

Video message by Liesje Schreinemacher, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, for the IOM Council Meeting

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating the new Director General, Amy Pope.

Amy, you're IOM's first female DG. It was about time!

I commend you for setting clear priorities, particularly on accountability and transparency – and I encourage you to use the MOPAN recommendations to the fullest for achieving these.

Congratulations are also in order for the impact achieved through the COMPASS initiative.

The IOM, the Netherlands, and fourteen partner countries have made significant contributions here.

To protect migrants, to counter human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and to facilitate voluntary return and reintegration.

There are three points I'd like to make today.

First, the Netherlands remains committed for a second phase of COMPASS. With a greater focus on structural solutions to improve the protection of people on the move.

Our contribution of **100 million euros** for the next four years reflects our strong dedication to the programme's continued success – and to IOM as an institution.

Second, I want to applaud IOM's work on climate mobility. Amy, as you said at the International Dialogue on Migration: 'We need solutions for people to move, for people on the move, and for people to stay.'

The Netherlands welcomes IOM's strategic leadership on this issue.

Over the coming years, climate finance and adaptation must be scaled up. We need to strengthen people's resilience to climate crises, through prevention and preparedness.

Third, we applaud IOM's ambition to develop innovative migration solutions, in close collaboration with UNHCR. We believe that to reduce irregular migration, and make safe, orderly and regular migration possible, new forms of collaboration are needed.

So, to conclude: the Netherlands encourages IOM to continue its current efforts. We look forward to continuing our cooperation.