

Statement by Ambassador Razvan RUSU, Permanent Representative of Romania to the UN in Geneva, at the 114th session of the IOM Council

General Debates

Madam Chairperson,

Romania align itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to focus on some of the issues related to *Human Mobility and Climate Change*.

Let me congratulate you once again, director general for your election and wish you every success, in your new mandate.

I use this opportunity to congratulate the member of the Bureau of the 114th session of the IOM Council for their election.

Romania has been actively involved in the management of the phenomenon, both on the humanitarian side and in the field of migration and asylum. Romanian had adopted specific legislation and measures in accordance with the international law and international humanitarian law applying for refugees and migrants seeking for international protection.

From the beginning of the armed conflict in Ukraine, Romania has been hosting around 100.000 Ukrainian citizens fleeing from the war zones, out of which 35.000 are children. Special legislation had been adopted and specific measures for protection has been put in place to protect all refugees, irrespectively of their status, ethnicity, gender, age, without any discrimination of any kind. In helping the Ukrainian refugees Romania acted also in accordance with the European legislation regarding humanitarian assistance, migration and asylum and implemented the European Temporary Protection Directive with the support of European Union Agency for Asylum, European Commission, IOM, UNHCR and other stakeholders.

We recognize the impact of climate change as one of the most important triggers of migration. We believe that Member States should approach the consequences of climate change on human mobility, in full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the respect of the rights and dignity of migrants, by information sharing, transparency, developing policies based on concrete data, coordination and cooperation in the multilateral fora, regular evaluation and dialogue for climate adaptation strategies and programmes.

We believe that through various fora for dialogue and cooperation on migration, organized under the coordination of the ILO and IOM, Member States can address the specific needs of migrants, with a particular focus on women, youth and indigenous communities who are disproportionately affected by the negative

effects of climate change, by sharing good practices, and challenges that are faced in dealing with migration.

The Romanian relevant authorities implemented with the support of IOM the programme entitled " *InterACT: Active participation and integrated assistance for migrants*," as well as other programmes focusing on the voluntary repatriation of foreigners who request to return to their country of origin.

Romania is deeply grateful to IOM and its exceptional staff, including the IOM representative in Bucharest, for their constant support and cooperation.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.