



STATEMENT DELIVERED BY NIGERIA AT THE
115TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR
MIGRATION (IOM)

26TH - 28TH November, 2024

Agenda item: 11 General Debate
3 minutes

Thank you Chairperson,

Nigeria aligns with the statements delivered by the Republic of Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

2. My delegation congratulates His Excellency, Ambassador Seong Yun, on his election as Chairperson of the IOM Council. Similarly, we commend Her Excellency Ambassador Katharina Stasch for her stellar performance as Chairperson of the Council in the past year and join other delegations to congratulate newly elected members of this Council. Let me also seize this opportunity to thank the Director-General, most broadly, for her Report.

3. The discourse on critical migratory subjects is timely. Indeed, constructive debates on promoting regular migration pathways have become pertinent to leverage the economic, social and cultural dividends of migration. Nigeria supports the **third Objective of IOM's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan**, which further reinforces the commitment of Member States to **Objective 5 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**. We therefore seize this opportunity to call on Member States to support this spirited effort, by remaining engaged in dialogues that advance regular migratory pathways. Nigeria commends IOM on the pilot meeting on this important subject in Rabat, Morocco in July, 2024 and wishes to call on the Organisation to seize the momentum to advance the shared commitment of Member States.

4. In line with the Regular-Pathways agenda, Nigeria has established a technology-based platform, the National Electronic Labour Exchange (NELEX) to facilitate automated job-matching and placement opportunities. This is premised on the need to ensure that a large number of Nigerians in the youth demographic bracket migrate through regular routes. We therefore call on IOM to support Governments in advancing technology-based platforms to build better migration pathways.

5. The clarion call by IOM to place regular migration pathways at the climax of our conversation entreats Member States to consider favourable national migration policies. We must collectively refrain from propagating negative narratives and the use of migration as a tool for political debates, as this fosters hate, discrimination and xenophobia against migrants, irrespective of their migratory status. Nigeria calls on Member States to

take strategic measures to educate citizens on the benefits of migration while creating conditions for prosperous cohesion in our societies.

6. As co-chairs of the Roundtable on Climate Change of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), dialogues on the nexus of climate change and human mobility remain pertinent for Nigeria. The WorldBank has estimated that, if no “concrete climate and development action” is taken, Nigeria will produce 9.4million climate migrants by 2050. As at November, 2024 more than 1.3 million have been affected by floods in 34 States in the country.

7. As these extreme weather events intensify, our Government is responding by embedding human mobility in its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) through investments in climate-smart agriculture and drought-resistant crops. Nigeria has also initiated the “Go Green Programme” to promote environmental restoration and climate-action through renewable energy projects and community engagement. We therefore urge IOM to take an integral role, within its mandate, to sustain the strident efforts of the Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary General on Solutions to Internal Displacement, even as his mandate terminates in December.

8. Regarding the Programme and Budget for 2025, Nigeria wishes to seize this opportunity to thank all Member States for their engagement and encourage IOM to always listen to all Member States, particularly on issues that infringe national laws, and calls on IOM to remain consistent to concepts anchored on **Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** on **...race, colour, sex, language, religion ... among others**. It is this bedrock that my delegation wishes to stress the need for harmonious relationship and dialogue as we work assiduously towards broad consensus at all times. IOM is too big to fail and seriously not under this very able DG.

9. Nigeria remains a committed partner to IOM in promoting safe, orderly and regular migration.

I thank you.