

U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken
Remarks at the 115th Session of the
International Organization of Migration Council
High-Level Segment on Regular Migration Pathways
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Hello, everyone. Across the globe, an unprecedented number of people are on the move – fleeing war and violence, forced from their homes by natural disasters, seeking greater opportunity for themselves and their families. Some 122 million people have been displaced, with profound consequences not only for some of the world’s most vulnerable people, but for countries everywhere.

Over the past four years, the United States has worked intensively with partners – governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector, labor groups, civil society, and others – to create more secure and regular migration pathways. Together, we’re saving lives while supporting host communities. We endorsed the vision of the Global Compact for Migration to ensure that our policies are grounded in human rights and dignity, transparency, state sovereignty. We led nearly two dozen countries from across our hemisphere to launch the Los Angeles Declaration and commit to concrete steps to address migration as a region. We joined six countries and the European Commission to launch the Resettlement Diplomacy Network, enabling senior officials to share best practices and strengthen coordination on refugee issues.

Here in the United States, we have established new humanitarian and family-reunification parole processes, increased our annual target for refugee resettlement from 18,000 to 125,000, and made our refugee resettlement program stronger and more efficient. With the support of IOM and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, we’ve set up Safe Mobility Offices in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Ecuador – providing screening and referral information to prospective migrants where they are. More than a quarter million people have applied for information on lawful migration options since we launched this effort in June 2023. Nearly 23,000 refugees resettled in the United States through this initiative – and 28,000 more have been approved for other legal pathways.

The United States and our partners have increased support for host countries as they integrate migrants into their economies and into their communities. We

work with governments throughout the Western Hemisphere to get lawful residency for millions of Venezuelans. In Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil, USAID has helped tens of thousands of migrants, refugees, and locals gain skills, professional certifications, entrepreneurship training, and access to jobs and banking services.

It's extraordinary to witness how communities are embracing migrants and how eager these new arrivals are to contribute. I've met Syrian and Afghan refugees working at a coffee shop in Atlanta and engaged with Colombian officials helping displaced Venezuelans access school and work. Through the Welcome Corps that the United States launched in January of last year, more than 100,000 Americans from all 50 states – church groups, college students, veterans – have volunteered to sponsor and integrate over 50,000 refugees from 45 different countries into communities across our country.

Even as the United States has provided billions in humanitarian aid to displaced people, making us the world's top humanitarian donor by far, we've worked to address the root causes that have driven so many from their homes. Under the Central America Forward initiative, for instance, the American private sector has invested over \$5.2 billion to expand opportunity in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador – with an emphasis on groups traditionally excluded or underrepresented in the formal economy.

The progress that we've made toward our shared goals would not have been possible without all of you. Under Director General Pope's leadership, IOM has undertaken reforms that have significantly strengthened the institution's capacity to tackle 21st century migration challenges. You've made hiring more transparent to ensure that IOM can recruit and retain the best people. You're forging new coalitions and partnering with the private sector. You boosted investments in data – like the new Lighthouse program IOM and State have partnered to create – and that will enable us to see hemispheric migration statistics in a single, one-stop location so we can design more effective policies and direct scarce resources more efficiently.

At the same time, we all know how much work there is to do. Conflict, climate change, political instability, and other drivers will continue to uproot people. Traffickers will continue to adapt their tactics. Certain countries and communities will disproportionately bear the effects of unprecedented migration.

To sustain our momentum, it's vital that we continue to innovate and adapt as well, to get better at anticipating the challenges we'll face, to coordinate more closely across regions and institutions. And in the years to come, we'll be looking to institutions like the IOM – as well as partners and stakeholders throughout the world – to lead the way.

Thank you for all that you do.