

Danish statement item 12: General debate

IOM Council 26-28 November 2024

Speaking time 3 minutes

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Thank you chair,

Denmark aligns with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

Chair, IOM remains a key and very close partner for Denmark and we value the growing depth and scope of our partnership.

With the growing and increasingly more complex migratory flows, the need for IOM's work is evident.

Director General, the Strategic Plan sets a clear and right path for IOM in the coming years. While appreciating the focus on regular labor pathways, we wish to highlight the importance of a balanced 360-degree approach. Continued and strengthened focus on migration management, on addressing irregular migration and on facilitating conditions for returns are key elements in this.

Further, we welcome the commitment of IOM to work closely with UNHCR – including on whole-of-route-based approaches. And we look forward to further discussing and supporting the implementation of such approaches.

We consider this as key to address irregular migration, safe lives and to ensure the functioning of asylum systems. The Government's ambition is to create a more humane and fair asylum system in Europe, and we are looking at all viable solutions in this regard. We have noted the willingness of IOM to play an active role in this work, which we much appreciate. It is, of course, paramount that all solutions respect international human rights and are in accordance with international law.

We value IOM's work to increase the availability and use of data in partnership with Member States and other UN organisations. We encourage you to continue expanding this work, as reliable data is essential to anticipate migration flows.

Chair, Denmark continues to be amongst the top donors of unearmarked funding to IOM, which is crucial for IOM's ability to deliver on its strategic priorities. We call on other – large and small – donors to step up unearmarked funding.

We welcome the commitment of IOM to develop a second generation of organizational reforms - aligned to the strategic priorities and responding to the MOPAN recommendations.

We expect these reforms to continue focusing on strengthening IOM core structures. Especially, priority must be given to strengthening oversight structures and integrity matters. For IOM to be sustainable, the growth of the organization must not come at the expense of oversight, robust anti-corruption measures - including timely investigations of cases of irregularities - and transparent communication. In short accountability and compliance.

Finally, we welcome IOM's efforts to strengthen prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and the focus on gender transformative approaches. Further, we wish to underline the importance of continued strengthening of inclusivity and human rights based approaches across IOM's activities.

Thank you.