



**EMBASSY AND PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

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**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION  
114<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL  
*Agenda Item 10: General Debate***

**Chair,  
Director General,  
Members of the Council,  
Distinguished delegates,**

Sierra Leone aligns itself with the statement delivered by the African Group under this agenda item and we take this opportunity to deliver a few general remarks in our national capacity.

We wish to extend our congratulations to you and the entire Bureau on your election. We assure you of our cooperation and commitment as you continue to guide the work of the IOM Council.

We thank the Director General and her team for the comprehensive report and for their dedicated efforts to ensure the organization maintains operational effectiveness that is fit for purpose. Sierra Leone particularly welcomes the new Administration's commitment to engage in a constructive and transparent dialogue with Member States on the organizational framework, funding needs, and priorities.

Recognizing the pivotal role played by the IOM in addressing the multifaceted and evolving challenges associated with migration, Sierra Leone strongly supports the Administration's focus on the following priority programmatic areas: saving lives and protecting people on the move; driving solutions to displacement, with a particular focus on climate migration responses; and facilitating pathways for regular migration.

Sierra Leone believes no government can single-handedly address migration's complexities. There is a need to strengthen existing partnership efforts while forging creative and innovative cooperative mechanisms like the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). This is why Sierra Leone is excited to join the GCM Champion countries initiative as the 34<sup>th</sup> Member State. We are committed to working closely

with IOM and stakeholders in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as a GCM Champion country.

Furthermore, we emphasize the significance of collaboration between countries of origin, transit, and destination, as well as international organizations like the IOM. This collaboration is essential for creating and executing policies and programs that adeptly address the varied needs of migrants and destination nations. Available data validates that accessible and inclusive skills-based labor migration pathways effectively meet the economic needs of destination countries. IOM's inaugural Global Goodwill Ambassador, Sir Mo Farah, is a concrete testament to this. In this context, we appreciate the IOM's recent multi-year initiative—an Africa-Europe partnership on human mobility that aims to foster positive dialogue and formulate tangible strategies for legal pathways.

**Chair,**

Sierra Leone expresses gratitude for the support extended by IOM through the IDF, which is financing three projects aligned with the government's priorities, notably in the realm of youth empowerment. In this regard, we applaud the development of the Joint AU-IOM Youth Declaration and Call to Action on Migration and Youth in Africa.

The government of Sierra Leone is also thankful for the support provided by IOM with regards to integrated border governance (IBG) including the deployment of the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS). Such measures create a sound statistical basis for future policy planning and integrated border management in order to ensure better border stability.

On the nexus of migration and climate change, Sierra Leone has endorsed the Kampala Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change. With assistance from the IOM, we are presently implementing a pilot project on Plintain and Yelibuya Islands to underscore the significance of mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, especially for coastal nations susceptible to displacement due to coastal erosion. We urge the IOM and development partners to persist in their endeavors to establish pragmatic policy solutions for managing the repercussions of climate change on human mobility.

In closing, allow me to reiterate once more my country's firm commitment to continuing its cooperation with the IOM, as we strive towards the shared goal of ensuring migration that is safe, orderly, and humane.