



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

**36th Session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and
Finance IOM**

Statement on behalf of the OIC Member States

Under Agenda Item 2: Presentation by the Director General on the Annual Report for 2024

(25 – 26 June 2025)

**Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
and Dear Colleagues.**

The OIC Group¹ expresses sincere appreciation for the work of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and takes note of the progress reflected in the Annual Report-2024. IOM has a central role in promoting international cooperation on global migration and related challenges in accordance with its mandate.

As countries of origin, transit, and / or destination for migrants, the OIC countries are key partners of the IOM in promoting regular migration, finding sustainable solutions to combat human trafficking and irregular migration, and maximizing the benefits of global migration governance for the peace, stability, and development of all nations. Thus, we are essential stakeholders in global migration governance. The recent Islamic Philanthropy Fund (IPF) discussion roundtable with OIC member states underscores this commitment.

Migration has emerged one of the most important issues today. Even regular migrants encounter restrictive policies and hostile narratives, fueled by growing Islamophobia. It is unfortunate that for political gains, migrants particularly Muslims are depicted as threats to national identity and security. The challenge lies in addressing the causes of forced migration and countering the narratives that exploit it politically. These policies undermine humanitarian values and influence funding decisions. The current funding crisis is not merely a result of financial constraints but also a reflection of weakening humanitarian norms.

Chairperson

The OIC Group underscores the need to:

1. **Promote safe and regular pathways for migration** that reflect labour market realities while safeguarding migrants' rights. We support IOM's work on skills mobility partnerships and call for greater alignment between education systems and labour migration channels.
2. **Counter harmful narratives, including Islamophobia and anti-migrant rhetoric**, which fuel xenophobia and discrimination. Political discourse must recognize the dignity and contributions of migrants.

¹ Except Albania

3. **Prevent and counter human trafficking** through international cooperation and enhance capacity building of states, on request.
4. **Address the root causes of irregular migration**, including poverty, climate vulnerability, and conflict. Holistic approaches must link migration policy with development, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and climate action.
5. **Ensure sustainable and predictable funding for IOM operations**, especially in underfunded contexts across the OIC region, where humanitarian needs are urgent and long-standing.

In conclusion, the OIC reaffirms its commitment to multilateral engagement and stands ready to work with IOM, UN agencies, and the international community to uphold the principles of dignity, safety, and shared responsibility in managing migration. We consider that migration is beneficial for the global economy. Migrants contribute to economic growth in destination countries by increasing the labor supply, bringing new skills, and fostering innovation. Remittances sent back to countries of origin provide crucial financial support for poverty alleviation, social welfare and local development which directly contribute to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.