



سفارت و نمایندگی  
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان  
ژنیو - سویس

EMBASSY & MISSION of  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC of AFGHANISTAN  
Geneva - Switzerland

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت  
سفارت او نمایندگی  
ژنیو - سویس

## Statement of Afghanistan at the 114th Session of the Council of IOM (2023)

### Check against delivery

Mr. Chair,

I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the newly elected Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). I assure you of Afghanistan's support and cooperation in your tenure as the DG of the IOM. We appreciate your dedication and commitment to addressing the pressing migration challenges faced by countries around the world, particularly in Afghanistan, where IOM is working under difficult circumstances.

Madam Chair,

The people of Afghanistan continue to face multiple challenges, which have been further exacerbated following the military takeover of the country in August 2021. More than half of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance, and internal displacements, including due to natural disasters, climate change, and forced displacement, continue. Most recently, the earthquake in Herat province brought significant devastation and loss of life. The number of deaths and sluggish response during the earthquake demonstrated the depth of vulnerability, lack of Taliban capacity, and gap in international resources. However, we express our gratitude to the IOM for providing relief to the affected communities and the IDPs.

Additionally, Afghanistan is facing a significant influx of forced returnees from Pakistan and their resettlement in Afghanistan. Until now approximately 400 thousand have been expelled and based on recent data, on average 5000 Afghans are crossing the border into Afghanistan. Those returnees need immediate attention.

While emphasizing on provision of humanitarian assistance, we call on the (IOM) to consider the political sensitivities surrounding the resettlement of these returnees. It is essential to prioritize a comprehensive and inclusive approach to ensure their smooth resettlement and mitigate potential tensions and social, economic, and political challenges that may arise.

Mr Chair,

Since the August 2021 military takeover, Afghanistan witnessed thousands of its brightest and most invested human capital who possess valuable knowledge, skills, and expertise leaving the country. Billions of dollars have been invested in this generation of professional youth who are now scattered around the world. These were and are the backbone of our modern state, and



سفارت و نمایندگی  
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان  
ژنیو - سویس

EMBASSY & MISSION of  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC of AFGHANISTAN  
Geneva - Switzerland

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت  
سفارت او نمایندگی  
ژنیو - سویس

we should continue to work on opportunities for this generation to return to Afghanistan once the situation changes and take part in rebuilding our institutions and the economy.

Lastly, we emphasize the importance of ensuring the effective and efficient distribution of support to the people of Afghanistan goes directly to the people of Afghanistan by mechanisms to prevent the misuse or diversion of resources by the Taliban on the ground. We call upon the IOM, UN agencies, and other international organizations engaging in humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan to collaborate in this endeavor to ensure that assistance reaches the intended recipients and is utilized for their immediate needs and long-term development in transparent, human rights-based, inclusive and effective delivery mechanism.

To conclude, we appreciate the support the IOM and member states who generously provided to the people of Afghanistan. We are committed to working together to overcome the challenges we face and ensure a prosperous and inclusive future for the people of Afghanistan.

Thank you, Mr Chair.