



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 www.geneva.mission.gov.au

**Statement by the Hon Andrew Giles MP,  
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs**

**International Organization for Migration 114<sup>th</sup> Council - High Level Segment**

Director General Pope

I want to start by thanking IOM for once again focusing its Council's High-Level Segment on the intersection of climate change and human mobility. Climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of our Pacific neighbours and its links to displacement are indisputable. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change continues to remind us, climate change acts as a risk multiplier, interacting with other social and economic factors to shape human mobility.

I would also like to thank you for challenging us to think about the solutions for when someone is forced to move. While a State's sovereign right to determine its migration policy, in conformity with international law, remains at the heart of the international system, we recognise the need for States to come together to prepare for situations of climate induced displacement, including cross-border displacement.

To this end, Australia was pleased to join fellow Pacific Island countries in endorsing the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility at the annual Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting earlier this month. The Framework recognises the value of adopting a proactive and planned approach to climate mobility in order to enhance our people's resilience and well-being. It will serve as a guide for Pacific Island countries in ensuring rights-based and people-centred movement in the context of climate change.

Director General

As noted in the Pacific Regional Framework, there is much more in the climate mobility discussion than merely solutions.

Our primary goal should be to ensure an individual's decision to stay or to move remains a voluntary choice. To this end, Australia is also calling for post-2030 targets to align with 1.5 degree pathways. We publicly committed to an accelerated phase-out of unabated fossil fuels. We are on track to deliver \$3 billion towards the global climate finance goal and have recently re-joined the Green Climate Fund. We are helping Pacific countries access more climate financing from the major multilateral funds by embedding climate finance experts in eight Pacific Island countries in partnership with the Climate Finance Access Network. Australia is also privileged to partner with the Government of Tuvalu to advance their Long-Term Adaptation Plan, under the UN's Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator initiative. We are focused on doing the foundational work that will open the gateway to financing and allow

Tuvalu to achieve its climate adaptation ambition. This is one illustration of how Australia is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the countries of our shared region to build their resilience to climate change, helping to ensure mobility remains voluntary.

Earlier this month Australia and Tuvalu were proud to announce the Falepili Union. Falepili is a Tuvaluan word for the traditional values of good neighbourliness, care and mutual respect. We believe the people of Tuvalu deserve the opportunity to live, study and work elsewhere, as climate change impacts worsen. Australia has committed to provide a special visa pathway for citizens of Tuvalu to come to Australia, with access to Australian services that will enable human mobility with dignity. We are also providing an additional \$16.9 million to Tuvalu's Coastal Adaptation Project, enabling people to remain in Tuvalu in the face of sea level rise.

We agree with the IOM that migration can be a powerful factor in adaptation and resilience. As we noted in the High-Level Segment last year, labour pathways such as the PALM provide opportunities for individuals to increase remittances, diversify livelihoods and acquire improved farming techniques, water management skills and food security knowledge. These measures improve community resilience, thereby reducing the risk of forced displacement.

Director General

Australia is committed to the mitigation and adaptation actions required to ensure migration can remain voluntary and we stand with our Pacific partners in addressing the challenges of climate change.

Thank you.