



Statement on behalf of the State of Israel

International Organization for Migration 107th Session of the Council General Debate

Statement to be deliver by Mr. Brian Frenkel, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Officer of the Permanent Mission of Israel

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to take the floor at this new session of the IOM Council.

At the outset, we would like to join others in welcoming (i) China, (ii) Solomon Islands, (iii) Tuvalu, and (iv) Tonga as new members of the Organization.

Also, we would like to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Quinn from Australia for his election as the new Chairman of the Council.

Mr. Chairman,

We are here celebrating the 65th year of the IOM, and as many others before us, Israel agrees on the fact that the organization has performed a formidable work, and it is based on that that it has become doubtlessly in the leading international organization on migration.

In this vein, we thank once again the Director-General for his leadership of the Organization, extending our appreciation to the IOM staff, for their constant work and dedication.

As the Director-General said in his report “Migration is a phenomenon that touches all of us”. We cannot deny this reality. Nonetheless, in the last years, the International Community has shown signs of reaction. We have witnessed and get involved in various parallel processes. And more are on their way.

Israel has actively engaged in this “migration structure”, as the Director-General has called it, and it is willing to deepen its commitment.

In this context, Israel reaffirms the great value it attaches to the close partnership with the IOM. We continue to collaborate with the IOM on a broad range of projects. For example, in his report the Director-General made a reference to counter-trafficking activities.

Thus, it is worthy to highlight the continued cooperation between IOM and MASHAV, Israel’s Agency for International Development, on capacity-building on human trafficking and diaspora engagement.

In this line, during last November, the 3rd International Seminar for Judges named “The critical role of the judiciary in combating human trafficking” took place in Haifa, Israel. It was organized by MASHAV, the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Minister of Justice of Israel and the IOM, among others. It targeted supreme court judges, active criminal judges and judges who lead judicial training activities within their own jurisdiction. It aimed to broadly disseminate knowledge and tools, to exchange experiences and ideas from the different perspectives of countries of origin, destination and transit; and to share Israeli and international experts' best practices, programs and methodologies.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel renews its commitment to work to improve the situation of migrants, to engage in the international process currently taking place, and to strengthen the cooperation with the IOM.

Thank you.