



# PHILIPPINES

## NATIONAL STATEMENT

### HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 113<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL

*Theme: The intersection between climate change, food security, migration and displacement*

29 November 2022 Speaking time: 5 minutes (maximum)

Director-General António Vitorino,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen:

**The Philippines recognizes the role of the IOM in protecting the rights and welfare of migrants and other people on the move.** The IOM has earned for itself an international profile of having a robust and impactful presence on the ground, and its personnel and aid workers have maintained a strong presence in displacement situations in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world.

At a time when **climate change and food security have contributed to increased migration and displacement**, the global community needs robust international organizations. The IOM, working within the Development System of the UN, should be able to carry the banner of its core advocacy – migrants. It should support tangible projects, including through capacity building programs with meaningful national ownership. With the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund as a reliable vehicle in driving such support, the Philippines has been its supporter, donor, and recipient. During its time as an MPTF steering group member, the Philippines pushed for projects related to climate change and migration – part of our responsibility to heed the call of the times.

The **Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum** articulates that climate change, environmental degradation, and natural disasters are among the drivers of migration. It recognizes that for us to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, developed countries must scale up climate finance. This call for action for **climate action and climate justice** cut across all multilateral fora, and must be at the top of the agenda not just in the UNFCCC platform. Our work in the IOM necessarily requires an understanding and acceptance that we are in a climate emergency, if we envision to protect migrants and people in vulnerable situations and uphold the human rights of all.

We have seen first-hand how the IOM has played its critical part in responding to climate and disaster-induced displacement through **the delivery of swift humanitarian assistance**. The IOM has been a reliable partner of the Philippines in disaster resiliency and disaster response as countries like ours cope with extreme weather conditions and natural hazards brought about by climate change.

MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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We appreciate how the **IOM has supplemented the Philippines' disaster risk reduction, management, and response**. To have an effective role in preventing and responding to climate and disaster displacement, the IOM should find its niche within the broader local, national, and international ecosystem. This means working with national authorities, local governments, and communities, and coordinating with other UN and international organizations to ensure that initiatives consider the most efficient use of manpower and resources and are not duplicated.

In Geneva and in New York, the IOM can **continue to build partnerships**, including with related groups and existing initiatives, the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move. We are encouraged that the IOM and the UNHCR can seamlessly collaborate on mixed movements, through the recently signed Framework of Engagement. We can explore how to level-up coordination with the UNDRR, and participate in the upcoming Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework in May 2023.

**For the Philippines, both climate change and food security are existential issues, which affects the lives of more than 100 million residents and more than 10 million Filipino migrants all over the world.** Natural hazards have increased in intensity and frequency, placing a strain on our economy, including adversely affecting agricultural harvests, threatening livelihoods, damaging critical infrastructure, and displacing rural communities. Just last month, a severe tropical storm made several landfalls in all 17 regions of the country, affecting more than half a million families, causing the loss of lives and damage to agriculture. **It is for this reason that President Marcos has placed agriculture, climate change, and disaster risk resilience among his priorities.** We aim for inclusive development so that for Filipinos, migration will be a choice not a necessity. This means less structural inequality, more economic options, reduced vulnerabilities for women, children, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities.

**We, therefore, endorse the organization's recognition of and response to the intersections between climate change and food security with migration and displacement.** We are committed to supporting the IOM in implementing the aspirations of the Global Compact on Migration, the Progress Declaration, and the Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021-2030.

Thank you. **END**