



**114<sup>th</sup> Session of IOM Council**  
**Statement of Bangladesh in General Debate**  
**(29 November, 10:00 hrs, CICG)**

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**Madam. Chair**

**Director-General and Deputy Director General**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

We welcome Ambassador Dr. Katharina Stasch on her assumption of the chair of IOM council. We extend our warm welcome to our new Director-General Amy Pope and express our confidence that her leadership will add further impetus to the IOM's work to advance humane and orderly migration. We find her maiden report full of good and timely ideas.

**Madam Chair,**

Migrants fill labour market gaps owing to demographic realities as well as bring innovation and improved business practices in the destination countries. However, migrants continue to experience racial profiling and discrimination, xenophobia, and other inhumane treatment. We kept hearing of many such incidents during the Covid 19 pandemic when migrants in some countries were not only forced to return to their countries of origin but also were denied access to healthcare services. We urge states to guarantee the rights of migrant workers. Considering the contribution of migrants in their respective economies, States should consider entering into Social Security Agreements to ensure that gaps in their social security coverage are addressed, portability of such coverage ensured.

While We appreciate IOM for its continuous support to vulnerable migrants in their return to their country of origin, we would seek greater focus on return and readmission. Efforts of countries of origin to reintegrate returnee migrants through financial assistance and skilling and reskilling require enhanced international support through IOM's operations.

**Madam Chair,**

Bangladesh continues to host around 1.2 million Rohingyas for over 6 years. and not a single Rohingya could go back to their homeland. We witness continued funding gap in the UN's humanitarian response - the Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingyas. According to the latest report, the JRP has been funded only 34 per cent, leading to a 33 per cent reduction in food rations in the first half of the year. This shortage of funding puts additional burden on Bangladesh. The international community must undertake equal responsibility of the Rohingya crisis on the basis of principle of equitable burden- and responsibility- sharing. We want IOM to continue keep the matter in its agenda of high importance.

As we are committed to safe and voluntary return of the Rohingyas to Myanmar, we urge the international and regional actors and partners including IOM to contribute to creating right conditions for return in Rakhine, develop programmes for reintegration, invest in livelihood options and infrastructures there so as to make pilot repatriation efforts made by Bangladesh, Myanmar and China successful.

**Madam Chair,**

We appreciate IOM for arranging High Level segment focusing Climate Impact on Human Mobility. Loss and Damage and climate induced migration and displacement are intricately interrelated. The proposed loss and damage fund was a promising start, but we need to see international financial system fairer and better address the challenges of climate vulnerable economies. We hope that momentum of this High Level segment would be carried forward by the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and other relevant platforms towards creating an appropriate framework to address the needs of climate migrants.

As we appreciate the general direction and strategies indicated in the report of the Director General, we highlight the following aspects in particular:

- a. While IOM continues its crisis response role, it should work with mandated UN agencies, the international community and local

authorities and NGOs to monitor drivers of vulnerability and marginalization and work towards mitigating drivers of displacement before they force people to move;

- b. As internal displacements from climatic and environmental reasons are exceeding those caused by conflicts and violences, IOM ought to consider proportionate and higher allocation of resources towards these drivers of forced migration;
- c. IOM to seek to mobilise unearmarked funds beyond governmental sources with only a small portion to be paid upfront and the remaining to be contributed only when emergency response scenario demand funds.

While IOM works to develop digital solutions to offer prospective migrants access to more efficient and economic channels such as its PATH platform, it should collaborate more with UNODC and other mandated UN agencies, Regional Consultative processes and Regional Associations and organizations for effectiveness.

I thank you.

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