



Statement by Greece

115th Session of IOM Council

(26-28 November 2024)

Item 11

General Debate

Thank you Chair

Madam Director General,
distinguished delegates,

Greece aligns itself with the Statement made by the European Union. We welcome the further strengthening of cooperation between the EU and the IOM, which is more crucial than ever to enhancing legal pathways, fighting illegal trafficking networks and utilizing migration to enhance international cooperation, economic growth and stability.

Greece deeply values its long-standing and productive collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This year, our partnership was marked by the signing of the Host Country Agreement in Athens during the visit of Director General Amy Pope, last July. This agreement enhances the operational framework of IOM in Greece, enabling the organization to more effectively carry out its mandate in our country and the region.

Greece, as a host country particularly commends IOM's field teams for their steadfast dedication and assistance in addressing complex migration and social integration challenges with humanity and professionalism.

We appreciate IOM's Strategic Plan and the draft regional strategies for the implementation of its key objectives, as well as IOM's focus

on mobility due to climate change, which will be of growing importance in the future.

We welcome IOM's engagement in discussions on solutions to reduce irregular, unsafe migration and emphasize the importance of strengthening synergies between development assistance policy and migration policy.

We need to strengthen cooperation between IOM and all member states as well as with other international organizations to fight illegal trafficking networks, which put people's lives at great risk. Dismantling these illegal trafficking networks is an obligation for all.

At the same time, Greece remains committed to addressing the root causes of irregular migration and promoting legal pathways, recognizing their dual role in stabilizing migration flows and supporting economic growth. In this context, a well-functioning return system is essential in maintaining the credibility and efficiency of migration systems as a whole.

Greece has taken significant steps to enhance legal pathways by signing bilateral agreements, such as the Memorandum of Understanding on Migration and Mobility with Bangladesh, the Agreement on Seasonal Agricultural Employment with Egypt, and the Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility with India. These initiatives reflect our dedication to fostering legal migration routes that reduce the risks faced by migrants and contribute to economic growth and stability globally. Moreover, Greece supports the whole-of-route approach, emphasizing cooperation along migration corridors and at all levels of governance.

Greece remains steadfast in its commitment to deepening its partnership with IOM. We believe the Organization's role is more crucial than ever, and we stand ready to support its mission.

Thank you.