



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

**General Debate**  
**114<sup>th</sup> Session of IOM Council**  
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3 Minutes

**Madam Chair,  
Director-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

Addressing the multifaceted issues related to migration is an area of priority for the Government of Timor-Leste. Consequently, the Government has undertaken efforts to strengthen its migration policies, aiming to ensure that migration is voluntary, regular, safe, and orderly.

The government estimated that currently there are 50,000 Timorese nationals living abroad or amounting to 3.7% of the country's total population. Thus, the Government recognizes the need to have a comprehensive diaspora engagement to address the layered impacts that Timorese communities abroad facing. In relation to this, the Government in collaboration with the IOM developed a) a Remittance Mobilization Strategy, which is designated to incubate and scale strategic approaches that can help to leverage remittances to contribute to the socio-economic development of Timor-Leste, and b) the first Timor-Leste National Diaspora Engagement Policy for 2023-2027, which places Timorese diaspora as a significant partner in advancing Timor-Leste as a global and outwardly connected nation.

**Madam Chair,**

The Government of Timor-Leste has also prioritized the development of policies on migration management, regular pathways and strengthening border management procedures. With generous funding from the Government of Australia and the support of IOM, we have successfully installed and operationalized the Migration Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS) at four

border crossing points and headquarters to enhance operational efficiency and interoperability with Interpol and national alert lists.

Moreover, we are also applying a holistic approach by aligning migration strategies and actions, and paving the way for a more secure and well-coordinated border management framework, including through the training of migration officers, development of the Integrated Border Management National Action Plan, and gender-sensitive Integrated Border Management Standard Operating Procedures.

We are convinced that the new system and strategies would enhance accountable and effective border governance in Timor-Leste.

**Madam Chair,**

As a small island developing state, Timor-Leste is vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. The Government understands the critical need to strengthen its resilience to climate-related disasters, and it is currently drafting a National Disaster Risk Management Strategy, aiming to ensure swift and effective responses to disasters and emergencies.

Timor-Leste is pleased to welcome IOM's attention on climate change and its impact on human mobility, including through their inclusion in the programs and budget for 2024.

This highlights also the need for a joint collaboration by diverse stakeholders, including Governments, International Organizations, civil society, and the private sector to find comprehensive and creative solutions for the challenges we face on climate change.

**Madam Chair,**

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Timor-Leste's support of the efforts to strengthen the work of the IOM, and we look forward to continuing our cooperation with the IOM.

Thank you.