



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus  
Geneva**

**Speaker:** *H.E. Ambassador Olympia Neocleous*

**STATEMENT BY CYPRUS MISSION  
To the  
114th Session of the Council of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**

Thank you, Vice- Chair,

Cyprus aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU.

We thank you, Director General for your report. We express our support to your vision, your efforts and to the invaluable work of the IOM and its staff.

Today, we all bear witness to unprecedented numbers of forcibly displaced and vulnerable persons. The causes are known: Economic disparities, political instability, armed conflicts, human rights abuses, climate change and resource scarcity. The ever-growing intensity of these causes propels millions to seek safety across land borders and seas, risking their lives but also placing immense strain on international humanitarian systems and host countries alike.

Since last year, we have seen the emergence of new conflicts and the intensification of existing ones. The grave humanitarian situation in Gaza, the raging war against Ukraine, the civil war in Syria, and the conflict in Sudan are but a few examples.

Looking ahead, we are faced with grim forecasts.

As the number of vulnerable persons seeking to move - in search of refuge and a better future - will continue to be on the rise, the multifaceted challenges **will need transformative and impactful solutions, seeking to address the root causes of migration.**

At the same time, we need to double down on our efforts to maximize effectiveness **when** ensuring the protection of refugees and migrants' lives and rights, **when** fostering integration and inclusivity in host societies and **when** addressing the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment.

Excellencies,

Cyprus remains a frontline state with disproportionately large migratory pressures in terms of the size of its population. The scale of the situation has required the continuous adaptation of our national policies and the strengthening of our resources. In the past years, Cyprus has enhanced its legal framework and capacities, opened new avenues for regular migration and stepped-up efforts against smugglers and human traffickers.

At the same time, greater attention has also been given to the timely management of asylum applications and procedures related to the returns of third-country nationals to their countries of origin.

Cooperating with countries within and outside the EU, to better manage migratory flows is a critical priority for us. Respect for international law and EU obligations stand as our compass.

The active engagement of the IOM's Cyprus Office, and its targeted programmes, especially the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes, have been indispensable to us, and we would like to express our gratitude to the Organisation for its help.

Chair,

Given the magnitude of the challenges in front of us, the IOM's role in strengthening global migration governance is pivotal. As we endeavour to fulfil the commitments under the Global Compact for Migration, in order to meet the needs of vulnerable migrants and address the causes of forced displacement, the determination of the IOM to spearhead approaches that harness the positive impact of migration worldwide while providing crucial on-the-ground support for displaced populations, has our wholehearted support.