



EMBASSY & PERMANENT MISSION *of*
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
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**Statement of the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan
to the 115th Council of the International Organisation for Migration**
Geneva Nov 28, 2024

Mr. Chair, Director General, Distinguished representatives of member states

As we gather at the 115th session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration, it is vital to address the ongoing humanitarian challenges that have intensified in recent years, particularly concerning the situation in Afghanistan. Since 2021, nearly eight million Afghans have fled their homeland, a staggering statistic (1/4 of the whole population) that underscores the urgent need for our collective action and support. The recent reports from the IOM underscore a disheartening reality of life: over half of Afghanistan's population now lives in poverty, exacerbated by rampant inflation and economic instability following the Taliban's military takeover of the country.

Of these 8 million displaced individuals, over one million have sought asylum in Europe, while the majority have sought refuge in neighboring countries. However, this influx has not been met with adequate infrastructure to support them, leading to further suffering and instability within those regions. The IOM reports indicate that approximately 70% of Afghans migrating to Iran do so due to a fear of Taliban retribution but also a lack of job opportunities, a clear indication that economic factors are driving these migration patterns. However, as these individuals venture into neighboring countries, many find themselves in precarious positions, often resorting to illegal means due to difficulties obtaining necessary travel documents.

As highlighted in the Director General's report, the challenges we face are intertwined with broader global issues, such as climate change and public health crises, which compound the vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced persons. During 2024, we have witnessed the appalling reality of cross-border conflicts and disease outbreaks that have further marginalized already vulnerable populations.

Crucially, International Organizations have called for a suspension of the deportation of Afghan migrants until there are sufficient guarantees for their safe, dignified, and voluntary return. This request is more pressing than ever, especially as we observe an alarming increase in deportations from countries like Pakistan and Iran, where vivid reports document the cruel treatment endured by undocumented migrants.

As we reflect on our commitment to human rights and dignity for all, the member states need to renew our resolve to facilitate legal pathways for migration and provide comprehensive support to those in need. The IOM has made significant advancements in promoting well-governed migration that prioritizes the well-being of both migrants and host communities. However, more must be done, particularly in enhancing funding and support for programs designed to prevent human trafficking and provide safe, sustainable options for migrants.

The IOM's ambitious Strategic Plan for 2024–2028 emphasizes a comprehensive approach that spans the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. It is crucial we implement strategies that address these urgent humanitarian needs such as Afghanistan and transition towards sustainable development to foster resilience within both migrants and host communities.

To navigate the complexities of migration governance, we must continue to work collaboratively, strengthening our partnerships, diversifying funding sources, and ensuring that the principles of safety, dignity, and rights are upheld at all costs. I hope we will be able to face these pressing challenges head-on and commit to advancing our collective impact on the lives of millions affected by these crises.

Thank you