

STATEMENT
by Ambassador Taeho LEE, PR of the Republic of Korea
IOM Council General Debate
(30 November 2022, 16:30-17:00)

Mr. Chair, Director-General,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group. First of all, I would like to express our appreciation for Director-General Antonio Vitorino's overview on IOM's activities undertaken and progress made during the year.

As we look back at this year, 2022, there were significant achievements we consider worth highlighting.

First, IOM's response to the situation in Ukraine. The war in Ukraine has presented profound challenges, principally for the people of Ukraine but also for its neighbors and across the globe. IOM has been at the forefront of the international community's response to these challenges. We commend IOM for its ability to respond with agility and flexibility to new, emerging challenges -- not only in Ukraine; but also in response to the devastating flooding in Pakistan; and in response to the ongoing situation in Afghanistan -- while continuing to deliver on ordinary, daily activities in support of migration management globally.

Secondly, the decision we collectively took on budget reform with the adoption of Standing Committee Resolution No. 31 in June was a significant endorsement by Member States of IOM's increasing relevance and value, including as the leading International Organisation on migration.

Through adoption of this resolution, we have set a course for the progressive strengthening of the Organization's core resources. In relation to this, we support the Organization's flexible approach on assessed contributions / as

well as the approach for the allocation of the additional budget capacity in 2023 across delivery, oversight and advancement. Through increased investments in oversight and accountability, and the progressive incorporation of Chief of Mission and Resource Management Officer positions into the core structure, we encourage IOM to continue to strengthen internal governance and its ability to deliver in support of Member States' effort to realize safe, orderly and regular migration, including in countries of origin, countries in transit and destination of migrants as well as in developing countries.

Thirdly, we commend IOM for the successful delivery of the inaugural International Migration Review Forum in May. The IMRF was an important opportunity for the international community to come together to consider the state of global migration governance. It would not have been possible without the dedication and leadership of the United Nations Network on Migration, with IOM at its core.

Mr. Chair, Director General,

Looking ahead, next year, 2023, continues to present ongoing operational and reform challenges for IOM. Member States' demand for IOM work is likely to continue to increase, as a result of climate change, disasters, conflict and socioeconomic and other crises.

This Council will be entrusted to elect the Organization's next Director-General before the end of June. The hope and expectation of the Asia Pacific Group would be continuously enhancing cooperation among stakeholders and ensuring efficient management and implementation of the Organization's mandate, notwithstanding the forthcoming Director-General election.

We look forward to discussing, as a Council, better ways to strengthen and facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, including identifying global skills gaps and the portability of migrants' social security entitlements as proposed by the delegation from India.

We also look forward to participating in ongoing discussions regarding the Organization's language requirement for staff. IOM's international staff should have geographically diverse backgrounds and nationalities so that they can contribute to IOM's valuable work in a flexible manner. The Asia Pacific Group encourages IOM to champion inclusiveness by embracing more diverse and competent staff.

Now, Mr. Chair, with your permission I would like to proceed to the intervention in my national capacity.

Joining others, let me extend my delegation's congratulations to you on assuming the Chairmanship of the Council. It is a pleasure for Korea to serve as the Second Vice-Chair of the Bureau under your leadership. I also convey my appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Francisca Méndez of Mexico.

Mr. Chair,

This year, the international community has witnessed an ever-growing number of displaced people and increased humanitarian needs across the globe, due to various challenges ranging from conflicts to climate change. The interlinked nature of crises calls for a more sophisticated and collaborative approach to both global mobility and humanitarian response.

Despite these daunting challenges, we are pleased to note that IOM has successfully fulfilled its core mandates. First and foremost, IOM has excelled in responding to various humanitarian crises across the world, maximizing its strength

in agility and expertise on the ground. Meanwhile, the Organization has never neglected its distinctive leadership role in promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration. The Global Diaspora Summit¹, the IMRF,² and the IDM³ have all provided us with the opportunities to reiterate our commitment as the international community to mainstream human mobility in the context of sustainable development and climate change. Building upon the outcomes of COP27, the High-level segment which took place until this morning once again brought Member States together to seek concerted efforts to turn the challenges of our times -- climate change, food security, migration and displacement -- into new opportunities.

Along with IOM's organizational growth, the Government of the Republic of Korea has been placing a growing emphasis on its cooperation with the Organization. Our increased voluntary contribution to IOM's emergency responses and multi-year unearmarked funding demonstrate my government's deepening trust in the Organization.

I would like to encourage IOM to keep up with the good work to meet the expectations of Member States. The transparency and effectiveness of the Organization, especially in accordance with its budget reform, should be ensured in order to translate the forward-looking stance of Member States into benefits for people in need. The vulnerability of people in protracted and forgotten crises also needs to be duly addressed. Last but not least, Member States and IOM should seek ways to narrow the growing funding gap in the ever-changing humanitarian landscape.

Mr. Chair, let me conclude my remarks by reiterating the Government of the Republic of Korea's strong commitment to joining the efforts of IOM to carry out our shared responsibility in the years to come.

¹ Global Diaspora Summit (co-hosted in April with Ireland; participated by the ROK)

² IMRF: International Migration Review Forum (hosted in May in New York; participated by the ROK with a statement)

³ IDM: International Dialogue on Migration (hosted in October in Geneva; participated by the ROK with a statement)

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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