

Statement on behalf of BELGIUM

International Organization for Migration 115th Session of the Council 26-28 Novembre 2024

Item 2 - Presentation by the Director General

Madam Chair,
Colleagues,

My country aligns itself with the statement made by the EU and would like to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

Director General,

1. Belgium thanks you for your report and congratulates you once again for your strong leadership and significant achievements this year, nurtured by all your numerous fields visits and consultations.

2. Belgium commends IOM's work in 2024 and appreciates IOM's regular consultations with Member States. As already said, my country stands ready to work closely with the newly established IOM's global, sub-regional and national offices in Brussels. We look forward to contributing to the upcoming IOM's strategy for the "EU+27MS" sub-region. The support of IOM to EU Member States to implement the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration and to achieve the GCM objectives will also be very much appreciated.

3. Belgium supports the 2025 Program of Work and its budget allocations and particularly welcomes the priority given to strengthen IOM's core functions. This will increase internal accountability, oversight and transparency. We also support the priority given to climate change and human mobility. In this regard, we are looking forward to the upcoming Steering Committee of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund that will hopefully select a very promising project proposal on the contribution of diaspora to climate action in rural areas jointly submitted by Belgium, Senegal and Morocco.

4. I would also like to stress the need to increase flexible, multi-year unearmarked funding for IOM. As recalled by our State Secretary for Asylum and Migration Nicole de Moor yesterday: this is of utmost importance in a rapidly changing world. If we want our organisation not only to react more quickly and more effectively to migration emergencies but also to use migration as a driver for economic growth and as an opportunity for development, IOM needs to count on flexible funds that allow a better planning, delivery and implementation of strategic initiatives.

5. Finally, I would like to commend your leadership in keeping a human-rights based narrative on migrants. This has never been so crucial in the current global context of multiple crises.

We look forward to continuing our valuable strategic partnership with IOM thank you for your attention.