



Statement by Finland - 114th Session of the IOM Council

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Delivered by H.E. Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Finland, Geneva

[*Check against delivery*]

Mr/Ms Chairperson, Director General, Excellencies and
Distinguished Delegates,

Finland aligns itself with the statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, as well as the Joint statement that will be delivered by Ukraine.

I would like to start by welcoming Ms Amy Pope as the new Director General. We welcome your vision, the people-centred, data-driven approach that you have outlined, as well as your holistic approach to tackling migrant smuggling and trafficking in

persons. IOM has a unique value as a global leader on migration and as an essential part of the international humanitarian system. In this context, we want to thank IOM and its staff for the invaluable work that you do all over the world, often in extremely difficult circumstances.

Mr/Ms Chairperson,

We welcome the proactive approach that IOM's leadership continue to have to reform and develop the organization, and we encourage them to carry on this important work. Strengthening internal mechanisms, such as result-based management, human resources, evaluation, risk supervision and internal justice system, is necessary.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We stand firm to protect the principles enshrined in the international law. We must also fight racism, hatred and discrimination on any grounds, including sexual orientation or gender identity.

Finland emphasizes gender responsiveness, and urges IOM to strengthen its work on disability inclusion, to make sure it is strategic and cuts across the whole organization. In addition to

persons with disabilities, we encourage IOM to pay particular attention to the inclusivity of migrant women, children and LGBTQI+ persons, through an intersectional approach. Being sensitive to intersecting vulnerabilities and strengthening the inclusivity of IOM's work is also a way to improve its effectiveness.

Finland continues to stand up for the rights of persons in the most vulnerable situations, including through our domestic migrant integration policies. Finland will implement an action plan to increase the participation of under-represented groups in working life, such as immigrant women.

In closing, we want to reiterate Finland's support to the work of IOM, including as the Coordinator for the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. We look forward to continuing our excellent cooperation, including in the context of the second round of the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Europe next year.

I thank you.