

**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA**  
**DURING THE 115<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL**  
**26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER TO 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2024**

Thank you Chairperson for giving me the floor.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I join earlier speakers in congratulating you, Ambassador Mr. Seong deok Yun of the Republic of Korea and the newly elected officers of the Bureau on your election to preside over the work of the Council in the coming year. Given your rich and diverse experiences, my delegation is certain that you would execute your mandate effectively to advance the objectives of our Organisation. You can count on Ghana's support in this regard.

2. Our sincere gratitude also goes to the outgoing Bureau led by Ambassador Dr. Katharina Stasch, Permanent Representative of Germany for their remarkable dedication and hard work which positively impacted the growth of the IOM and the relationship with member states. On that note, we reiterate our deepest condolences to the family and people of the Republic of Peru, for the unfortunate passing of Ambassador Ms. Ana Cecilia Gervasi Diaz, who was serving as Second Vice-Chairperson of the Council Bureau until her untimely demise. She will be remembered for her dedication to diplomacy and the rights of migrants.

3. Ghana aligns with the statement delivered by the Republic of Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group which highlighted IOM's collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to support African countries battling with the outbreak and spread of the mpox virus. This virus disproportionately affects IDPs, migrants and highly mobile

populations living in cross-border communities. This collaboration truly speaks to IOM's commitment to fulfilling its objective of "Saving lives and protecting people on the move". We also appreciate IOM's response to ongoing crisis in Africa, particularly, in Sudan and neighbouring countries. Regrettably, these crisis have received very little international attention. We join the call for urgent and robust response from the international community to address the worsening situation of forced displacement in the region.

**Chairperson,**

4. In 2024, Ghana finds itself at a pivotal moment in the global conversation on migration, balancing challenges and opportunities in ways that are shaping our future. The country has long been a key player in regional and international migration, which has been a pathway to opportunities for millions of Ghanaians. Ghana also continue to remain a destination for migrants from neighbouring West African countries and beyond. Our commitment to the ECOWAS protocols of free movement, facilitate trade and migration within the region while ensuring security. Likewise, the remittances sent by Ghanaians abroad remain a vital source of income for families and important contributor to our GDP.

5. The Government of Ghana has implemented several initiatives in 2024 to harness the benefits of migration while addressing its challenges. The "Beyond the Return" initiative under the Diaspora Engagement Policy, continues to attract the Ghanaian diaspora and African descendants to invest in the country. This year, we have seen record investment in tourism, real estate and technology. Innovative schemes are also being rolled out to encourage the diaspora to return home. Incentives such as tax breaks, access to land, and funding opportunities are helping to reverse the effects of brain drain.

**Chairperson,**

6. Ghana has been a direct beneficiary of the IOM's interventions. In the second quarter of 2024, IOM facilitated the voluntary return of Ghanaian

migrants from North African countries and Europe. Upon arrival, they receive reception assistance that included health screenings, psychosocial counselling, pocket money, food kits and onward transportation to their respective communities. The Organisation's role in the reintegration of returning migrants has improved the self-reliance of thousands of Ghanaian migrants returning from various difficult situations. The voluntary reintegration initiative is a great contributor to the development of our country as many returnees secure the needed support to contribute to the development of their individual communities.

7. With regards to the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS), improved data collection and analysis in 2024 have enhanced Ghana's ability to design migration policies that reflect the realities on the ground. The IOM is working with the Ghana Immigration Service to strengthen migration data management in their operations. The expansion of MIDAS to new border crossing points demonstrates IOM's commitment to support the government in harnessing technology for more efficient and effective border management. Equipped with the new technology and with the corresponding skills, immigration officers can play their crucial roles in improving migration governance in Ghana. The government of Ghana is truly grateful for this initiative which was realised with funding from the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

8. Additionally, my delegation welcomes IOM's support to governments and stakeholders in creating and improving regular, sustainable and flexible migration pathways. Ghana was selected alongside 11 African Member States for a new IOM initiative known as the 'Pathways to Prosperity: Unlocking the Potential of Human Mobility for Africa and Europe' which aims at supporting and facilitating the orderly movement of people between and within Africa and Europe through win-win solutions. Ghana is therefore committed to working towards a roadmap for the implementation of this initiative.

**Chairperson,**

9. While we celebrate progress, significant challenges still persist. The root causes of forced migration including poverty, inequality and climate change must be addressed. Additionally, irregular migration, particularly through dangerous routes continues to claim lives. Our task is to ensure that migration becomes a force for sustainable development. Migration is a shared responsibility that requires joint efforts, mutual understanding and collaboration between governments, private sector, civil society and global partners.

10. We look forward to further collaboration with the IOM for the benefit of the thousands of Ghanaians on the move and indeed the many migrants living and working in Ghana.

I thank you.