

Statement by Ambassador Honsei in General Debate
113th IOM General Assembly

Chair,

First of all, Japan supports the Asia Pacific Group's statement.

The role of IOM is more important than ever as humanitarian crises, including the war in Ukraine, climate change, COVID-19, and other issues which particularly impact migrants and displaced people, become increasingly serious around the world. Japan therefore commends IOM for successful holding of the high-level segment. We have high expectations for IOM's future role in addressing migration challenges and look forward to discussing further cooperation between IOM and Japan.

We welcome the successful holding of the First International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May. Japan has contributed to this process and we will implement the objectives of the GCM in line with our domestic legal system.

Chair,

I am happy to say that Japan's total contributions to IOM in 2022 were significantly higher than in 2021. This shows the high regard our government has for IOM's work.

Chair,

This year is crucial for IOM because Member States approved the increase in assessed contributions despite the current difficult financial situation. We appreciate the efforts of Costa Rica, the other Bureau Members, and IOM in this regard. We hope this increase will strengthen IOM and enable it to ably fulfil its role as a UN-related organization and respond firmly to global challenges.

In this regard, the Internal Governance Framework (IGF) is central to IOM's efforts to increase efficiency and manage risk. We commend the progress made to date and call for further efforts to complete the IGF as planned.

We are aware that IOM's financial situation will be difficult, especially in the first few years, due to the gradual increase in contributions. We hope that IOM will strive for appropriate organizational management by setting priorities.

Having said that, we would like to consider further support for the core budget while taking into account the importance of IOM's work and progress with the reform. As such, we ask that IOM provide the necessary information to facilitate such consideration.

Chair,

As the UN organization for migration, IOM must be diverse. However, the new language requirement is not compatible with greater diversity.

We support the statement on the language requirement by the Asia-Pacific group in the last meeting of the relevant Working Group, and welcome the response from the Director General that IOM would reconsider this requirement. We ask IOM to share the results of the reconsideration and call for the lifting of current rules until new rule is applied.

Thank you, Chair