



AUSTRALIA

**International Organization for
Migration Council Meeting
88th Session
30 November – 3 December**

General Debate

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- Mr Chairman, I would firstly like to acknowledge the very positive work undertaken by IOM to address the full range of international migration challenges facing the global community, particularly in developing states' capacity to manage migration, but also in providing a forum in recent years for policy debate - the very sort of policy debate we have benefited from this week.
- Australia considers that this ^{NON-GOING} work establishes IOM as the pre-eminent world organization dealing with the full spectrum of non refugee migration issues.
- Australia continues to pursue and active and growing global non discriminatory migration program and an active program of humanitarian resettlement. We are a major purchaser of IOM's services worldwide in support of these programs.
- We have a ^{VERY} positive and productive relationship with IOM. Its key strengths include its responsiveness to States through the provision of efficient and affordable services. Its focus on strategic policy issues and promotion of managed migration, and its entrepreneurial style that provides an example for other international organisations.
- We note that IOM has ^{EXTENDED} spread its interests and activities into non-traditional areas on a fee-for-service basis. Australia believes that, in general, such activities should be viewed positively. They help to strengthen and renew the organisation. The spread of IOM's network positions IOM, now ~~or~~ ^{AND} in the future, to provide efficient and effective services to its members anywhere in the world.
- Mr Chairman, we would also like to commend the pivotal expert role that IOM has played in regional fora in terms of assisting the policy debate and in operational capacity building endeavours. Australia believes that regional initiatives are an excellent way to make practical progress on migration issues. In our own region, the Asia Pacific, the Bali Process has received strong endorsement for its emphasis on practical workshops. ^{PRACTICAL} These workshops have helped create an environment in which foreign, justice, law enforcement, and immigration ministries are increasingly cooperative, and effective, in combating people smuggling and trafficking. ^{OUTCOME}
- The Asia Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC) has also provided a forum for fruitful discussions on protection and other people movement issues. ^{in the Asia Pacific Region}

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- We direct our regional efforts through these mechanisms because of their usefulness in building understanding, capacity and cooperative action.
- We have seen from the debate this week that there are a wide range of migration related fora and activities currently contributing to the development of migration policy. The Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) is an important strand and Australia ^{is} pleased to participate by nominating a Commissioner with extensive background in managing migration. We look to the GCIM to make recommendations that will assist states to collectively benefit from increased good governance of migration.

of IOM activities
- However, in looking at the future good governance of migration, we do not think that there is enthusiasm or readiness, for either the development of new international legal norms to support international migration, or for the development of new UN institutions.

many states
- Mr Chairman, the focus of our international migration dialogue this week has been on valuing migration. In this regard it is important that we both increase the benefits and decrease the abuses that impact so heavily on migrants and states alike. Within this evolving context, we look to IOM to promote migration management; to use its expertise to help build effective responses to migration issues; to meet migration services' needs and to help build capacity, particularly at the regional level.
- As we have noted during the course of this meeting and in other fora, Australia strongly believes in the benefits of managed migration, and ~~has~~ ^{we have} one of the most coherent and well managed and monitored immigration programs in the world and is fully supported by comprehensive integration ^{activity} programs. It is a program that has worked well for Australia and for the millions of migrants we have welcomed.

these programs are
- Each State will however, decide how it will manage the entry and stay of non-citizens. The key is "management", so that migration works for the benefit of the migrant and the state. It is not about a "one size fits all" approach. A stronger emphasis on managing migration can ensure that the considerable economic, social and cultural benefits are reaped by more societies. We were pleased to provide funding to the "Essentials of Migration Management" Handbook provided to delegates today, as a sign of our commitment to these concepts.
- Australia undertakes considerable research to help us understand the impacts that migrants and humanitarian entrants are having on Australian ^{our} society and the extent to which they are able to benefit from their life in Australia. Significant data and statistical collections underpin the decisions made about future policy settings and allow us to clearly communicate the benefits of migration to Australian society.
- We can also demonstrate significant benefits from forms of temporary migration to Australia.

- Our economic data is supplemented by considerations of the social and cultural elements of migration including humanitarian migration. Immigration is part of the very fabric of Australia's identity. *SOCIETY CORE OUR WHOLE*
- Community harmony and support is an integral part of a State's capacity to run a migration program ~~in the national interest~~ – the more diverse the source of migrants the more important it is to actively work to sustain community harmony in the resultant multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. *that flows from migration programs.*
- In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like to reiterate the following key points:
 - (a) Australia firmly believes that migration can benefit both States and migrants, but in order for this to happen migration must be carefully managed.
 - (b) Management, or good governance of migration, involves a structured and transparent system that is based on research and consultation with stakeholders, and includes programs for integration of migrants and education of the community as a whole.
 - (c) Australia sees that IOM has a key role to play assisting states in the delivery of better managed migration in the coming years.

Thank you.