Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Statement

Statement on Behalf of OIC Group for IOM Council
under Agenda Item 8: General Debate

116th Session of the IOM Council
08-10 December 2025

Chairperson,
Director General, and
distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the OIC Group, I would like to congratulate the newly elected Bureau of this Council. We are looking forward to working closely with you in the year ahead.

The Group also extend support to the IOM and appreciate its leadership and the entire team for their continued dedication to facilitating pathways for regular migration, driving solutions to displacement and saving lives of people on the move.

The OIC Member States occupy a unique position as countries of origin, transit, and destination for migrants. Therefore, we have a shared interest in promoting regular, safe and orderly migration and preventing irregular migration.

Today's migration dynamics are shaped by intertwined global challenges, including escalating conflicts, widening socio-economic disparities, environmental challenges. These pressures have significantly reshaped migratory flows worldwide.

The Group believe that solution to these challenges does not lie in anti-migrant rhetorics but in the need to join hands for a robust international cooperation that ensure migration governance that benefit all. At the same time, we must not ignore threats emanating from irregular movement, smuggling of migrants and human trafficking.

Chairperson

Migrants make valuable contributions to the sustainable development and prosperity of both their countries of origin and destination.

In this regard, we underscore the importance of expanding safe, orderly, and regular pathways for migration. We call upon the IOM to enhance its support to Member States in developing such pathways particularly through strengthened labour mobility channels, capacity-building, skills recognition, and cooperative mechanisms that promote safe migration and reduce the risks of irregular migration. We further urge the IOM to assist states in countering irregular cross border movements, including through efforts to combat smuggling, trafficking, and exploitation of migrants.

Similarly, climate-related changing conditions constitute a growing concern for many OIC Member States, in this regard we commend IOM's work on internal displacement caused by climate change and ask IOM to continue to provide data and resources for resettlement and rehabilitation in post disaster situations, and expand collaboration with national disaster-management institutions, all of which are becoming increasingly important as climate pressures intensify.

Chairperson

We stand in solidarity with the IOM amid global funding scenario, and underscore the need for predictable, flexible, and sustainable financing to support the organization to deliver its mandate.

Recently, the OIC and IOM have strengthened bilateral cooperation by signing MoU to support the establishment of the IOM's Islamic Philanthropy Fund (IPF) and agreed on a Plan of Action (2025-2027) outlining practical activities to be conducted jointly for humanitarian assistance, capacity-building programs, advocacy and high-level consultations.

The OIC, through its General Secretariat, will also continue to work closely with IOM to promote safe and orderly migration, in accordance with the relevant Resolutions and decisions taken by the OIC's governing bodies.

The Group believes that reforms undertaken under the UN80 initiative or through internal restructuring must remain transparent, Member State driven, and reflective of equitable geographical representation.

The Group also reiterate that forced displacement of Palestinians is unacceptable. Their dignified, voluntary, and safe return must be ensured in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions. We call on the international community to uphold these principles consistently and decisively.

In conclusion, the Group reaffirm their determination to work closely with the IOM and all international partners to advance cooperative, fair, beneficial and forward-looking migration governance. Guided by the principles of justice, solidarity, and human dignity, we stand committed to ensuring that migration remain safe, orderly, and beneficial for all.

I thank you.