



PHILIPPINES

113TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) COUNCIL

GENERAL DEBATE

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Centre International de Conférences Genève
Speaking time: 3 minutes

Thank you, Madam Chair.

We congratulate you on your election as Vice Chair of the IOM Council. Please be assured that you have the Philippines full support during your tenure.

We also thank the Director-General for his report.

The Philippines aligns itself with the joint statement of the Asia-Pacific Group delivered by the Republic of Korea.

Madam Chair,

As members of the community of nations, it is incumbent upon Member States to continue to provide IOM the proper foundations and adequate resources to fulfill its mandate of upholding the rights and welfare of migrants. The budget reform signals our ability to cooperate despite differences, to weigh in despite respective internal challenges.

Our advocacy for global burden and responsibility sharing informed our support for the budget reform, as well as our modest but consistent voluntary contributions to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund and the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism. We believe that there is an opportunity for all stakeholders – traditional and non-traditional donors – to heed the Director-General’s call for resources to support the IOM’s robust global operations, and for critical work such as emergency humanitarian assistance.

We understand that recent international developments, including the war in Ukraine, other armed conflicts, and extreme weather conditions brought about by climate change, have driven an increased movement and displacement of people. This reality has therefore placed demand on organizations such as the IOM to increase presence on the ground in situations of conflicts and disasters. In mitigating involuntary migration, our vision must require coordinated actions, both in (1) addressing climate change, and (2) having the political will to resolve conflicts that prolong and complicate humanitarian situations.

Madam Chair,

In order to address contemporary migration challenges, it is imperative for us to keep the conversation going especially after this year’s successful meetings, such as the IMRF in New York, the Global Diaspora Summit in Dublin, and the GCM Champions Ministerial Meeting in Rabat. The IOM should align its priorities and programs to the GCM and the Progress Declaration, which provide clear mandate and guidance on the ways forward. The IOM should work within the UN Development System to ensure coherence, efficiency, and synergy in the multilateral space.

The IOM has an important niche of coordinating the international community to reduce vulnerabilities of migrants in all stages of migration from recruitment to reintegration. This includes:

- a. Enhancing regular pathways for migration and combatting trafficking in-persons and illegal recruitment;
- b. Putting in place humane alternatives to pushbacks and externalization to prevent loss of lives and human dignity;
- c. Encouraging multilateral and bilateral cooperation to address issues such as labor policy reforms, humane treatment of migrants, ending wage theft, providing decent work spaces, and extending social protections and social security entitlements for migrants; and
- d. Supporting more programs to help governments create opportunities for, and ensure seamless reintegration of returning migrants in their home country.

In confronting these tasks, we should not be remiss in responding to needs of all people, especially groups in vulnerable situations including women and children, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities.

Madam Chair,

We assure you that the Philippines will remain an active participant in IOM mechanisms, including here in International Geneva where our migration community play a key role in shaping IOM governance and management. Our aspiration is to continue to pave the way towards a lean, action-oriented, inclusive IOM, compassionate and responsive to the plight of migrants all over the world.

Thank you, Madam Chair. **END**