Ms. Amy Pope  
Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)  

Statement on the launch of the UN-Water System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation

IOM welcomes the UN System Wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation (SWS) and the initial efforts of the Collaborative Implementation Plan (CIP). We are committed to supporting both the strategy and its implementation plan, recognizing their critical role in enhancing the delivery of sustainable and climate resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) solutions for migrants and displaced populations.

This commitment aligns with our mission to promote safe, orderly, and dignified migration. It directly supports IOM’s strategic objectives of Saving Lives and Protecting People on the Move and, Driving Solutions to Displacement, as outlined in the IOM Strategic Plan (2024-2028).

Specifically, WASH is essential to IOM’s objectives of ensuring safety and health during crises. Sustainable access to WASH addresses some of the root causes of displacement, stabilizing communities and preventing forced migration. Moreover, sustainable WASH access significantly enhances living conditions and promotes safety and dignity, making migration a choice rather than a necessity.

IOM’s comprehensive approach also reflects our commitment to addressing the immediate and long-term impacts of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation on water and migration. This further aligns with IOM’s commitments to the Water Action Agenda.

We believe the SWS represents a significant step forward in coordinating UN efforts. It offers a structured framework for clear actions, progress monitoring, and resource mobilization. IOM is committed to provide thought leadership for the finalization of the Collaborative Implementation Plan (CIP) through our focal points to UN-Water.

IOM will strive to align its upcoming strategies with the SWS, focusing on better policy coherence and integrating WASH within country and regional strategies. We recognize the importance of prioritizing WASH in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, as it is paramount to address essential needs, minimize the adverse drivers that compel people to leave, and support access to essential services.

Ensuring that no one is left behind is essential to the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. IOM remains dedicated to supporting this plan and contributing to sustainable WASH solutions for and with migrants and displaced populations and their host communities worldwide.