

**115<sup>th</sup> Session of IOM Council, 26-28 November 2024, Geneva**  
**Statement by India in High Level Segment on 26 November 2024**  
**Pre-recorded video message by Secretary CPV & OIA**

**Madam Chair, Ambassador Katharina Stasch**

**IOM Director General Amy Pope,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

1. I am delighted to address the high-level segment of the 115<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council. I take this opportunity to appreciate the leadership of the Director General to steer IOM's work during these critical times for global migration.
  
2. This segment's theme of a **global call for action towards regular migration pathways** is particularly apt in view of the several challenges being faced by international migration, which require us to cooperate with renewed focus. Recalling our collective commitment in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, we must work together to enhance regular migration pathways by concrete steps such as providing access to social security and health insurance to migrants, and to diaspora engagement by IOM member States.

**Madam Chair,**

3. India has a global Diaspora of 32 million persons. At home, our working-age population is set to peak at nearly 70%, reaching 1.04 billion persons by 2030. Recognizing the need of optimizing this demographic potential, the Government of India places great importance both on supporting domestic workers as well as safe and legal migration pathways, along with a mapping of skill gaps. We have created a robust legal framework with several destination countries through **bilateral Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements** as well as **Labour Mobility and Labour Welfare Agreements**.

4. Nationally, India is leveraging technology to provide workers and migrants seamless integrated access to benefits and protections. This is done through digital platforms such as *e-Shram* and *e-Migrate*, which empower workers, including migrant workers, with training and recruitment opportunities as well as paperless processes for applying for various clearances. An updated version of *e-Migrate* portal was launched recently and has been integrated with the national *DigiLocker* for the secure digital storage of documents.
  
5. To protect the interests of our migrant workers globally, India is deeply engaged with international and multilateral bodies and has also launched a number of benefits schemes. This includes the Indian Community Welfare Fund, which has been supporting Indians abroad in distress situations since 2009. The insurance scheme called *Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana* provides a cover of about 1200 US dollars at a nominal premium of only 3 US dollars for two years. Our online Consular Management System called *MADAD* enables Indians living abroad to seek assistance from Indian diplomatic Missions in their respective countries. We stand ready to share our experiences of these international and domestic initiatives with IOM and IOM member States.

**Madam Chair,**

6. India welcomes the IOM Programme and Budget for 2025, which calls for strengthening work in the areas of *humanitarian response and protection* ; *climate mobility* ; *regular pathways* ; and *data and analysis*. I'll conclude by reaffirming India's full and strong support to IOM in implementing its programme of work, and its valuable efforts to facilitate pathways for regular migration.

**I thank you.**

**475 words (time limit 5 mins)**