



**EMBASSY AND PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**  
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## **INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION**

### **115<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE IOM AGENDA ITEM 11: GENERAL DEBATE**

**26 – 28 NOVEMBER 2024 – NATIONAL STATEMENT**

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. Sierra Leone aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and thanks the Director General and team for an impressive report.
2. Sierra Leone thanks the Government of the Netherlands and the IOM for facilitating the repatriation of our nationals who had been trapped amidst the escalating violence in Lebanon to Freetown.
3. Sierra Leone commends the leadership of the IOM for following through with programmes that have had remarkable impacts on the lives of migrants and migrant communities, and for the complementary assistance to states and governments in the implementation of national programmes to support development goals. Your support to migrants and vulnerable communities, interventions in education and capacity building, health and disaster management, community development, and in the promotion of climate disaster awareness, and emphases on inclusive governance, have continued to change the livelihood of many around the world and to impact national policy trajectories.

4. Sierra Leone-IOM partnership has helped to strengthen efforts in the implementation of our National Migration Policy, especially in our national response to the devastating impacts of climate change and environmental disasters with Sierra Leone being one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.
5. Our response to the effects of irregular regional and youth migration has received significant technical and other support from the IOM and our international partners. We have collaborated with the IOM to implement National programmes and community engagements with priorities for capacity building for youths and women, enhancing their participation in community programmes and development efforts.

**Mr. chairman**

6. Sierra Leone, a country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants, strongly supports the IOM in the global call for safe, legal and regular pathways to effectively harness the full potentials of migration. As a GCM champion country, we join others to call for a strong support for the 2024 – 2028 Workplan of the IOM, which in itself is an inspiring global programme seeking to pair-up critical skills with the global labour market and facilitate movement.
7. As a country, Sierra Leone is ready to collaborate with the IOM in implementing the proposed skills mobility partnership programme to be piloted in eleven countries including Sierra Leone. This gives hope and future to the huge youth population of Sierra Leone, hope for a better life in a future where each participant will have a chance to flourish.

**Thank you.**