

**114<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council (2023)**

**High-level segment (agenda item 11): Climate impact on human mobility: A global call for solutions**

**Statement by H.E. Nibras Mohammed Talib, CEO of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, Chairman of National Committee for Combatting Trafficking in Persons**

**Kingdom of Bahrain**

Chairperson of the Council

Director-General and Deputy Director General

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to first congratulate you on being elected as the Chairperson of the IOM Council. I would also like to express my warmest congratulations to Director General Pope on her recent election. The Kingdom of Bahrain looks forward to working closely with Director General Pope over the course of her tenure.

Against the backdrop of the impact that climate change is having on human mobility, well-managed migration has emerged as a crucial enabler for achieving sustainable development. We are seeing that new climate realities are forcing people to move to find safe and dignified livelihoods in many parts of the world. At the same time, labour landscapes across the globe are shifting to respond to the new possibilities arising around innovative green solutions. And the Kingdom of Bahrain is no exception.

As a significant labour destination country, the Kingdom of Bahrain has, for years, welcomed expat workers to its shores. We are proud of the diversity in our labour market and country, and of our contributions to the sustainable development of dozens of countries of origin around the world. Bahrain has long been a pioneer with respect to the protection and empowerment of expat workers. In addition to expansive labour reform, including on labour market mobility, we have taken steps to promote ethical recruitment to not only reduce the vulnerabilities of workers but also to support employers in being able to recruit informed and prepared workers to their workplaces.

Recognizing the challenges faced by workers in irregular situations, we have also pioneered creative solutions to provide access to regularization and the labour market, including through promoting flexible work arrangements that reflect the changing nature of work. With this, we look

forward to continuing to consider approaches to labour migration governance, prioritizing innovation, agility, and partnerships.

In this effort, the Government of Bahrain is taking a whole-of-society approach; working closely with the private sector to create an environment where talent is nurtured, and skills are honed. We recognize that sustainable solutions cannot be achieved unilaterally. By actively engaging with the private sector, we are fostering a collaborative ecosystem that harnesses the strengths of both public and private entities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Madam Chairperson,

As elsewhere, the labour market in the Kingdom of Bahrain is evolving. We are seeing and also fully anticipating a growing demand for workers of all skills across both traditional and emerging sectors. We are, in other words, building the workforce of the future, equipped with the knowledge and expertise to pioneer innovative solutions, also in the face of climate change. To meet this challenge, we plan to work closely with partners, both at home, as well as beyond our borders. We believe that well-managed migration can provide win-win solutions for all – workers, employers as well as Governments of both countries of origin and countries of destination.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the IOM for its critical role in strengthening international cooperation on migration. We look forward to continuing the close working relationship with the IOM in furthering innovative whole-of-society solutions to meeting the labour needs of the future.

Thank you.