



**STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has long recognized the important role that well-governed migration can play to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19, stimulate strong socio-economic recovery, build more inclusive societies that protect human rights, be better prepared to address future crises. Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, this message remains as relevant as before.

The pandemic has reversed hard-won development gains and altered human mobility dynamics around the world. It has also highlighted and exacerbated vulnerabilities faced by migrants, especially migrant women. Communities around the world are now facing a multi-faceted economic crisis – including rapidly increasing food and fuel prices. Meanwhile, climate and environmental change continues to impact the lives and livelihoods of millions around the world – including through climate related disaster. We expect forced migration and displacement to increase in the coming years, while those migrants already impacted by pandemic will continue to be vulnerable.

Despite these challenges, migrants' important contributions to the COVID-19 pandemic response are a reminder of the positive role of migration for sustainable development. In fact, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be achieved without attaining safe, orderly, and regular migration – a message that emerged clearly at the first International Migration Review Forum, held this May.

Any plan to build back better must consider migrants as an essential component of the solution. Good practices developed during the pandemic must not be forgotten. States should build on the interconnections between migration, displacement, and sustainable development, and integrate them into policy strategies and international cooperation efforts. The international community should continue to pursue the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and harness the power of multilateralism to keep the achievement of the SDGs in sight.

The challenge ahead is significant. IOM is working tirelessly to support a swift recovery from the pandemic through direct assistance and programming for migrants, displaced populations, and the communities they live in, as well as providing technical advice to governments to advance integrated approaches for sustainable development and migration governance. In harnessing the potential of human mobility, there is an opportunity to build back better, and achieve sustainable development for all.