



**Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during interactive Dialogue  
with SR on Migrants  
53<sup>rd</sup> HRC Session  
26 June 2023**

**Mr. President,**

The OIC Group expresses its deep concern and sadness over the tragic death of over 80 migrants and hundreds missing, including around 100 children at the Mediterranean Sea last week.

We convey our heartfelt condolences to the grieved families and share their sorrow.

The recurrence of such incidents at sea, involving loss of thousands of lives since 2014 are a grim reminder of the protection gaps. The human cost of such status quo is unacceptable.

We underline the right to life, dignity and safety of all individuals in all circumstances. We also underscore the imperative to upholding respect for their human rights and the urgent need for collective and decisive actions to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

We welcome the attention of the High Commissioner as well as IOM and UNHCR on this matter.

Gaps in responsibility-sharing, arrangements for the safe and timely search and rescue and disembarkation of all people rescued at sea, and accountability must be plugged in a spirit of solidarity.

We emphasize the need for improved global protection with the aim to prevent recurrence of such tragedies at sea

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