



Ministry of Justice

Statement by Sweden – IOM Council 114th session 2023

Mr Chair, Director-General, Excellencies, and distinguished Delegates,

Sweden aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU Delegation on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

As we celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I would like to begin by acknowledging the great contribution of IOM colleagues around the world that work around the clock in sometimes life-threatening situations, to uphold migrants' rights and support fellow human beings in need. We thank you.

2023 marks another year of continuous growth for IOM, which reflects the increasing importance of the organisation's mandate and work. In this context, Sweden would like to underline the necessity to continue to develop IOM's ability to respond to emergencies, while strengthening its core structures. To this end, we welcome and encourage the further development of the human resource structures, as well as the functions for oversight and internal control, including work preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. We would like to encourage a continued strong focus on IOM's core mandate – to provide service and advice to governments and migrants.

Sweden commends IOM's crucial worldwide work under the strong leadership of DG Amy Pope.

We face a number of unprecedented and parallel challenges in the field of global migration, none of which can be solved without international cooperation. We look to the IOM to support us in finding ways forward, with sustainable solutions to address the risks that so many people take, in order to migrate. Supporting its members in addressing root-causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, including poverty and climate change must remain central.

You can count on Sweden's steadfast support and partnership in all these areas moving ahead.

The way forward for international cooperation in the area of migration must entail a comprehensive approach. Rights and obligations must be respected at all stages, and by all parties. This includes the international obligation to protect those in need of international protection. It also includes a functioning system for return, readmission and reintegration that ensures that individuals can be properly returned without undue delay. This is essential for maintaining trust and credibility to the system. Additional efforts need to be made in the area of irregular migration, including combatting human trafficking and smuggling, while ensuring adequate response mechanisms for the victims.

I thank you!