

**U.S. Delegation Statement  
115th Session of the IOM Council  
Agenda Item 12 – General Debate  
Ambassador Bathsheba Nell Crocker  
November 26, 2024**

Thank you, Ambassador Yun, and a warm welcome and congratulations to you as you take up the mantle of Council Bureau Chair. Our sincerest thanks to Ambassador Stasch for adeptly guiding IOM Member States over the past year.

Director General Pope, on behalf of the American people, I commend your steady leadership and transformative vision during your first year. And to IOM staff around the world and on the front lines, we are deeply grateful for your commitment to support the most vulnerable people on the move.

As the world witnesses staggering levels of migration, displacement, and humanitarian need, our work here is more important than ever. The United States contributed nearly \$16 billion in humanitarian assistance during our Fiscal Year 2024. And we are proud to be the largest single country donor to IOM providing \$1.6 billion in humanitarian funding this year to promote a safe, orderly, and humane approach to migration.

We are tackling migration challenges together in a number of important ways.

Since 2021, the United States has collaborated with IOM and other partners to expand lawful migration and protection pathways. The Safe Mobility Initiative, supported by Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Canada, New Zealand, and Spain, is one such innovative approach to migration management. In just over a year, hundreds of thousands have applied, and tens of thousands have been referred to lawful pathways. This initiative provides a structured migration process and reduces the burden on countries overwhelmed by irregular migration flows.

The United States is also supporting local efforts to strengthen immigration systems worldwide, ensuring migrants have access to safe and lawful routes to employment, facilitating access to services, providing fair and efficient access to international protection for those in need, and assisting with safe returns for those without legal basis to remain. Such initiatives bolster humane migration governance in a way that preserves and promotes the dignity of people on the move.

And we rely on IOM's data work to understand the landscape of human mobility, including climate mobility impacts. The Global Data Institute and Global Migration Data Portal are critical resources to inform policy decisions, shape positive migration narratives, and support innovative migration programming.

Finally, the United States Refugee Admissions Program plays a crucial role in international protection, offering a lifeline to refugees around the world. We welcomed the highest number of refugees to the United States in three decades during our 2024 Fiscal Year – over 100,000 – thanks in part to IOM’s Resettlement Support Centers. This achievement underscores our commitment to providing refuge to those in need.

Director General Pope, the United States appreciates our strong partnership with IOM as we work together to bolster the organization, address the challenges of human migration, capitalize on opportunities, and respond to humanitarian needs inclusively, drawing on the expertise and experience of all member states.

I thank you.

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