

Ireland National Statement to IOM Council

Thank you Chair, and please allow me to congratulate Director General Amy Pope on your recent appointment. Ireland looks forward to continuing our engagement with IOM throughout your tenure and you can be assured of our ongoing support.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union on behalf of its Member States, and with the Joint Statement delivered by Ukraine.

We also take this opportunity to recall our condemnation of the attack by Hamas and to express our deep concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. We call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. We welcome the extension of the temporary truce in Gaza beyond its original four days, and we reiterate our call for a durable humanitarian ceasefire to be established.

Director-General, in the opening words of your Report to this Council you use a phrase that expresses simply and powerfully what IOM's primary task would be in an ideal world: "to deliver on the promise of migration".

Unfortunately, as you fully recognise, we do not live in an ideal world, and as you also mention, more of your efforts have to be devoted to: "supporting the world's most vulnerable".

Conflict, instability, natural disasters and climate change are resulting in unprecedented levels of displacement, and IOM's work at the forefront of addressing this challenge and supporting those affected is essential.

At the same time, Ireland recognises, as you do, that finding long-term, sustainable solutions to the underlying issues that can erupt in crisis must mean, given IOM's specific role and place within the UN system, not losing sight of the need to deliver on the promise of migration.

Where delivering on that promise is concerned, Ireland attaches particular importance to Objective 19 of the Global Compact for Migration: *Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries*, as it resonates strongly with us due to our own history and experience. We very much appreciate the work that IOM is undertaking in bringing forward the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance, called for in the Dublin Declaration of April last year, and we look forward to playing an active part in the Alliance.

We furthermore assure IOM of our ongoing support for the Global Migration Media Academy, recently incorporated within IOM. Ireland hopes to continue to play a positive role within this initiative, underlining the importance of the media, dialogue and rights-based communication in the migration sphere, at a time where migration discourse is often polarised.

Delivering on the promise of migration that is safe, orderly and regular also necessarily means facilitating regular migration pathways. As you have noted in your Report to the Council, irregular migration pathways are often faster and cheaper than regular pathways and this makes them attractive. But as we know, irregular pathways are also frequently dangerous, placing vulnerable migrants at risk of exploitation, abuse, violence and, tragically, death. The Displaced Talent for Europe initiative, in which Ireland participates, is a good example of the type of action which benefits both displaced persons and the countries in which they are given an opportunity to use their talents and the skills.

It is more important now than ever before, given the scale and the range of the challenges we face, that more Member States provide un-earmarked or softly earmarked funding in addition to project-specific funding. Particularly over the past 5 years, since the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration, our expectations of you have grown and it is essential that you are provided with the resources that will allow you to meet those expectations.

Thank you.