



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

**Statement delivered by H.E. Amb. Gian Lorenzo CORNADO,  
Permanent Representative,  
at the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of IOM Council**

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Chair, Director-General, Deputy Directors-General, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and it would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate Ambassador Gberie of Sierra Leone on his election as Chair of the Council, I would like to welcome the Barbados as new member of this body and I wish good luck to the new Bureau members as well.

When we gathered last year in this forum, we recognized the exceptional challenges that we had to face collectively. Today, the humanitarian situation in the world has even further aggravated due to the unjustified and unprovoked Russian war on Ukraine, creating further instability on global food security, on the economic recovery after the pandemic of Covid-19 and exacerbating existing vulnerabilities that contributes to push people to migrate in search for better life opportunities.

Italy strongly supports IOM's work in addressing the migration challenges in countries of origin, transit, and destination. We stand at the Organization's side in providing assistance in virtually every humanitarian crisis situation and we appreciate the remarkable work done by IOM's staff on the ground and by its leadership in supporting and guiding governments towards a more safe, orderly, regular, and sustainable migration management. The implementation of the Internal Governance Framework and the recently approved budget reform will greatly contribute to strengthen the Organization and ensure it is fit for purpose in the coming years.

A stronger IOM is what the membership needs in dealing with migration issues. Let's make no mistakes: no Member State, alone, can handle migration. And no Country should be left alone in facing its consequences. Only through cooperation we can ease the burden of this phenomenon. Therefore, we have further strengthened

our partnership with IOM, becoming in 2021 its 7<sup>th</sup> global top donor, in particular financing programmes that address migration root causes in countries of origin and of transit, especially on the African continent, and in implementing assisted voluntary returns from transit countries, as well as reintegration projects implemented by the Organization also at the European level. Indeed, we deem it essential to develop a European framework of cooperation, based on promoting regular migration flows and preventing irregular movements through effective migrants return systems. We remain, though, fully committed to save human lives at sea in the Central Mediterranean, which has increasingly become the main access gate to Europe for irregular flows, contrasting the smugglers and human traffickers' networks that contribute to put in danger thousands of migrants crossing the sea.

Lastly, Italy continues to dedicate resources and efforts to develop a cooperation among relevant stakeholders based on a coherent, sustainable and integrated approach, which on one side helps prevent irregular flows, by supporting institutions and border control capacities in countries that are most exposed to human trafficking, and on the other side, it provides assistance to those in need and promotes the development of local communities, in order to reduce the drive towards migrations.

We therefore renew our support to the Director General in guiding the IOM's membership through these challenging times, also in view of its second mandate, and we commit ourselves in sustaining the Organization in all possible ways.

I thank you for your attention.