



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

**Statement**

**Statement by Ambassador Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative of  
Pakistan at the 115<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council, under Agenda item:  
General Debate  
(26-28 November 2024)**

**Dear Chairperson,**

First of all, I would like to extend warm congratulations on your election as Chairperson of the IOM Council.

Pakistan, as a long-standing partner, appreciates the work undertaken by the IOM for facilitating pathways for regular migration and extending support to forcibly displaced persons across the globe.

We believe that the evolving landscape of international migration has placed more responsibilities over the IOM. In this regard, we support the IOM Strategic Plan 2024-2028 to further synergize efforts for finding sustainable solutions for new and emerging challenges to migration governance.

Similarly, the role of the Council in guiding the Organization and executive function of the Director General has become even more important in the contemporary setting.

Migration is a significant aspect of Pakistan's social and economic fabric. Our contributions and experiences as a major migrant hosting, transit and sending state uniquely positions us to exchange views on multifaceted dimensions for safe, orderly and regular migration and their impact on host communities.

Pakistan's professionals, skilled and semi-skilled labour force play a crucial role in driving economies across the globe particularly in the Middle East, Europe, and North America. Remittances from Pakistan's expatriates contribute over \$30 billion annually to our economy, supporting local development, social welfare, and poverty alleviation which directly contributes to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. Therefore, we have an abiding interest in protecting the rights and welfare of migrants abroad and further strengthening bilateral and multilateral frameworks for promoting pathways for regular migration in collaboration with the IOM.

Towards this end, Pakistan's policy to facilitate regular migration and manage irregular migration is in alignment with the core objectives of IOM. Under the framework of IOM, Pakistan actively participates in the Colombo Process, as Chairs of the Thematic Area Working Group on Promoting Cheaper, Faster and Safer Transfer of Remittance to incentivize regular migration for sustainable development.

**Chairperson,**

A growing nexus of climate change and displacement is presenting a new dimension of human mobility. Climate related events have the potential to disrupt socio-economic factors that might drive people to cross international borders.

To address the cascading effects of climate change on migration, we need innovative approaches such as expansion of complementary legal pathways as well as global investments to support climate resilient development in countries at risk.

We encourage IOM to continue its advocacy and engagement with governments and other stakeholders to highlight concerns of climate vulnerable countries and seek practical solutions for the impacts of climate on migration governance.

**Chairperson,**

Illegal migration is a global concern. Pakistan appreciates the crucial role of the IOM in addressing illegal migration including through capacity building of member States as well as by facilitating the repatriation and reintegration activities.

We emphasize that legal migration frameworks ensure that people can move across borders under regulated systems that safeguard their rights, foster economic opportunities, and encourage their social inclusion. Simultaneously, we urge all stakeholders to strengthen efforts to combat illegal migration by addressing root causes such as poverty, conflict, and lack of awareness, further steering individuals toward safer, legal alternatives. By aligning these approaches, societies can create an environment that prioritizes human dignity and economic stability while reducing the risks associated with irregular migration.

I thank you.

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