



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

IOM 115th Council (26 – 28 November 2024)

Item 12
General Debate

Geneva, 27 November 2024

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

International Organisation for Migration

115th Council

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Item 12 – General Debate

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

Director-General,

1. IOM is a long-standing partner of the EU and its Member States and can rely on our support. Our collaboration is grounded in a comprehensive, human rights-based, whole-of-route approach to migration. This commitment is reflected in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. We thank IOM for supporting its implementation in accordance with national competencies and priorities.
2. We strongly support IOM's lifesaving activities in displacement and humanitarian crises, among which Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the increasingly catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, Sudan and Lebanon. We mourn all civilian losses and urge strict adherence to international humanitarian law.
3. We welcome the new Global Office in Brussels. It will enhance strategic exchanges between IOM, the EU, and its Member States. It comes at a key moment to build ties with the EU's new political leadership.
4. We appreciate the IOM's Strategic Plan and draft regional strategies. We understand that the third objective addresses all aspects of migration policy: from countering irregular migration, border management, returns, readmission, and reintegration to the promotion of regular pathways, protection, and diaspora engagement. We therefore ask IOM to reflect this balanced action and narrative across all regional strategies.
5. We stress the importance of countering the instrumentalisation of migrants for political purposes.

6. We welcome IOM's focus on addressing the impact of climate change on human mobility. Discussions at COP29 highlight importance of this work.
7. We commend your focus on strengthening IOM core structures. We are concerned that the core budget remains disproportionate to the growing operational budget. Oversight, accountability, and transparency are essential. We expect regular updates and discussions on these matters.
8. We support your efforts to ensure an inclusive and gender-responsive approach, and to foster protection both within IOM's internal organisation and in its projects.
9. We welcome your work across the triple nexus and encourage even stronger collaboration with UN agencies, especially UNHCR, on the route-based approach. We also expect the UN system to jointly address internal displacement, with IOM, UNHCR and UNDP leading collective effort towards durable solutions. We wish IOM full success as the first chair of the new rotating structure.

Thank you!