

# The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

## The 114<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council

### Arab Group Statement

**Madame Chairperson**

**Madame Director General**

**Distinguished delegates**

Egypt is honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Arab Group.

The Arab Group seizes this opportunity to re-iterate its appreciation and support to Ms. Amy Pope, as she embarks on this critical role, as the new Director General of the IOM, in the midst of mounting global humanitarian challenges, forever changing the outlook of humanitarian work as we know it, and pushing us forward towards accelerating our joint action, and finding innovative solutions in the face of new and protracted crises.

The Arab Group welcomes the report of the Director General, which reflects a new beginning for the IOM, both on the institutional and operational levels, and welcomes the focus of the new leadership on emergency preparedness and response, climate mobility solutions, and enhanced regular pathways for migration and labor mobility.

The Arab group appreciates the role IOM is playing in response to the complex humanitarian crises in the region, as part of the UN wide response. **We note with appreciation IOM's recently launched appeal for the humanitarian response in the occupied Palestinian territories** and neighboring countries, its mobilization of humanitarian supplies to the affected populations in Gaza, and its support in evacuating Third Country Nationals and injured civilians through the Rafah Border crossing.

We also commend Ms. Pope for joining the statement by the principals of the Inter-Agency Standing committee rejecting the establishment of any "safe zone" in Gaza that would be set up without the agreement of all the parties, and calling for a humanitarian ceasefire to ease the suffering and to help facilitate humanitarian operations.

We seize this critical humanitarian platform to remind the international community of its humanitarian, legal, and moral commitments, to put an end to the Israeli military aggression on Gaza, with its unprecedented and devastating humanitarian consequences, and to stand firmly against any attempts, by Israel as the occupying power, to forcibly transfer the Palestinian people, from their homes, whether within or outside the Gaza strip.

We also call on the UN system and the international community, to strengthen its humanitarian emergency response in Gaza, to join the growing call for an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire and to address the root causes of the ongoing crisis, which is the 75 years of Israeli occupation.

**The Arab group also welcomes the efforts of the IOM in supporting the humanitarian response to the ongoing crisis in Sudan.** The group calls on the international community to commit to the pledges it has made to the Humanitarian Response Plan in Sudan, which remains largely underfunded, despite the escalating humanitarian situation, and its devastating impact on the Sudanese people and its neighboring countries.

The Arab Group, representing countries of origin, transit, and destination, are looking forward to **supporting the Director General in her efforts** for ensuring effective migration governance and enhancing safe, and legal migratory pathways that would contribute to the sustainable development of migrants and their host communities.

The Arab Group emphasizes the need to addressing growing challenges related to migration and displacement in a **collective and holistic manner** that tackles the adverse drivers of migration and takes the rights and well-being of migrants- as well as their hosting communities- into account.

The Arab Group reaffirms the importance of implementing the **Global Compact on Migration**, in accordance with national priorities, and acknowledges the shared responsibilities of states to respect each other's needs and concerns over migration, as well as the need for enhanced international cooperation to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, through the implementation of well-governed migration policies. We emphasize the important role of the IOM as coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, and look forward to more engagement with the DG in this regard.

The Arab Group underscores **the critical role of the IOM in supporting States to safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants, and develop a positive discourse on migrants' contributions**, which helps combat intolerance, racism and xenophobia. It further stresses the important role by the IOM in **facilitating cooperation between countries of origin and destination to mitigate against challenges associated with "Brain Drain"** and consolidate the positive contribution of migration towards sustainable development.

**The Arab Group welcomes the new IOM's leadership priority focus on Human Mobility in the context of climate change (HMCCC)**, and accelerating global action towards

climate-mobility response. We recognize the increasing impact of climate change and environmental degradation on new and existing movements, and emphasize the need for context-driven tailored solutions to respond to the needs of affected populations, especially people living in vulnerable situations should not left behind.

The Arab group continues to **support the IOM reform efforts**, intended to make the Organization fit for purpose, taking into consideration its increased responsibilities and growing challenges. We highlight the importance of continued commitment by IOM's leadership to ensuring efficiency, transparency, and accountability of the organization, and reflecting the priorities and needs of countries in which it operates in a balanced manner. We also welcome the budget reforms aimed at finding a solution to the limitations of the dependency on the core-funded structure, and engaging with non-conventional donors, particularly the private sector to enhance flexible funding that can support project implementation and overcome challenges pertaining to the increasing gap between humanitarian needs and available funding.

The Arab Group also welcomes the IOM's commitment to **ensuring equitable geographical representation**. With the steadily increasing cooperation between members of the Arab region and the IOM, the group recalls its **request to add Arabic as an official language of the Organization** in line with UN-wide standards and practice, with the aim of an enhanced regional and geographical representation, and a continued engagement with the region's priorities.

Finally, the Arab Group re-iterates its commitment to extending its support to the DG, and the IOM leadership to continue its crucial role as the leading organization in the field of Migration in the UN system, and pledges to continue to play a constructive role in promoting multilateral efforts towards effective and sustainable migration policies.

I thank you.

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