

**Ireland National Statement**

**IOM 115<sup>th</sup> Council Session**

Thank you Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union, and adds the following in its national capacity.

Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to reiterate our appreciation, Director-General, for what you have achieved during your first full year in your position, and to thank you for your comprehensive Report to Council. As you have stated, this year has been particularly challenging, with emergencies, conflict, and disease outbreaks leading to unprecedented levels of displacement, all exacerbated by climate change.

Ireland welcomes IOM's continued work on human mobility in the context of climate change. We recognise the growing impacts of climate change on migration. Your recent engagement at COP29 in particular was welcome, and we stand ready to support your efforts in this area going forward.

We welcome the focus of this Council Session on legal pathways, as promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration. This is a priority for Ireland. We work closely with IOM in this area through programmes on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration, as well as on Family Reunification.

We welcome the reference in your Report to the importance of diaspora communities. It is clear that the transformative potential of diaspora communities is one of the keys to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Ireland has long understood how much diasporas can contribute, and the launch by IOM, in collaboration with our friends in Cabo Verde, of the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance in September was indeed an important milestone. In order for this Alliance to reach its own transformative potential, it will be important that as wide a range of countries as possible, contribute to its work. Ireland therefore calls on the members of this Council to consider engaging with the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance.

Additionally, you rightly identify communications as a priority area in your Report, Initiatives such as the Global Migration Media Academy are particularly important in this regard, and we welcome the progress that has been made this year on rolling out new learning materials.

Finally, Director-General, Ireland very much welcomes the significant progress that IOM has made in the past year in mobilising support from the private sector. We all recognise the challenges IOM faces in finding the resources to carry out its mandate. It is very positive to see this successful engagement with less traditional funding sources.

At the same time, ultimately, the responsibility for ensuring that IOM can carry out its work lies with us, the IOM member states. Once again, Ireland calls on more states to consider providing unearmarked funding to allow the organisation to carry out its core functions with greater flexibility and responsiveness. The demands on IOM today are greater than they have ever been in the past. We must ensure that IOM can meet those demands.

Thank you.