

Check against delivery

**The 108th Session of the IOM Council
Statement by Ambassador Mitsuko SHINO
The Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva
Palais des Nations, Geneva (29 November, 2017)**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing my appreciation to Director General Swing for his strong leadership of IOM, with a priority on continuity, coherence, and change, and also for the continuous efforts made by IOM staff to support safe, orderly and regular migration.

In light of the changes at IOM, Japan highly appreciates the timely action taken by the former Chair of the IOM Council Bureau, H.E. Mr. John Quinn, to resume the Working Group on Budget Reform. While welcoming the Philippines as a new Bureau member, Japan will cooperate closely with the Bureau under Chile's leadership as the new Chair of the IOM Council Bureau.

Japan would like to join its member states in welcoming Cuba and the Cook Islands as IOM member states. We also welcome the participation of Kuwait, many UN agencies and other organizations as IOM observers. Their membership would, I am sure, further enrich the important activities of the organization.

Madam Chair,

The agreement signed between the UN and IOM at the United Nations Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants in September last year opened a new chapter in IOM's 66-year history. With this new status, IOM could enjoy stronger coordination and collaboration within the UN bodies, while retaining its unique strengths of independence, flexibility, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness, which Japan, together with its fellow member states, places great importance on.

One year after joining the UN system, Japan welcomes the fact that the IOM fully participates in the UN's decision making and coordination bodies such as the UN System Chief Executive Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies. While expecting IOM as a member of the UN system, IOM will draw on its field presence to support member states and other stakeholders in the achievement of the SDGs and the process of formulating the Global Compact on Migration. From this perspective, Japan supports the continuation of the Working Group on IOM-UN Relations as well as IOM Council draft resolution C/108/L/18.

We have recently been seeing an increased need for policy support from IOM in the decision making and coordination bodies within the UN as a result of IOM's joining the UN system. In this connection, the resumption of the Working Group on Budget Reform is a timely step in order to consider how to strengthen IOM's policy making capacity. Japan expects the discussions around this issue to be highly transparent.

Madam Chair,

The support provided by IOM to the co-facilitators, Mexico and Switzerland, and Ms. Arbour, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, has been very valuable in the informal thematic consultations on Global Compact on Migration. To date, a wide range of themes have been covered, but we expect that at the Mexico stocktaking meeting in December the points for further negotiations will be narrowed down to provide greater focus going forward.

The Chair's Declaration at the 13th ASEM Meeting (13th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting) (ASEM FMM13) (20-21 November in Naypyidaw, Myanmar) held in November underlined the need for enhanced collaboration toward drafting the Global Compact on Migration. From this perspective, Japan appreciates the meetings held in each region alongside the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) based on UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/280 for the important role they have played in identifying regional issues and strengthening regional initiatives.

Madam Chair,

As an IOM member state since 1993, Japan has worked together with IOM to

carry out assistance centered on the idea of human security to address the humanitarian crises in various parts of the world. In Japan we have also provided assistance for victims of human trafficking as well as third-country resettlement for refugees from Myanmar. IOM continues to be an important partner in these efforts.

Under the Japanese head of the IOM Tokyo Office, Japan highly commends the increasingly active work and functional management of the Japan IOM Office, including its follow-up on projects carried out with contributions from Japan.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.