

(Final Draft)

**Joint Statement of the Asia-Pacific Group for the 115th IOM Council
to be delivered under Item 12 (General Debate) on 27 November 2024**

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group. Allow me to extend the Group's warm congratulations on your election as the Chairperson of the IOM Council. We also wish all members of the Council Bureau a successful and productive year ahead as they assume their mandates to steer the Organization in a constructive and harmonious way, in close cooperation with the IOM Administration. The Group also takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to the outgoing Council Chair, Ambassador Katharina Stasch of Germany, for her strong dedication and leadership during her tenure.

We thank Director-General Amy Pope for her comprehensive presentation on IOM's activities and progress made this year and the plans for the year ahead. The Asia-Pacific Group greatly values its partnership with IOM and we are pleased to reaffirm our commitment to supporting the Organization's proactive efforts in assisting people on the move, including the most vulnerable.

Director-General,

We specifically commend IOM for a number of notable achievements since the 114th Session of the Council last year. The Organization has successfully launched its five-year Strategic Plan, aligning its programs and structures accordingly. Additionally, IOM introduced its first-ever Global Appeal, further aligning its operations with the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. The roll-out of the Strategic Results Frameworks to support result-based management is also a welcome step forward.

Under its three strategic objectives—namely saving lives and protecting people on the move, driving solutions to displacement, and facilitating pathways for regular migration—IOM has made significant progress. In 2023, IOM reached 31.6M people with life-saving assistance and protection. In this regard, we appreciate IOM’s continued efforts to protect migrants and displaced persons, and we encourage IOM to keep up its protection work in line with the discussions within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and in close coordination with other UN agencies. We also positively acknowledge IOM’s initiatives in driving solutions to displacement, including its engagement with the United Nations Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. Finally, we commend IOM for successfully facilitating regular pathways for over 1 million migrants and refugees and supporting resettlement, relocation, and humanitarian admission of nearly 300,000 persons over the past year.

Director-General,

We note that since the beginning of your tenure, you have placed significant emphasis on strengthening IOM’s organizational capacity. While we acknowledge these efforts, we encourage you to continue enhancing the Organization’s internal accountability and oversight functions. We encourage IOM to continue its on-going efforts to ensure cost-efficiency and effectiveness. We also urge IOM to increase the proportion of flexible and innovative funding resources. Moreover, we invite IOM to further scale up its leadership role as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration.

In closing, Mr. Chair,

Let me reiterate that, during yesterday’s high-level segment, we all heard loud and clear that international cooperation is key to addressing migration challenges globally, as no single state can resolve this issue alone. The Asia-Pacific Group, as a region that is the destination to one in every six international migrants and the origin of two in every six, looks forward to continuing our partnership with IOM in addressing the critical issue of migration.

I thank you, Mr. Chair. /END/