



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

G-15 Joint Statement
at the 107th Session of the Council of the International
Organization for Migration
Geneva; 5 - 8 December 2016

Mr. President

I have the honor to address this Council on behalf of the Member Countries of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries which seeks to promote South-South cooperation, with an emphasis on socio-economic progress and sustainable development.

We appreciate and would like to thank Ambassador William Swing, IOM Director-General, for his report on the work of the Organization in 2015. The G-15 Members recognize his esteemed leadership and assiduous dedication in leading the organization on international migration issues guided by the view of the continuity, coherence and change.

The world continues to face unprecedented challenges, an increased number of new and ongoing concurrent crises in which IOM plays a unique role in responding to the needs of people exposed and vulnerable to the impact of these global challenges from a human mobility perspective and contributes to enhance the system-wide support focused on leadership and coordination in order to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response efforts.

We are of the view that IOM's role on the human mobility dimension crisis can be enhanced in international arena and in this sense, G-15 welcomes entry into force of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations which made IOM part of the UN system as a related organization.

Mr. President

Our Group since 2013 has identified Migration and Development as one of four focus areas of cooperation and the IOM has emerged as an important partner as we strive to achieve our shared goals. The G-15 has been actively engaged with IOM during the last two years on several spheres. The G-15 took a leading role to facilitate a series of consultations in 2015 and 2016 between developing countries and International Organisations, particularly based in Geneva, to better understand the role of these Organisations in the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addition the G-15 and IOM are now cooperating to enhance capacities among our member countries. As a Group particularly seeking opportunities for South-South Cooperation, the Group deeply appreciates IOM's efforts to co-organize a workshop on the migration and sustainable development goals to be held in the first half of 2017. This initiative will allow experts from our countries to share experiences and build capacities on technical aspects of migration and development. Such practical and tangible cooperation has been welcomed by our membership and the G-15 looks forward to greater cooperation with IOM on a number of areas across the spectrum of migration.

Mr. President

The G-15 believes that international migration is a reality that can impact positively and negatively the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, and is a cross-cutting issue that involves economic, social, political, legal and cultural dimensions which should be seen together. Having such a multi-dimensional approach at the global level is absolutely essential to achieve a better understanding of international migration in the global economic discourse and within the development paradigm. This would also assist to mainstream international migration in the local public policy spheres. G-15 countries are therefore committed to work together at both the regional and international levels for achieving a comprehensive approach in this respect with a view to better address the issue of international migration.

The G-15 therefore hopes that this Council and the international community would approach migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner when it comes to the modalities of the intergovernmental process towards safe, orderly and regular migration with the aim of maximizing benefits of international migration while minimizing its costs.

We believe that IOM's vast experience and expertise will be instrumental towards this goal. We remain confident that the IOM will continue fostering dialogue and cooperation on migration.

Thank you very much.
