



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

**General Debate**  
**115<sup>th</sup> Session of IOM Council**  
27 November 2024

3 Minutes

**Thank you, Chair,  
Excellency Director-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

Migration remains a cornerstone of Timor-Leste's development strategy. Our Government has made significant strides in ensuring migration is safe, orderly, and regular, while addressing challenges such as climate change and border governance.

**Chair,**

With over 50,000 Timorese nationals living abroad, the Government continues to prioritize diaspora engagement. The National Diaspora Engagement Policy (2023–2027), developed in partnership with IOM, leverages remittances for socio-economic development and fosters partnerships with the diaspora as nation-building stakeholders. Complementing this, Timor-Leste launched its first Migration Profile in 2023, providing data to inform evidence-based migration policies.

Timor-Leste views regular migration pathways as a key component of its migration governance framework. Regional labor agreements, such as Australia's Pacific Labour Scheme, provide opportunities for Timorese workers while addressing skill shortages in destination countries. These pathways are complemented by the Government's efforts to enhance remittance utilization and skills transfers through structured diaspora policies. Timor-Leste also emphasizes the importance of protecting migrant rights, countering irregular migration, and aligning its initiatives with the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) objectives

Timor-Leste has also achieved milestones in border management. The rollout of the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) at key border points, supported by IOM and the Australian Government, has improved migration governance, with over 51,000 border entries and exits recorded since its implementation. Enhanced capacity-building for border officials and gender-sensitive approaches underline our commitment to inclusive and accountable migration systems.

**Chair,**

As a small island developing state, climate change exacerbates our vulnerabilities, contributing to disaster-induced displacements. Our National Disaster Risk Management Strategy aligns with IOM's focus on integrating climate resilience into migration planning. Community-based programs, particularly involving women as change-makers in disaster risk reduction, highlight Timor-Leste's emphasis on inclusive resilience-building.

**Chair,**

In conclusion, Timor-Leste reaffirms its dedication to supporting IOM's mission. We look forward to furthering our partnership to address shared challenges in migration governance, climate resilience, and border management.

Thank you.