

**115th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
26 – 28 NOVEMBER 2024
ITEM 13 - GENERAL DEBATE – AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT**

Mr. Chairperson,

1. Sierra Leone has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.
2. The African Group thanks the Director General for her detailed report to this Council on the programmes and operations of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and congratulates her on the successful completion of her first year in office.
3. We commend Ms. Pope and her team for the achievements detailed in her report, and note, with appreciation, that IOM has remained steady and focused even against the backdrop of escalating geopolitical tensions and regional instabilities, leading to dramatic and unprecedented levels of displacement and forced migration. From Sudan, at the heart of Africa, to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Lebanon and Europe, armed violence has dislocated millions of people from their homes and forced them into traumatic journeys they never wanted to undertake. This situation has been compounded by the brutal and deliberate attacks on humanitarian workers who have been the first responders to these growing crises – a war crime if there ever was one.
4. The African Group recognizes the interventions of the IOM to reduce the suffering of people fleeing from conflict regions across the world, and towards helping a significant number of the vulnerable on the move in search of safety and a better life, in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and in Asia. Sudan, one of the most important countries in Africa, has nearly eleven million internally displaced as a result of the depredations of armed combatants. This makes it the site of the world's largest internally displaced

population, and with another two million Sudanese forced to flee to neighbouring countries, the source of the most dramatic and appalling refugee movement in Africa. We note also that the Democratic Republic of Congo, with seven million internally displaced persons, continues to be plagued by conflict and disease. While appreciating the very helpful intervention of IOM and other humanitarian organisations, the African Group calls for accelerated global effort to end the wars and enforced peace, which alone can end the forced displacement and associated suffering.

5. The African Group acknowledges the efforts of the IOM to engage at all levels, with its United Nations partners to regional groupings, member states, the private sector, and local communities to promote its agenda, central to which is the orderly and humane management of migration, building resilience and sustainable solutions to address the root causes of displacement, and provide support to displaced communities. We support the Joint Communique issued in Addis Ababa on 8 October 2024, "The Meeting of Principals of the African Union and the International Organization for Migration", and reaffirm our support towards the efforts to enhance safe, orderly and regular migration on the continent, and at the wider international level.

Chairperson,

6. We welcome the collaboration of IOM with member states and institutions like the African CDC to help save lives and improve the health conditions of vulnerable communities. We are particularly grateful for the support to countries battling the mpox virus upsurge, especially the DRC, in the areas of preparedness and response to contain the outbreak.

Chairperson

7. The African Group reaffirms its commitment to collaborate in the implementation of the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. We assure the IOM leadership of our continued support in achieving its core objectives.

Thank you.