

Mr. Chair,
Mrs. Amy Pope, Director General,
Excellencies,

Türkiye aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC Group.

We commend the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its steadfast commitment and invaluable contributions to advancing durable solutions for displacement.

The global trend of internal displacement has reached alarming levels due to numerous factors, including protracted conflicts, extreme weather events, pandemics, and economic crises.

Today, over 71 million people are internally displaced.

Conflict-driven displacements in Gaza, Sudan, Myanmar, and numerous other regions continue to exacerbate the crisis.

A coordinated and inclusive humanitarian response is crucial to addressing the immediate needs of displaced populations.

Natural disasters, including earthquakes and floods, also drive significant displacement worldwide.

Türkiye exerts efforts to provide speedily humanitarian aid to those who need help within the bounds of its possibilities all over the world.

Türkiye also faces disaster risks.

On February 6, 2023, Türkiye experienced a series of catastrophic earthquakes, marking one of the strongest seismic events in the region in over a century.

The earthquakes resulted in approximately 53,000 deaths (including 6,800 foreigners), more than 107,000 injuries, and affected millions of people.

Additionally, around 350,000 people temporary migrated from the disaster area following the February 6 earthquakes.

Responding to a crisis of this magnitude required an unprecedented mobilization of resources and personnel over 271,000 rescue workers and 1.4 million volunteers collaborated with international teams, including IOM staff and private sector entities, to deliver aid and set up temporary shelters.

Temporary shelters, including tents, repurposed hotels, and container cities, were rapidly deployed to address immediate needs.

Despite the challenges on the field, IOM was among the first to deliver aid to those affected, thanks to its well-organized, prepositioned humanitarian aid system.

A total of 528 tons of aid, delivered by 14 cargo planes from IOM warehouses in Accra, Manila, Nairobi, Lahore, and New Delhi, helped us provide timely support to those affected by the earthquake.

In this regard, let me extend our gratitude to IOM and donor countries for their support after the devastating earthquakes in our country last year.

We have witnessed IOM in action and remain deeply grateful.

Reconstruction efforts continue.

Currently, around 360 thousand housing units are under construction at 160 construction sites across 11 provinces, 150.000 of which have been completed and delivered in one and a half year, making this one of the largest construction sites in the world.

Thanks to the measures taken by our government in the aftermath, many people from the affected region have been able to return to their homes.

Disasters teach us the critical importance of prevention, preparedness, long-term solutions, and swift recovery.

Today disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and urban resilience is at the top of Türkiye's political and economic agenda both at the national and local levels.

Towards ensuring a resilient infrastructure, Türkiye is undertaking a comprehensive and ambitious urban transformation, earthquake resilient infrastructure and housing drive.

Over the past 12 years, this initiative has resulted in the demolition and reconstruction of 2,1 million units.

In conclusion, addressing disaster-related displacement requires a proactive and inclusive approach prioritizing prevention, durable solutions, and comprehensive protection for disaster-affected individuals.

By addressing root causes such as systemic inequalities, and conflict, and by investing in disaster risk reduction and early warning systems, we can mitigate displacement risks and enhance resilience.

Türkiye's experience also underscores the vital role of international solidarity, innovative solutions, and collaborative efforts in mitigating the impacts of such crises.

I thank you