

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Kweon Ki-hwan  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs**

*High-level Segment at the 114<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council  
November 28, 2023*

**Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

**I would like to begin  
by extending my congratulations  
to Director General Amy Pope on her inauguration.  
Her historic appointment as the first female leader  
marks a significant milestone in the history of IOM.**

**The Republic of Korea  
looks forward to collaborating  
with Director General Pope  
in advancing the IOM's critical mission  
of ensuring humane and orderly migration.**

**As we gather today,  
we stand at an inflection point.  
The international community is grappling  
with crises of an unprecedented scale,  
exacerbated by the effects of climate change.**

**The rising sea levels and extreme weather events we witness today are more than an environmental phenomenon; they herald a looming displacement crisis of the magnitude Secretary-General Guterres has described as “biblical.”**

**Last year alone, natural disasters displaced over 32 million people. This accounts for more than half of the world’s internally displaced.**

**These numbers speak to the stark reality of the human cost: families losing livelihoods, communities being uprooted, and centuries-old cultures being put at risk.**

**Therefore, the urgency to strengthen international cooperation to meet the challenge of climate-induced migration has never been greater.**

**In this regard,  
our efforts to combat climate change  
must be complemented by comprehensive strategies  
to effectively manage the resulting migration.**

**We must ensure  
that displaced populations  
receive the necessary support to rebuild their lives.  
Proactively anticipating  
and addressing the multifaceted challenges  
of climate-induced migration  
is also critical.**

**In this effort,  
we should engage proactively  
with a broader range of stakeholders.  
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)  
have galvanized actors across sectors,  
with resources, innovative technologies,  
and expertise.**

**It is imperative  
that we mobilize and coordinate such resources  
to ensure that human mobility  
is an integral component  
of sustainable development.**

**Korea is fully committed to this global effort.**

**We are significantly increasing  
our humanitarian assistance  
to mitigate the impacts of disasters and conflicts.**

**In line with our commitment  
to enhancing the resilience of partner countries,  
Korea will scale up our green ODA  
to exceed the OECD DAC average by 2025.**

**President Yoon Suk Yeol's  
recent pledge at the G20 Summit  
to contribute 300 million dollars  
to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)  
underscores our dedication  
to a sustainable, shared future.**

**We also plan to share renewable energy  
and high-efficiency Carbon-Free Energy sources  
with countries vulnerable to climate change.**

**Through these initiatives,  
Korea aspires to become a "green ladder,"  
drawing on the lessons learned**

**from our journey towards economic growth and democratization.**

**As we prepare for our upcoming term on the UN Security Council next year, climate security will be a key priority. We aim to enrich Council deliberations with meaningful data and insights on climate-related security dynamics.**

**Let me conclude by encouraging IOM to continue its important work of raising international awareness and tackling the complexities of climate migration.**

**Thank you.**