

IOM Council - 115th Session

26 - 28 November 2024

General Debate

Statement by Portugal

Thank you, Chair, Director General.

Portugal aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the European Union.

Portugal has long advocated for a Human Rights-based and whole-of-society approach to migration, promoting a positive narrative on migrants' contribution to societies.

Migration is, at its core, a human phenomenon. Thus, we must respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status.

Migration can be a powerful driver of sustainable development for migrants and their communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. We believe that, with the right enabling conditions, migration can help to achieve development outcomes and to fulfil the aspirations of those who move and the societies they join, as well as of those who stay in the countries of origin.

Migration has been a strong defining factor for social change in my country over the past decade:

- Portugal is traditionally a country of emigration: there are roughly 10 million people in Portugal, and yet our diaspora comprises approximately 5 million, spread all around the globe.
- Portugal is also a country of immigration: today, more than one million foreigners have chosen our country as their home.

Portugal has been a Champion Country of the Global Compact on Migration since this initiative was launched. Safe, regular and sustainable migration is a priority for Portugal, at home and abroad.

Chair,

We are at a critical international juncture. The world faces unprecedented emergencies, cross-border conflicts, sociopolitical unrest, prolonged displacement and the severe impacts of climate change. All of which have led to increased numbers of people on the move.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East have both affected migratory flows. Many who left their homes will be looking to rebuild their lives in other, safer countries.

Meanwhile, climate change is also a driving factor of higher migration numbers globally, especially in LDCs and SIDS.

The recent COP29 results are a positive step in this context, namely through the pledge from developed nations to contribute at least \$300 billion annually to support adaptation, with an overall climate financing target to reach at least \$1.3 trillion by 2035.

Climate change and migration are two global phenomena that require international cooperation at many different levels. Financing is one of them. But sound mobility governance between countries is also key.

Within the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) we have been developing a productive cooperation in the field of mobility, which has not only allowed us to better regulate the movements of people between the 9 countries that comprise the organization but also enriched our dialogue and our vision of the migratory phenomenon.

Chair,

As a Champion Country, Portugal remains engaged and committed to the GCM and strongly believes that migration must be addressed using an inclusive partnership-based approach that combines local, national, regional and global stakeholders.

Portugal has negotiated labour mobility agreements and social security agreements with countries in Europe, Africa and Asia, seeking to increase and enhance the regularity of migratory flows as an opportunity for countries of origin and destination.

We will continue our solid partnership with IOM and fully support the organization's efforts across the triple nexus, promoting an inclusive, gender-responsive and rights-based approach.

I thank you.