

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

As we gather today as governing body members of a UN humanitarian agency, let me begin by recognizing the UN's essential role in the humanitarian response effort in Gaza and expressing our deepest condolences to the families of civilians and of the 109 UN staff who have lost their lives in the conflict.

It has been nearly two months since Hamas carried out a barbaric terrorist attack against Israel. An attack we unequivocally condemn. As a result of Hamas' actions, many innocent people have suffered in both Israel and Gaza. Many families are grieving.

The United States remains committed to ensuring civilians and civilian infrastructure are protected in this conflict in accordance with international humanitarian law.

We are intensifying our collective efforts to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance to those impacted by this conflict. We are pleased to see more aid is reaching the people in Gaza who are in dire need of assistance. But much more aid, especially fuel, is needed urgently.

The United States continues to believe the most viable path—indeed, the only path—to peace is through the creation of a Palestinian state. That is the only guarantor of a secure and democratic Israel; the only guarantor of Palestinians realizing their legitimate aspirations to live in a state of their own, enjoying equal measures of security and prosperity; and the only way to end this violence once and for all.

Madame Chairperson, at a time when the world is bearing witness to unprecedented migration and forced displacement, the work of this body – here to support IOM – has never been more important.

The United States believes a range of regular migration pathways represent an important opportunity for vulnerable migrants and host countries. We are pleased to have launched the Safe Mobility initiative earlier this year, expanding lawful pathways to the United States and helping refugees and migrants avoid the risks associated with onward movement. This initiative facilitates expedited

refugee processing and access to complementary pathways, including humanitarian parole, family reunification, community-based sponsorship, and labor pathways. Nearly 5000 individuals have been referred for potential resettlement to the United States, and nearly 8000 individuals have been screened for other lawful pathways.

The United States recognizes the impact of climate change to migrants and appreciates IOM's leadership in this area. With IOM, we cohosted a "call to action" event on climate mobility and development at this year's Africa Climate Summit in Kenya where we announced \$4 million for IOM to improve data on the impact of climate change on human mobility and provide support to displaced persons in Kenya adversely affected by climate change. President Biden recently hosted the U.S.-Pacific Islands Forum Summit in Washington, D.C., building upon our commitment to help Pacific Islands adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change. We are also one of the largest contributors to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, supporting climate change initiatives in line with the Global Compact on Migration. These and other significant climate initiatives represent our shared belief that adaptation and resilience are critical in addressing the effects of climate change.

Director General Pope – The United States proudly supports your thoughtful leadership with special appreciation for your strategic vision and transparent direction. In 2023, we increased our unearmarked funding to over \$10 million as a testament to our shared vision around data-capacity building, program oversight, and climate mobility.

Finally, as IOM develops comprehensive solutions for vulnerable people on the move, we value you as an essential operating partner and commend IOM staff globally in providing life-saving humanitarian assistance. The United States remains committed to promoting strong internal justice mechanisms and management controls, prioritizing reform so IOM is well-funded and efficiently managed, and encouraging IOM's recruitment of a diverse and inclusive workforce.

Thank you.