



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

**Statement by Ambassador Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan, on behalf of the OIC Group, at the 115th Session of IOM Council
Meeting, Geneva under Agenda item: General Debate**

(26-28 November 2024)

**Dear Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
and Esteemed Colleagues.**

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the OIC Group¹ in Geneva.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for extending continued support and protection to displaced persons across the globe.

Escalating crises of forced displacement and irregular migration caused by high intensity conflicts and climate induced catastrophes continues to profoundly impact the lives of millions across the globe.

Today, we emphasize the critical situations in Gaza, Lebanon, and Sudan, where our collective moral and humanitarian obligations demand urgent action.

We appreciate Ms. Amy Pope, Director General (IOM), for joining the statement by IASC² calling for stopping the appalling human suffering and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. We laud efforts of IOM for delivering essential aid to Gaza despite several layers of difficulties.

¹ All OIC member states except Albania.

² Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory on 23 September 2024.

We also commend the IOM for fully supporting the UN Secretary General position that UNRWA is irreplaceable.

The OIC calls for the immediate lifting of the blockade on Gaza, adherence to international humanitarian law, and the provision of unimpeded humanitarian access. We reaffirm our commitment to the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to safe and dignified return to Gaza.

Chairperson,

We appreciate the DG IOM for her recent visit to Port Sudan and raising awareness about the scale and intensity of forcibly displaced persons, we echo her call for international support to provide every possible assistance to the displaced community.

Protracted and emerging crises trigger an unending cycle of mixed flow of migrants and refugees having global repercussions; therefore, we call on all stakeholders to seek sustainable solutions that address the root causes of forced displacement and irregular migration.

We also urge to increase support for host communities where forcibly displaced persons are taking shelter. Particularly, host communities in OIC countries need urgent financial and logistical support to accommodate displaced populations.

Chairperson,

The OIC Group disassociates itself from the controversial language, concepts and terms used in the technical documents of IOM and we reiterate our long standing request to adhere to universally recognized and non-controversial language in financial as well as technical documents of IOM in future.

Finally, we reiterate our commitment to working closely with the IOM to promote legal pathways of migration and taking care of forcibly displaced persons.

I thank you
