



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

I T A L Y

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR VINCENZO GRASSI
AT THE 114th SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL**

29th November 2023

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Distinguished Chair, Director-General, and Deputy-Directors General, distinguished Delegates, Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and its Member States and to the joint statement to be delivered by Ukraine. Italy would also like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

1. Director General, we thank you for your report on IOM activities. As migration and displacement have reached unprecedented levels and are becoming an increasingly complex phenomenon, diversified responses are required, coupled with more elaborated national and international policies.
2. New and protracted humanitarian crises, prompted by armed conflict, natural and man-made disasters, violence and the impact of climate change, pose historical challenges to the international community and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, increasing migration flows.
3. Within this context, we express concern especially for the massive displacement triggered by the war of aggression against Ukraine and the devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We are also particularly worried about the situations in Tunisia, Syria, Sudan, Niger and Libya, that are at the intersection of migratory flows along the Central Mediterranean route.

4. We deem it essential to continue being strong supporters of IOM in European fora and in that perspective, we encourage IOM to further engage with EU and its Member States, recognising their role.
5. Italy strongly supports IOM's work on safe, regular, orderly, and sustainable migration management in countries of origin, transit and destination, and commends the remarkable work achieved through its operational presence as well as its people-centred and data driven approach. We appreciate the DG programmatic priority areas and we are looking forward to the upcoming Strategic Plan for 2024-2028.
6. We are convinced that safe and legal pathways can provide a strong contribution to an effective management of migration flows, and we look forward to our joint work in the fields of training, social inclusion and labour market mobility.
7. We firmly believe that IOM action in the implementation of the Assisted Voluntary and Safe Returns and Reintegration programs is key to curb irregular migration, tackle human trafficking and contribute to a better socio-economic reintegration.
8. The collaboration between IOM and UNHCR is crucial, and more targeted and innovative approaches to the dilemmas of mixed movements are required. We encourage IOM to further strengthen its partnership with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement and disaster risk reduction and climate Agencies, in accordance with OIM's holistic and multisector approach, as firmly established in its Constitution and other strategic documents.
9. We welcome the attention IOM is giving to a gender-based approach to migration, for example through the launch of its new multi-stakeholder initiative "the Gender and Migration Research Policy Action Lab".
10. Finally, we commend the DG's participation to the Rome Conference on Development and Migration on 23 July and we trust that IOM will continue to provide its important contribution to future Italian initiatives, such as the

upcoming Italy-Africa Summit, representing a stepping stone for the prioritization of migration and development that Italy is committed to promote as incoming President of the G7.

11. Italy renews its support to the Director General in guiding IOM through these challenging times and is looking forward to further reinforcing our collaboration in the years to come.

I thank you for your attention.