

Statement by the UN World Food Programme
on the occasion of the
107th IOM Council Session
Geneva, 08 December 2016

Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

The World Food Programme congratulates the International Organisation for Migration on its 65th birthday and in becoming a related organisation to the UN. We look forward to deepening our partnership and achieving greater levels of cooperation between our organisations both in the field during humanitarian emergencies and as we engage collaboratively to address global challenges.

I have no need to remind you of the number of people forcibly displaced and on the move around the globe; unthinkable, yet real in the 21st century. They find themselves in the hardest situations of armed conflicts, civil unrest, devastating droughts, and food insecurity. They need our assistance and protection.

This year's New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is a significant step in finding ways to provide the assistance and protection that migrants need and deserve. Migration is now front and centre as one of the greatest challenges of the modern era. We commend the work that IOM is doing in preparing the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration, and look forward to a positive outcome of the two-year process.

The synergy between the work of WFP and IOM is most evident at the field level. Our collaboration stretches across numerous regions – such as the Sahel for example – to assist IDPs, refugees and migrants as they are often more vulnerable to higher levels of food insecurity and malnutrition than the local communities. Climate change and climate events, such as El Niño and La Niña, trigger forced migration and create hunger emergencies, as we have witnessed in Southern Africa. Our work elsewhere with IOM in countries such as South Sudan and Jordan has demonstrated how our two organizations have effectively come together to respond to the needs of the affected populations.

We look forward to expanding on these efforts and taking our collaboration with IOM to new and greater heights.

Thank you.