



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

I T A L Y

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR VINCENZO GRASSI
AT THE 115th SESSION OF THE IOM COUNCIL
Item 11**

27th November 2024

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Distinguished Chair, Director-General, and Deputy-Directors General, distinguished Delegates, Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and the joint statement [to be] delivered by Ukraine.

1. Director General, we congratulate you and all IOM dedicated staff for the outstanding results achieved in 2024. As you know, we attach great importance to the strategic engagement with IOM, as it remains one of our main partners in the fulfilment of the Italian migration strategy.
2. Considering ongoing and protracted humanitarian crises, we reiterate our concern for the displacement triggered by the war of aggression against Ukraine and the devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as the situation in Tunisia, Libya, Syria, Sudan and neighbouring countries, that are at the crossroad of migratory flows along the Central Mediterranean route.

3. Italy strongly supports IOM's work on safe, regular, orderly, and sustainable migration management in countries of origin, transit and destination, and commends the remarkable work achieved through its operational presence as well as its people-centred and data driven approach. We welcome IOM's commitment in creating a new model for promoting regular pathways as well as its engagement in leveraging migration as a tool for development. To this end, we are convinced of the importance of activities in the field of training, social inclusion and labour market mobility and we count on an increasingly joint work in such areas, also in collaboration with UNHCR, as it reflects a holistic and results-based management approach.
4. As COP29 has reached its conclusion, let me also commend IOM for its engagement in the Conference and highlight the importance of its work on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. In this regard, we encourage an increasingly stronger partnership with specialized UN agencies to foster the implementation of early warning systems as well as with governments and communities on the preparation of anticipatory action plans.
5. Italy also takes note of the regional strategies for 2025-2028 and in particular the mention of the Rome Process steered by Italy towards a coherent and comprehensive response to migration, as well as the focus on the application of inclusive AAP approaches, ensuring the voices of affected populations are holistically considered in the planning, implementation and evaluation of your programmes.
6. My Government would like to IOM's recent contribution to the discussions of the G7 Ministerial meetings on Interior and Development last month, as well as

its leadership in promoting positive migration-related narratives and scale up safe and regular pathways.

7. Finally, let me express gratitude on the election as Rapporteur for the IOM Bureau. I look forward to working with the distinguished representatives of Korea, Peru and Tunisia, as well as with the IOM Senior Leadership Team, and represent the voice and the interests of the Expanded Europe Group in upcoming meetings and discussions.

I thank you.