



## **Statement by Finland - 115th Session of the IOM Council**

**27 November 2024**

Delivered by H.E. Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Finland, Geneva

**[\*Check against delivery\*]**

Mr/Ms Chairperson, Director General, Excellencies and  
Distinguished Delegates,

Finland aligns itself with the statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, as well as the Joint statement [that will be] delivered by Ukraine.

I would like to start by commending the Director General and the whole organization for their achievements during the past year. IOM's work as a global leader in migration is unique, and we appreciate the comprehensive way the organization promotes solutions that take into account all relevant aspects of migration,

such as legal pathways, tackling irregular migration, and returns. We support IOM's increased strategic approach, and encourage it to increase efforts to demonstrate the impact of its holistic and data-driven work. We appreciate IOM's coordination and complementarity particularly with UNHCR, including in the context of the newly introduced route-based approach. We also stress the need to counter instrumentalisation of migrants for political purposes.

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Despite many successes, the past year has also been extremely difficult for all humanitarian organizations. Increased efforts by all actors are needed to enhance respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers. We have great respect for IOM employees, and all aid workers, working in increasingly dangerous environments, often risking their own lives. This work is invaluable. In this context, we encourage IOM to continue its close collaboration with the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC), as well as other partners.

Mr/Ms Chairperson,

We welcome the proactive approach that IOM's leadership continue to have to reform the organization, as strengthening

internal mechanisms continues to be necessary. We value transparency and proactive engagement especially on matters related to oversight.

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Finland continues to stand up for the rights of persons in the most vulnerable situations. We greatly value IOM's work on gender and diversity, and want to especially commend you for the new Disability Inclusion Strategy. The strategy is an important milestone and we will follow its implementation with great interest.

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In closing, we want to reiterate Finland's support to the work of IOM, and we look forward to continuing our excellent cooperation and close dialogue, that was further deepened during Director General's visit to Finland earlier this year.

I thank you.