



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

106th Session of the IOM Council

-General Debate-

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Jānis Kārklīņš,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to United Nations Office in
Geneva

Geneva, 26 November 2015

Mr Chairperson, Director-General,

Latvia aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

At the outset, let me congratulate Ambassador of Belgium on his election to the chairmanship of the IOM Council. We also extend our warm welcome to IOM new members - Sao Tome and Principe, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Kiribati, Eritrea and Saint Lucia.

My delegation would like to thank Director-General Swing for his comprehensive report on the current situation of the organization and state of migration and reiterate our strong support and appreciation for his leadership and future plans during the times when there is an emerging need for all stakeholders to work jointly to address increasing migration related challenges.

Mr Chairperson,

We are witnessing a complex and dramatic situation when large groups of people flee from wars, conflicts, political oppression and poverty. International migration as a global phenomenon is growing in the scope, complexity and impact, thus demanding comprehensive and sustainable solutions. While ensuring protection of those in need remains a paramount task, the international community should tirelessly continue strengthening its efforts to fight against smuggling and trafficking of human beings and pay due attention to root causes of forced migration.

My delegation notes with appreciation the IOM lead activities and the capacity the organization possesses for rapid responses to the global challenges especially in relation to humanitarian emergencies. In this regard we particularly welcome continues dedication of IOM in raising the profile of gender based violence within the framework of humanitarian emergencies.

We note important role of the organization's humanitarian policy and therefore acknowledge necessity for "rapprochement" with the UN system. We believe that such coordination could further contribute to the effectiveness and the scope of the activities carried out by the IOM. In this vein, we welcome the resolution adopted by the Council and extend our support to the Director General in his discussions with UN. These talks first and foremost ought to focus on cooperation between IOM and UN on the ground and integration of IOM staff within the UN country teams in order to strengthen the core functions of IOM.

The inclusion of migration related targets in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a strong signal to take concrete action oriented decisions with a view to tackle the migration related challenges. We commend the initiative of IOM to contribute towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals over the next 15-years period.

Mr Chairperson,

We would like to reiterate that sustainable solutions cannot be found without strengthening cooperation between relevant stakeholders. The summit in Valetta has provided an excellent opportunity in this regard. Latvia welcomes the results of EU-

Africa summit on migration issues and believes that all parts of the Action Plan must be implemented with equal commitment from all stakeholders.

Mr Chairperson,

I will conclude by reemphasizing Latvia's strong support for IOM activities and reiterate that IOM's strength lies within its efficiency, responsiveness and rapidness of its action that in our assessment haven't been lost during the present time of challenges.

I thank you.

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