

**German statement**  
**General Debate of the 115th IOM Council**

*(27 November, 11:15 - 18:00, max. 3 min. = ca. 360 words)*

Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

First of all: we commend you, DG Pope, for one year in office! Germany welcomes the progress made in the structural reforms, and the strategic and results-based orientation you have been striving for since then. Results are already visible, for instance strengthened oversight functions as well as increased field presences. These achievements have been reached also thanks to your energetic approach.

We also would like to thank you for our bilateral cooperation, which has even grown stronger in the last year, with Ambassador Stasch as Chair of the IOM-Council and our common work in the IOM-Bureau.

Allow me to give you also some feedback on institutional matters with regard to IOM: The organisation has been constantly growing, this might be good news in terms of scope and the worldwide role IOM is playing, but it also means that implementation of reform is crucial. IOM needs to become more efficient in order to tackle increasing challenges as the organisation plays a key role, both in the humanitarian and development response to displacement and migration and in the area of resettlement, voluntary return und reintegration.

We also see that global crises are increasing humanitarian needs immensely, and the system of humanitarian assistance is reaching its limits. Therefore, Germany is working with partners to support making the humanitarian system more efficient and to push for priorities, especially at a time of shrinking budgets and greater need for support.

We are grateful to IOM for having taken immediate actions to alleviate the needs of those who are affected by these crises.

We appreciate the long-standing cooperation with IOM in Ukraine, especially in such a volatile situation. Due to the ongoing attacks by Russia, further displacement movements are likely. We are aware of the challenges involved in implementation, but would therefore like to emphasize that effective compliance risk management mechanisms and their appropriate implementation are particularly important in this context. In this regard, we expect to be kept informed of developments on an ongoing basis and await full clarification of the compliance investigations currently underway.

An important part of improving the efficiency of the humanitarian response is to carefully and jointly evaluate lessons learned: for example, to avoid aid diversion, fraud and corruption, it is key to set and monitor clearly defined standards. This requires honest dialogue and early, ongoing and transparent communication.

Migration has a huge potential to boost economies in host and destination countries – if it occurs in a regular, safe and orderly manner; if not, the risks to individuals and societies are huge. As a global phenomenon migration cannot be addressed by one state alone. International cooperation is needed and we strongly believe that IOM provides the appropriate platform for the management of global migration. Thank you for your strong leadership and thanks to all IOM staff members for their relentless efforts to bring humanitarian assistance and relief to those who are in need.

Once again, DG Pope, I would like to express my government's readiness to support you and your team while moving forward.

Thank you!