

115th Session of IOM Council: General Debate on 27 Nov 2024

Council Chair Ambassador Seong Deok Yun

Director General Amy Pope,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. Thank you for the opportunity to address this 115th Session of the Council. India commends the efforts of the Director General in ably steering IOM's important work, especially in these challenging times for global migration, which have made the need for international cooperation more pressing.
2. We are all cognizant of the unprecedented challenges that the issue of international migration is facing. This only reinforces the need to acknowledge the imbalance in global demographic dividend and work towards a comprehensive response with countries of origin, transit and destination.
3. Over the next many decades, India will continue to be a leading provider of the global workforce, and we look forward to partnerships to ensure that this demographic dividend is optimally utilized for global economic growth and prosperity. India strongly believes that regular, orderly and safe migration with robust legal framework is critical for bridging global skill gaps in an interconnected world. The bilateral *Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements* as well as *Labour Mobility and Labour Welfare Agreements* signed with numerous destination countries, stands testimony to our efforts of promoting safe migration.
4. What do these agreements provide for? (i) Mobility of students, academics, researchers, apprentices; (ii) cooperation in vocational education; (iii) intra-corporate transfers; (iv) movement for employment; (v) return of nationals, who no longer meet the legal residence; and (vi) technical cooperation to combat smuggling and trafficking of human beings.

5. India is strengthening its formidable digital public infrastructure to support the entire cycle of migration. The updated version of our e-*Migrate portal* was recently launched, to ensure our sustained and streamlined efforts to protect migrants. In terms of skill development, migrant workers before their departure, have been imparted skills in line with international standards along with soft skills to assist their adjustment of life and work overseas. We are happy to share our experiences with other countries.
6. Let me also mention India celebrates the contribution of our 35 million living abroad annually on 9th January through an iconic event called “Pravasiya Bharatiya Divas”, or the Day of the Overseas Indians.
7. Before concluding, I am happy to inform that the first joint *Thematic Area Working Group* meetings, since India assumed the Chair of the Colombo Process earlier this year, are taking place in Bangkok in parallel to our IOM Council meeting here. We would like to thank the technical and Secretariat assistance provided by the IOM teams in Geneva, Colombo, and Bangkok. Over the course of three days, the Working Groups will discuss several important issues such as Pre-Departure Orientation; Ethical Recruitment Practices; Skills and Qualification Recognition Processes; and Transfer of Remittances. The Colombo Process is a regional consultative process of large countries of origin, and its discussions, exchange of ideas and best practices, serve to contribute to IOM’s strategic vision of regular migration pathways.

I thank you.

484 words
Time: 3 mins