



Statement by Sweden – IOM Council 108th Session 2017

Mr/Ms Chairperson,

[Sweden aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.]

Before making any other comments let me take this opportunity to express our deep concern over the horrifying reports of migrants being sold as slaves in Libya. Slavery has no part in our world.

Now let me thank Director-General Swing for his presentation, and reiterate Sweden's strong support and appreciation for his leadership of IOM, these past nine years.

It's been just over a year since the inclusion of IOM into the UN System. This has motivated us to analyze, discuss and re-examine the organization's role. Strategic and financial change is necessary in order to preserve IOM's essential characteristics, which we put great value on. In our view there is no contradiction between preserving the essential characteristics and at the same time developing the organization's knowledge generating-, policy-, and coordinating capacity. Sweden supports the development of this capacity through its softly earmarked contribution of 50 million SEK.

Last year- inspired by the Director General's use of alliteration – we highlighted three important “C’s” – Cooperation, Compact and Change. This year we wish to emphasize three important M’s: Migrants assistance, Management and Migration Compact.

Mr./Ms. Chair,

First, on migrants' assistance. More migrants and states rely on IOM for assistance. IOM's extensive presence and availability to respond quickly and effectively on the ground, is a great strength. We want to express support for IOM's flexibility and important work in humanitarian crisis and emergency situations. IOM's work in Libya and along the central Mediterranean route is key to improve the migration situation. We commend IOM for its work with voluntary return and for providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations in this region. This includes the approach to strengthen the consular capacity of countries of origin, in order to help stranded migrants.

Turning to my **second "M" as in Management.** The organization has continued to grow to respond to the needs of migrants and states. We commend IOM for its consistent progress in building capacity of core units since the start of the budget strengthening plan. Nevertheless the funding to IOM's core structure has remained relatively constant, irrespective of the growth of the organisation. We welcome the MOPAN-assessment that IOM is undergoing and hope that this can give guidance to IOM in strengthening its overall performance. Sweden, together with the Netherlands, are the institutional leads for this process.

The Grand Bargain commitment on less earmarked and more flexible funding, can guide us towards increased core funding to IOM. In return, and in line with the Grand Bargain commitments, IOM needs to be transparent towards its Member States.

We also call upon IOM to do an analysis on how recent and upcoming developments will have an effect on the future role of the organization. This analysis could include priorities, challenges and an outline of how a role of IOM in the follow-up of the global compact may look.

This leads me to **the third "M", Migration Compact.** We believe that IOM's extensive experience and expertise in all aspects of migration is instrumental to ensure an operational Global Compact on Migration. We welcome in this regard that IOM's additional input to the Secretary General's report on the Global Compact focused on actionable commitments.

We would like to see a central, coordinating and catalytic role for IOM in the follow-up of the Global Compact, while drawing on the mandates and comparative advantages of all relevant agencies. This includes ensuring that the expertise of other UN agencies in specific areas of migration is built upon. In the interest of migrants and of member states, we need to move away from the fragmented approach to migration and streamline migration in the UN and multilateral system. We hope that the UN takes full advantage of IOM's entry into the UN system to improve the coordination and coherence in the field of migration. We should build capacities and develop IOM's coordinating functions in parallel, not limit our vision of the future governance of migration based on the capacities of today.

Mr./Ms. Chair,

Let me conclude by reiterating Sweden's appreciation and support for the important role and work of IOM. We look forward to continued fruitful cooperation.

Thank you!