



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
GENEVA

The 106th Session of the Council of the IOM
Agenda Item: General Debate
Geneva, November 25, 2015

Statement by the Representative of the Republic of Korea

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to you for assuming the chairmanship of this very important session. Let me also extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing Chair of the Council, Ambassador Sammie Eddico of Ghana.

I would also like to welcome 5 new member states and 9 new observers to the Council.

In addition, our appreciation goes to the Director General, Ambassador Swing who has successfully steered the IOM under the challenging and complex operating environment.

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I welcome the progress made in the implementation of the “2014-2016 budget-strengthening plan,” which will strengthen functions across all components of the core structure.

We also welcome the efforts of the IOM to expand its donor base. In particular, our delegation commends and supports IOM’s Private Sector Partnership Strategy. It is certainly vital to be able to tap into the enormous potential of the private sector. However, the private sector should not be seen as only a funding source, but as an equal partner. In this regard, I trust that the IOM is heading in the right direction.

Mr. Chairman,

As regards IOM-UN relations, we welcome the progress made by the Working Group after two years of deliberations. My delegation supports the

draft resolution which we believe provides a clear mandate and guidance for the Director-General. We hope that through the formal dialogue with the UN, the IOM would be better connected to and synchronized with the UN and the global agenda, including in particular the sustainable development goals, while at the same time retaining its core strengths.

Concerning the issue of human resources management, we would like to continue to emphasize two points:

- First, the IOM needs to work more to achieve gender balance at the senior managerial level. In this regard, we welcome the IOM's Gender Equality Policy for 2015 to 2019, and look forward to its successful implementation;
- Second, the IOM should take more proactive measures to improve the geographical disparities with regard to its international staff. On this matter, our delegation looks forward to discussing IOM's specific plan in the 18th SCPF in spring next year.

Mr. Chairman,

The unprecedented humanitarian challenges we are currently facing are, to a large extent, migration crises, as we witness not only in Europe but also in other parts of the world. To be clear, IOM's notable achievements in responding to these multiple crises deserve our special appreciation. In particular, we appreciate IOM's activities to evacuate stranded migrants from countries in crisis.

Along these lines, we welcome the IOM's humanitarian policy that sets out principles for humanitarian action. Our delegation hopes that IOM continues to conduct its humanitarian work in line with the IASC's statement on the "centrality of protection."

As a strong supporter of the IOM's humanitarian activities, the Republic of Korea has been steadily increasing its voluntary contributions to the IOM. This year, we have supported IOM's activities in Yemen, Vanuatu, Sudan and the Bay of Bengal.

Mr. Chairman,

The broad scope and complex dynamics of contemporary migration indeed present challenges. The Republic of Korea has recently experienced an unprecedented flow of immigration. Specifically, our country is witnessing an annual 10 percent increase pushing the number of expatriates residing in Korea to the level of 1.8 million. Currently, one out of ten new marriages in Korea involve persons of non-Korean origin.

It is critical to highlight that our government is firmly committed to accommodating and integrating immigrants into Korean society. To this end, the Korean government is currently implementing the 2nd “Basic Plan for Immigration Policy,” a 5-year master plan for the years 2013 to 2017 in order to coordinate various policies affecting immigration.

Mr. Chairman,

The world holds high expectations for the IOM. Importantly, the IOM should facilitate the orderly and proper management of international migration; promote cooperation and advance research on migration; support governments in coping with the complex migration challenges as well as maintain humanitarian assistance to the displaced. Doing all of these is indeed daunting.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm the strong support and commitment of the Republic of Korea to work closely with the IOM in all of its endeavors.

I thank you. /the end/