

Statement of the Arab Group
115th session of IOM Council
General Debate

The Arab group expresses appreciation to the Director General for her comprehensive report that focused on the importance the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in addressing escalating global crises including conflicts, climate change, and displacement and that highlighted the organization's important role in expanding pathways for regular migration, improving border management, and supporting displaced persons in critical areas including Sudan.

The Arab Group appreciates IOM's efforts in capacity-building and facilitating legal labor mobility to address labor market gaps, benefiting countries of origin and destination as well as migrants. In this context, we stress the importance of fostering cooperation to address the challenges of "brain drain" and mitigate its impact on countries of origin. Additionally, we underscore the need to support states in promoting a positive narrative on migrants' contributions, which is essential in combating intolerance, racism, and xenophobia.

Moreover, we appreciate IOM's prioritization of the human mobility dimensions of climate change, particularly in the context of the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27.

On the other hand, the Arab Group commend the donor countries for their unearmarked voluntary contributions, which are particularly significant given the rising numbers of displaced persons and those in need of international protection due to emerging humanitarian crises and the worsening of protracted ones. We applaud IOM's efforts in strengthening partnerships, and diversifying funding.

With regard to the impact of mounting crises and conflicts on significantly increasing the numbers of displaced persons, the Arab Group acknowledges the importance of IOM's efforts in humanitarian response, resilience-building and supporting hosting governments and communities, who often bear the brunt of displacement crises.

In this context, the Arab Group strongly condemns the atrocious war crimes committed against the people of Palestine and Lebanon by Israel, the occupying power, that have led to the forced displacement of millions of people, with little to no access to humanitarian assistance.

We commend the organization's work in supporting UNRWA's efforts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza. We appreciate as well that the organization scaled

up its operations in Lebanon, in response to the humanitarian crisis and to the forced displacement provoked by the Israeli aggression.

Moreover, the Arab Group calls on IOM and the international community to take urgent, decisive action to address the catastrophic displacement and humanitarian crisis, in Sudan. We urge not only a focus on delivering immediate life-saving assistance, but also strengthening the resilience of hosting communities in collaboration with development actors and expanding regular pathways for Sudanese affected population.

We commend the IOM's critical efforts in Sudan and emphasize the pressing need for sustained and adequate funding to fully implement the IOM response plan, ensuring tangible support for displaced populations and the communities hosting them.

Madam Chair,

In line with the Arab Group's commitment to focusing discussions in this important forum on the core objectives of the organization, we emphasize the importance of aligning the language used in all of the organization's documents with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and the two International Covenants on Human Rights, and refrain from controversial terminologies, especially regarding issues related to gender equality. This approach fosters respect for the cultural richness within the council's membership and helps avoid divergence into topics primarily under the jurisdiction of other UN forums.

We join other esteemed delegations that have expressed similar concerns in this regard and reaffirm that the Arab Group disassociates itself from any controversial terms included in any document adopted in this meeting as clarified in its NV sent to the secretariat and on the understanding that the IOM Secretariat will work on addressing these concerns during the discussions on the 2026 program budget.

In conclusion, the Arab Group expresses its appreciation to the IOM and its staff for their tireless efforts to meet the needs of migrants and displaced persons and to promote the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, amid escalating challenges and a persistent gap between needs and resources.

Thank you.