

**Joint Statement of the Asia-Pacific Group  
for the 114<sup>th</sup> IOM Council General Debate  
(27 November 2023)**

Madam Chair,

I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group.

We extend warm congratulations on your assumption of the role of Chairperson of the IOM Council. Your experience and dedication are invaluable assets and we are confident that they will guide us towards another productive and harmonious year ahead. We also convey our appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Lansana Gberie of Sierra Leone.

We thank the Director-General for her comprehensive presentation on IOM's activities and progress this year we have had so far, as well as the plans for the coming year.

Asia-Pacific, as one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, faced 98 out of the 308 climate-related disasters that occurred worldwide in 2022. In this regard, the Asia-Pacific Group finds the Director-General's attention on climate change and its impact on human mobility especially timely. Recent statistics have shown that climate change is becoming a major driver of displacement at an unprecedented rate. The number of internally displaced people by disasters reached 8.7 million in 2022, marking a 45-percent increase compared to the previous year. It is also projected that nearly 200 million people per year might need

humanitarian assistance by 2050 due to climate-related disasters and socioeconomic impacts of climate change.

We find IOM's attention on the climate impact on human mobility and promotion of legal pathways timely and relevant, including their inclusion in the programmes and budget for the coming year. We also encourage IOM to take a greater role in bringing together diverse stakeholders, such as Governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector in finding comprehensive and creative solutions for these issues.

We also appreciate IOM's growing visibility as the UN's migration agency, particularly its role as the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration. We encourage IOM to continue stepping up its efforts in achieving safe, regular, and orderly migration and enhancing the integration of migration across the UN System. As the world is faced with a complex situation of mixed movements including forced displacement, we further recommend that IOM continues to engage constructively with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), working jointly to find solutions for people in displacement.

Madam Chair, Director-General,

As Member States, we are pleased to find the IOM's advancement into the role of the UN's leading migration agency, with an annual budget of 3 billion and around 20,000 staff members. However, we would like to

highlight the pressing need for IOM to further strengthen its core organizational capacities for the future development of IOM. As pointed out in the recent MOPAN assessment, there is room for IOM to further develop its organizational capacity to support its rapidly-expanding programmes. It is of utmost importance that IOM builds stronger capacities in human resources, inclusion, legal, control and monitoring functions. It should also set clear priorities and align its programmes accordingly. In this respect, we look forward to engaging in constructive consultations with IOM over its new strategic plan for the next five years.

Last but not least, we welcome the Director-General's commitment to enhancing the geographical and gender representation within the IOM's workforce at all levels, which would surely be an asset to the Organization.

Thank you, Chair.

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