

**FINAL**

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA**  
**DURING THE 114<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER TO 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023**

Thank you Chairperson for giving me the floor.

**Excellencies, global g**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I join earlier speakers in congratulating Her Excellency Dr. Katharina Stasch, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany on her election as Chairperson of the Bureau as well as all the elected members of the Bureau, to steer the affairs of the Council until the next regular session. My delegation is confident that with their professional qualities and wealth of experience in IOM matters, they will execute their mandate effectively and guide our collective efforts. You can be assured of Ghana's support.

2. Our sincere appreciation also goes out to the outgoing Chairperson, His Excellency Dr. Lansana Gberie, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, for the tremendous work he carried out during his tenure, particularly overseeing the successful process and election of the first female Director General of the IOM, Ms. Amy Pope, to lead the Organization after seventy-two (72) years of its existence. We are keen about this new trajectory and we look forward to delivering on the promise of migration together.

3. Ghana aligns itself with the statement delivered on Monday by the Republic of Rwanda on behalf of the African Group, which clearly articulated the various initiatives being carried out by IOM such as saving lives and protecting people on the move; driving solutions to displacement; climate action; and facilitating regular migration pathways. We reiterate the need for greater collective collaboration in the implementation of these initiatives.

## Chairperson,

4. This year has been an impactful year on Ghana's migration calendar. As a country that strongly supports the Global Compact on Migration, Ghana engaged in several activities to advance the objectives of the Compact. Under the leadership of Ghana's Presidency of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and with the immense support of the IOM, a priority area was identified to expand the support for climate change migrants and displaced persons and leverage migrant and diaspora communities to play a positive role in the fight against climate change.

5. This priority area led to the launch of the Migrants4Climate (M4C) Initiative, which considers shaping a new positive narrative on migration where, migrants, their communities as well as the diaspora play a positive role in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation through local sustainable development initiatives or projects. The Migrant4Climate initiative is aligned to Objective 2 and 19 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

6. One of the activities under this initiative is the Migrants4Climate Award which identifies and award through a competitive process, innovative and dynamic initiatives led by migrants and diasporas towards climate action, based on their direct experience of environmental impacts of climate change.

7. I am pleased to inform that with the splendid support of the France Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) the maiden edition of the Award has recently concluded. The winning initiative was **Route de la Jacinthe d'Eau from Benin** which showcased collaboration between local communities, migrant returnees and diasporas who developed the collection of water hyacinths (which are obstacles to water circulation and proliferates algae ) and transformed them into eco-products such as hats, compost and renewable energy. The activity created green jobs and eco-tourism thereby reducing green gas emissions, flood risks, improvement in the quality of water and land regeneration.

8. The Award is expected to be further explored and replicated in the coming years and we urge all Member States to get involved when the next call for nominations is launched.

**Chairperson,**

9. Ghana has made tremendous progress in strengthening its relationship with the Ghanaian diaspora. With the assistance of the IOM country office in Ghana, a Diaspora Engagement Policy (DEP), the first of such in the history of the country, was developed and has been recently approved by the Government of Ghana to provide the necessary framework within which the Ghanaian Diaspora can be constructively engaged in political, social, economic and cultural discourse towards the effective mobilization and coordination of their contributions to the national development process.

10. The recent launch of the IOM study on Diaspora and Transnational Identities showcased that Migrants and diaspora communities play a pivotal role in enhancing global interconnectedness by fostering international ties and knowledge transfer, driving development on various fronts.

11. According to the World Bank, migrants are estimated to generate 9.4% of the global GDP. Combined formal and informal remittance transfers could amount to 1 trillion USD annually. A figure which clearly indicate that migration is not a problem but an opportunity.

12. My delegation therefore welcomes IOM's efforts to develop digital solutions to give prospective migrants access to more efficient and economical pathways to migration. This would greatly reduce incidents of human trafficking and migrant smuggling and ultimately protect people on the move to promote development, prosperity and progress.

I thank you.