's strategy to consider return and reintegration processes holistically.

At the same time, we all face serious challenges due to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, which has caused a large influx of refugees in neighbouring countries, but also has negative impacts on countries from the Global South as they are in particular suffering from the world-wide food and energy crisis. But at the same time we should not forget other humanitarian crises like the devastating floods in Pakistan or the droughts in Afghanistan and

East Africa due to climate change. We are grateful to IOM for having taken immediate actions to alleviate the needs of those who are affected by these crises. We will continue to support these initiatives, for instance Germany will give 5 billion Euro of aid for food security through humanitarian and development efforts in 2022.

We commend IOM for having achieved substantial progress with regard to its structural reforms. The budgetary reform has been a major step as it enables IOM to strengthen its efficiency and visibility. This reform was only possible because of the willingness to compromise and the profound dedication of all member states. Once again: thank you all partners!

Last but not least, we strongly support the establishment of IOM's Global Data Institute as a central data centre within the UN family. We are looking forward to enhance our collaboration with IOM on data analysis, especially in priority areas, like migration forecasting.

Global migration issues cannot be tackled alone. International cooperation is needed and we strongly believe that IOM provides the appropriate platform for this cooperation.

Once again, DG Vitorino, I would like to express my government's gratitude for your leadership. We stand ready to support you and your work going forward.

Thank you!