

Statement by Mr. Bae Sang-up
Commissioner of Korea Immigration Service
Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea

Mr. Chair, Director-General Amy Pope and Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, I would like to extend my gratitude to International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its rigorous efforts to enhance safe, regular, orderly migration.

Recently, migration has emerged as significantly important global issue. In response, Korea has put various policies and institutions in place, while strengthening international cooperation

First, the Korean Government is actively engaged in promoting fair and lawful migration pathways. It encourages the legal entry of foreign workers, recognizing their valuable contributions to the Korean society. For instance, the Government has significantly expanded the quota for skilled labor, enabling long-term stays for migrant workers who have gained expertise through long-term employment in low-skilled sectors. It is also implementing the Seasonal Worker Program, which facilitates short-term seasonal employment, and the Region-Specialized Visa System, which facilitates local employment of foreign workers.

Notably, in September 2024, the Korean government announced the New Immigration Policy, which introduces several transformative measures. These include diversifying visa tracks to attract international talent, implementing visa

governance that aligns with the needs of local governments and the private sector, strengthening the social integration of migrants, and establishing a scientific and systematic framework for introducing foreign workers. These policies represent a paradigm shift in Korea's approach to addressing rapid demographic and economic changes.

Korea is also working closely with multiple countries and international organizations to prevent irregular migration and counter smuggling and human trafficking, while safeguarding migrants' human rights. Such efforts include providing support for voluntary and safe returns and collaborating with other states to block smuggling and human trafficking routes. Such policies also create an environment where migrants can be protected and simultaneously empowered to contribute to the Korean society. I hope these efforts by my government will have a positive impact not only on Korea but also on the international community as a whole.

In closing, I express my gratitude to the IOM Member States for their support in electing the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea as the Chairperson of the IOM Council for the coming year. The Korean Government will continue its efforts to foster a safe and fair migration environment in collaboration with the international community. Let us unite our efforts to build a better future.

Thank you.