

IOM 106th Council – General Debate

Statement of the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany

Chair, Director General, Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will speak on behalf of Ambassador Rücker who unfortunately is prevented from addressing you today.

Germany aligns herself with the statement given on behalf of the European Union, including welcoming Ambassador de Crombrughe as our new Chair.

At the outset let me thank the Director General for having delivered an excellent report full of strategic wisdom seasoned with sufficient practical examples of the progress made. Due to your leadership IOM once again was able to keep track of the situation and was the prime service provider for migrants' needs.

IOM continues to be the key player in international migration governance, taking into account that membership now includes 162 states. We welcome the five new members Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, St. Kitts and Nevis, Republic of Kiribati, the State of Eritrea and St. Lucia to the IOM Council, as well as a number of new observers. You are joining a migration governance network which is unique. IOM is the driving force to better organize and appropriately deal with migration flows, and it is Germany's key partner in this regard.

Chair,

It is my pleasure to report that the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) started its work in Berlin, Germany, in September 2015. It is located at the existing Berlin IOM representation office in the city centre, close to governmental and research institutions. With five staff members at the moment, it is working to harmonize global migration data so that these data are better accessible and easy to use.

A first IOM Statistics Report is being prepared. Other concrete plans are the creation of a global migration database and the establishment of a

global migration data hub. Germany will provide the Centre with a fulltime JPO position as of 2016. I particularly highlight the implementation of a project of EASO, the European Asylum Support Office, to analyse the push and pull factors of asylum-related migration to Europe.

Mr. Chair,

despite the recent tragic events in France, Lebanon, Mali and other parts of the world, which bitterly reminded us of the imminent terrorist threat, the evolvments of 2015 have underlined the fact that organizing migration in a sustainable way remains the key challenge of our time. According to UN estimates, more than 3% of the world's population are international migrants. This figure will not shrink but increase. Migration is a factor that has become part of our societies and our public life.

However, with more than 800,000, and possibly up to 1 million asylum seekers expected to arrive this year, my country is facing an enormous political and social challenge. More than 78% of all arrivals in October 2015 were Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi nationals.

We have a humanitarian obligation to offer protection to those fleeing civil war in Iraq, Syria and parts of Afghanistan. Procedures based on the rule of law must be carried out swiftly in order to determine who qualifies for protection.

Processing applications as quickly as possible is our goal. Those who are entitled to stay, even temporarily, are invited to participate in integration measures as soon as possible. Those who do not qualify have to leave without delay.

Germany is in close contact with a number of countries of origin in order to remove obstacles in the readmission their nationals. Germany has stated her general willingness to support them in their efforts to reintegrate returnees into their societies and economies. In the European context, Germany actively advocates a common European refugee policy, including a fair distribution.

Mr. Chair,

The agenda of this Council includes the decision on a resolution giving the Director General a mandate to discuss with representatives of the UN ways to find a better legal basis for IOM's participation in major UN bodies and, very importantly, in the field, in the UN Country Teams. We support the resolution and wish you all the best for steering these negotiations on behalf of IOM and its Member States.

Let me thank in this regard the chair of the IOM UN working group, Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe, for his tireless efforts to channel sometimes diverging views into a common resolution text which has the potential to move this open question further.

For the record, Germany reiterates her position that we even could support going a step further – which is exploring forms of IOM becoming part of the UN system.

Mr. Chair,

Germany wholeheartedly commends the contributions and achievements of IOM in the field of migration and health. Let me also express our appreciation for issuing a Rev.1 of document C/106/INF/15/ in order to better reflect the role of WHO in this regard.

Before concluding, Mr. Chair, I note with great appreciation the establishment of a new division in IOM dealing with Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) and commend the excellent work it produced in the field of disaster and climate change displacement. This is great support for our common endeavors within the Nansen Initiative.

In conclusion, Germany reiterates her close relationship with IOM today and in the future.