

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA**  
**DURING THE 113<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL**  
**29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER TO 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

Thank you Chairperson for giving me the floor.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I join earlier speakers in congratulating His Excellency Lansana Gberie on his election as Chairperson of the Bureau as well as to the newly elected officers of the Bureau to steer the affairs of the Council until the next regular session. We are particularly proud and we are certain that, with their wealth of experience, in IOM matters, they will execute their mandate effectively. You can be assured of Ghana's support.

2. We also extend our warm welcome and congratulations to the Government of Barbados for being the 175<sup>th</sup> member of our great Organisation. We are looking forward to working with you.

3. Ghana aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group, which clearly articulated the need to “address the prevalent negative perception on migration across the world” and called for a holistic approach to address the drivers of migration.

**Chairperson,**

4. My delegation takes note and appreciates the Director General for his update on IOM activities and agree with him that in times of humanitarian crisis, IOM is the first to respond. This, makes us proud and at the same time it places a huge burden on our Organisation to deliver even with very limited resources. This year has indeed been a turbulent

one for our Organisation. From the gradual recovery from the pandemic through to dire humanitarian crisis arising as a result of conflicts and climate change, the IOM has stood firm and delivered on its mandate. It is for this reason that I wish to commend Member States for a successful budget reform process which would address some of the financial gaps in the Organisation and make it even more fit for purpose. The continued field presence of the Organisation assures my delegation that the IOM will continue to be at the forefront of the efforts to improve the situation of millions of migrants in crisis situations. On this note we extend our appreciation to the IOM for its assistance during the evacuation of Ghanaian students as well as other nationals from Ukraine and for providing medical support at the Polish border to those fleeing the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

**Chairperson,**

5. Climate change in recent years has become one of the main drivers of migration both internationally and internally. The African Continent is usually at the receiving end of all the negative impacts of global climate change. All key development sectors of Africa's economy have already experienced losses and damages attributable to human-induced climate change, including biodiversity loss, water shortages, reduced food production, loss of lives and livelihoods and reduced human resource and economic growth. These factors have become key drivers in pushing our youthful populations to embark on perilous journeys in search of better livelihoods. We therefore call on all countries to scale up efforts to adapt to a warming world and implement climate solutions across all sectors.

6. Ghana's CVF Presidency as already espoused by Dr. Henry Kokofu during the session on Migrant testimonies, is committed to advocating and championing collaborations aimed at combatting the effects of climate change at regional and international climate negotiations. We intend to lead the advocacy for financing for "loss and damage", mitigation and adaptation as well as other climate financing in order to expand support for climate change migrants and displaced persons.

**Chairperson,**

7. We are particularly grateful that the Director General highlighted the crisis in the Sahel in his report. This Region seem to be forgotten and receives very little humanitarian assistance. The impacts of climate change leading to desertification, drought and flooding and its attendant food insecurity is increasingly impacting migratory routes and calendars of nomadic pastoralists thus forcing them to move further south in search of grazing lands and water for their animals. This cross-border transhuman movement which is a major herding practice in West and Central Africa often result in encroachment on private land held by local farmers and the destruction of their crops, causing tension and at times bloody conflicts.

In Ghana, nomadic pastoralists mostly settle in the outskirts of communities and are isolated with little or no access to social services such as education and health care, increasing their vulnerability and risks of enticement by extremist groups. They also involve in radicalism and banditry activities thereby fuelling insecurity in the region. We therefore add our voice to the call for more focus and attention to address the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region.

8. Ghana further commends The IOM for its recent collaboration with the Government of Mauritius, which brought together 16 countries from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union and a number of UN agencies, to deliberate on measures to strengthen and scale up diaspora engagement in national development. A similar engagement in the West and Central African regions will be very helpful.

9. Likewise, we applaud the IOM for undertaking Regional initiatives such as the “Network for legal Experts on Migration in West and Central Africa” launched earlier this month in Lome, Togo, intended to promote knowledge and experience-sharing and to further the development of migration law and policy across the region through expert analysis and dialogue.

### **Chairperson**

10. While many are attracted to Ghana for its relative stability, others leave for lack of economic opportunities. The complexity of Ghana's immigration dynamics as a country of origin, transit and destination in a region of hyper migration cannot be underemphasised and it is this reason that we commend the IOM for its role in helping build Ghana's capacity to effectively manage migration while protecting the dignity and well-being of migrants.

11. Infact, with the support of the IOM, Ghana formulated its National Migration Policy to promote the benefits and minimise the costs of internal and international migration through legal means. The policy comprehensively addresses key migration issues in Ghana including irregular migration, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, labour migration, brain drains and gains, dual citizenship, readmission and reintegration of Ghanaian migrants, Border management and refugee issues.

12. We also appreciate IOM's support for the renovation of infrastructure at several border posts in the northern parts of Ghana including the provision of solar powered lights, construction of Water,

Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, installation of border management information systems (MIDAS) and the provision of border patrol equipment. These interventions were very timely in helping Ghana's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Chairperson,**

13. On reintegration, the IOM office in Ghana runs a reintegration programme for returnees who need medical and employment assistance among others. This has improved the self-reliance of Ghanaian migrants returning from various difficult situations. With the assistance of the German Government and the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN), a Migration Information Centre for Returnees (MICR) was set up in 2020 at the Kotoka International Airport to assist returnees upon arrival and refer them to the appropriate institutions to ensure smooth reintegration process. This Centre also provides psycho social support to returnees who need it. Immigration Officers have received training in counselling to assist returnees who require such support.

14. The desire to migrate in search of better opportunities often fuels the activities of human traffickers. To tackle the issue of human trafficking, the Government of Ghana, together with stakeholders set up a shelter for victims of trafficking in 2019 to protect these victims and also aid in their recovery process. The shelter is managed by the Human Trafficking Secretariat (HTS) and they provide victims of trafficking with needed security, psychological and medical assistance during their stay at the facility.

**Chairperson,**

15. In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm Ghana's commitment to the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and particularly highlight objective 23 which spells that "we commit to support each other in the realisation of the objectives and commitment laid out". As a Champion Country we will continue to work with the IOM for the benefit of the thousands of Ghanaians on the move and indeed the many migrants living and working in Ghana.

I thank you.