

# **114th Session of the International Organisation for Migration**

**Geneva (27-29 November 2023)**

## **High Level Segment**

Madam Chairperson,

Let me begin by complimenting you on the successful conduct of the 114<sup>th</sup> IOM Session and extending our felicitations to Ms Amy Pope on her appointment as new DG.

2. We are assembled here to discuss a matter of global significance- the impact of climate change on human mobility. One of the strategies that people may use to cope with the adverse effects of climate change is to move for survival and in search of livelihoods. It can take the form of internal or cross-border movements giving rise to further questions about security, pressure on limited natural resources, burden on infrastructure, and, in extreme cases, may also give rise to conflicts.

3. As we acknowledge the realities faced by communities on the front lines of climate-induced displacement, it is only through shared knowledge, resources, and a commitment to common goals that we can pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable future. It is imperative that we prioritise and develop policies, which are inclusive, encompassing the needs of the vulnerable populations who are disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change.

4. While challenges are significant, they also present opportunities for innovation and collaboration. In India, we are gradually moving towards that goal through global solutions that prioritise sustainable development practices, renewable energy solutions, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Two such initiatives which I would like to mention here are Mission Life launched by PM Shri Narendra Modi at the G20 Summit and adoption of a Green Development Pact by G20 Leaders. We are also committed to promoting green jobs- economies and enterprises with a reduced environmental impact

but which also generate meaningful employment and the regeneration of natural resources. These initiatives are integral components of a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the impact of climate change on human mobility.

5. India has played an active role in the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and has been committed towards fulfilling its objectives through existing as well as new innovative initiatives. India has the largest diaspora population in the world, over 32 million. We are also the largest recipient of remittances. Well managed migration is hence our national priority. The Government of India has devised key legal and institutional mechanisms and programmes for the empowerment and social protection of emigrants. They are: the Emigration Act 1983, eMigrate platform - a one stop source of information on overseas employment, Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) for assisting Indians in distress, Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna (PBBY), Skill enhancement programme, Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT), 24X7 Help Centres and active diaspora engagement schemes.

6. At the same time, the GoI has focussed on improving the presence of highly skilled workers and professionals through mutually beneficial arrangements with countries all over the world. We are committed towards further strengthening skills and competencies of our emigrants to ensure greater mobility, employability and readiness to contribute to the global workforce. India has been cooperating with several countries through bilateral agreements to improve mobility governance. These include Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements and Labour Mobility Agreements. These agreements are intended to boost migration and mobility of skills and talents simplifying visa processes for work and economic purposes.

7. India commends and appreciates the role and contribution of the IOM as the primary global migration management organisation in facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration. India aligns itself with these objectives of the IOM as well as its various programs, projects and events. In this spirit of supporting the core objectives, India seeks to propose the following for the consideration of the IOM and Member States:

- a. Way forward on social security portability; and
- b. Identifying global skill gap.

8. For social security portability, what is being proposed is the possibility of exploring multilateral agreements, which allow countries to coordinate parts of their social security regulations, which will in turn establish a legal framework to coordinate social security schemes between countries.

9. With increased globalisation, India feels that it is imperative to identify skill gaps to achieve the core objectives of facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration. In an increasingly skill-based work environment, facilitating movement of migrants based on skill sets would offset uncertainties. Under India G20 Presidency, which concludes this week, G20 Leaders have committed to address skill gap, and ensuring inclusive social protection policies for all.

10. India stands ready to contribute actively to collaborative global efforts, recognizing that only through vigorous data analysis, fostering international dialogues and close cooperation can we effectively address the impacts of climate change on human mobility. The road ahead is challenging, but with collective determination, we can forge a sustainable and resilient future.

Thank you.