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Remarks of
Undersecretary Eduardo José A. DE VEGA
of the
Department of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of the Philippines
for the High-Level Segment of the IOM 115th Council Meeting
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Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, the Republic of the Philippines addresses this esteemed Council at this critical time when migration is both a challenge and an opportunity.

As one of the largest countries of origin for migrants, the Philippines certainly understands the profound impacts of migration on individuals, families, and societies. While there are admitted positives, there are also a lot of negative externalities which we have now seen in the migration cycle. Our experiences have shown the value of a rights-based approach to migration governance—one which ensures the dignity, welfare, and rights of migrants at every stage of the migration cycle. Central to our strategy is creating regular pathways that protect and empower migrant workers and their families while addressing the complexities of migration through international cooperation and innovative solutions. Initiatives like the 1995 Philippine Law called the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act” reflect our commitment to responsible, rights-based governance.

We commend the IOM for its steadfast commitment to advancing safe, orderly, and humane migration. Our national priorities align with the IOM’s Strategic Plan 2024-2028, emphasizing migrant safety, dignity, and climate resilience. Collaborations with the IOM, particularly in reintegration and pre-departure orientation, have certainly been instrumental in strengthening support for our migrants. Also, as one of the most climate-vulnerable nations, the Philippines recognizes the urgency of addressing climate-induced migration. We will therefore continue to work closely with the IOM to develop adaptive strategies, mitigate displacement, and provide dignified migration options for climate-affected populations. Finally, we reaffirm that migrants’ rights must remain central to all our efforts. Through partnerships like the Colombo Process, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance as processes under the aegis of the IOM, we advocate for multilateral solutions and shared responsibility to ensure that migration contributes to sustainable development.

The Philippines remains most committed to shaping migration as an opportunity for prosperity, and not a necessity born of instability. Together, let us work to expand regular pathways and harness migration for sustainable growth.

Friends and partners who are around the world, let’s do it for our migrants.

Thank you.