



Geneva, 27 April 2026

Subject: AL OTH 3/2026 – Joint Communication from Special Procedures
of the Human Rights Council

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence dated 27 February 2026, conveying the joint communication AL OTH 3/2026, addressed to IOM by the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights (“the communication”).

IOM welcomes the engagement of the mandate holders on the interlinkages between structural factors, human rights, and human mobility, including as these relate to adverse drivers of migration and displacement. IOM appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this dialogue and to provide the following general information regarding its mandate, analytical frameworks, protection approach and partnerships.

IOM’s approach to adverse drivers of migration and displacement

IOM’s work is grounded in its mandate to promote safe, orderly and dignified migration, while placing the rights and well-being of migrants at the centre of its operations. In this context, IOM’s analytical and programmatic approach is closely aligned with the framework set out in Objective 2 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), aimed at “minimis(ing) the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.” In line with this objective, IOM recognizes that migration is shaped by a complex interplay of economic, social, environmental and governance-related factors, including those that may affect the realization of human rights, in particular, economic, social and cultural rights. IOM’s analytical approach to these dynamics is further elaborated in its *Conceptual Approach on Drivers of Migration and*

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Displacement (2022), which defines drivers as a set of interlinking factors that influence an individual, family or population group's decision to move, operating along a spectrum between voluntary and involuntary movement.

Consistent with the GCM and its emphasis on evidence-based policymaking, IOM contributes data and analysis on migration drivers through, inter alia, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which provides timely and context-specific insights into mobility patterns and their underlying determinants. For example, the recent [DTM report on Cuban migration dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (regional snapshot covering January 2025 to February 2026) highlights that migration decisions are often influenced by a combination of economic pressures, reduced access to essential goods and services, and broader constraints affecting living conditions. These factors may intersect with limited access to regular migration pathways, contributing to increased reliance on irregular routes and, consequently, heightened exposure to protection risks.

Such findings reflect a broader evidence base underpinning GCM Objective 2, that indicates that adverse drivers of migration are often structural, multifaceted, and interconnected. These may include economic instability, reduced access to basic services, environmental pressures, and governance-related constraints affecting the enjoyment of rights. In certain contexts, such factors may be compounded by broader external conditions that shape access to resources, public service delivery, and economic opportunities, including through their impact on national and household-level capacities.

In this regard, IOM's analytical frameworks do not isolate single drivers, but instead examine how different structural factors combine to influence mobility decisions. Constraints that may affect access to financial systems, development resources or broader economic participation may therefore be reflected in IOM's analysis insofar as they contribute to reduced livelihoods, diminished access to essential services, and increased vulnerability. These dynamics are captured within existing analytical approaches to adverse drivers, including through the assessment of economic, social and governance-related conditions, rather than as a distinct or separate category. IOM's role in this regard is to support Member States and partners in better understanding how such interrelated factors shape mobility, and in designing responses that address both immediate needs and longer-term drivers, consistent with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.



Protection approach and human rights considerations

In all its activities, IOM is guided by its institutional [Approach to Protection \(2023\)](#), which is informed by and consistent with relevant international human rights law, international humanitarian law and other relevant legal frameworks, and reflects the Inter-Agency Standing Committee definition of protection. This approach underscores that protection is both an outcome and a process, requiring the systematic integration of protection considerations across all interventions. It further recognizes that migrants, including displaced persons, may face a range of protection risks, including risks of human rights violations, such as trafficking in persons, forced labour, gender-based violence, arbitrary or prolonged detention, refoulement, and barriers to accessing essential services, justice and legal identity.

IOM applies a rights-based approach across its programming, with a focus on ensuring that its activities contribute to the respect for, protection, and promotion of human rights without discrimination. In practice, this includes integrating protection considerations throughout the programme cycle, prioritizing safety and dignity, ensuring meaningful and equitable access to services, as well as accountability to affected populations, and supporting the participation and empowerment of individuals and communities. This approach reflects IOM's commitment to the centrality of protection and to supporting conditions in which individuals can effectively exercise their rights.

Importantly, IOM's protection framework recognizes that protection risks, including risks of human rights violations, are not limited to acute emergencies, but may also arise in contexts of structural vulnerability. Economic constraints, limited access to services, and reduced livelihood opportunities may contribute to increased exposure to exploitation, unsafe migration pathways and other forms of harm. Where individuals are affected by such conditions, including situations in which structural or external factors may constrain access to resources or rights, these may manifest in heightened protection risks and vulnerabilities.

As such, IOM's protection programming is grounded in protection analyses, including assessment of risks, vulnerabilities and capacities at the individual and community level. Protection needs are not determined by a single causal factor or migration category, but rather by the specific risks faced by individuals throughout the migration continuum. This includes identifying and responding to a range of risks of human rights violations, including barriers to accessing essential services or justice. Accordingly, IOM applies a consistent, risk-based and rights-based approach to protection across contexts, while ensuring that programming is responsive to the particular circumstances and drivers affecting migration and affected populations.



Engagement with international financial institutions

With regard to engagement with international financial institutions, IOM’s partnerships, including with the World Bank and other multilateral development banks, are primarily operational and technical in nature. IOM does not, as a general rule, receive direct financing from such institutions, nor does it participate in lending decisions, membership considerations or policy conditionalities. Rather, IOM provides technical support to Member States that are recipients of development financing, assisting in the implementation of projects aligned with national priorities, including those related to displacement, recovery, service delivery and migration governance.

Within this framework, IOM recognizes that broader macroeconomic conditions, access to resources and development financing environments may intersect with migration dynamics and, in certain contexts, with the adverse drivers identified under GCM Objective 2. IOM does not have any role in relation to financial governance of multilateral development banks. It contributes to system-wide efforts by providing evidence, operational insights and technical expertise to inform programme design and policy discussions, including in contexts where such factors may influence vulnerability, mobility decisions and protection outcomes. This engagement takes place through established coordination mechanisms and partnerships at country, regional and global levels, and is aimed at supporting coherent and context-sensitive approaches that address both the drivers and consequences of displacement.

Continued engagement and dialogue

IOM remains committed to supporting Member States in their efforts to uphold their responsibilities under international law to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all individuals within their jurisdiction. IOM also remains committed to ensuring that its own activities uphold the highest standards of protection and human rights, including through due diligence, risk analysis and continuous monitoring of programme impacts.

IOM welcomes continued engagement with the mandate holders and stands ready to further contribute to discussions on the interlinkages between structural drivers, human rights and human mobility, including as reflected in the Global Compact for Migration and related policy frameworks.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]
Amy E. Pope [Redacted]