

ESTONIA
Statement delivered at the IOM COUNCIL 109th session
(27 November – 30 November 2018)

Thank you Mr Chair,

Estonia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union on behalf of its Member States and we would like to add some comments in national capacity as well.

Allow me to start by congratulating Director General Vitorino for assuming this extremely important job. I also wish to extend our appreciation for the comprehensive report you presented to the Council. In our view, it reflects very well the complexity of the global migration and the IOM's tireless engagement and dedicated response to those challenges.

Allow me to also welcome the Republic of Uzbekistan as a new member, and the IMF and International Emergency and Development Aid as new observers to the Council. I also would like to wish success to the new chair of the Council.

Mr Chair,

The work of IOM is truly commendable. I would like to reiterate our support to IOM as the global lead agency on migration.

Migration is our common challenge and it will remain one for the years to come. I believe everyone in this room agrees that in order to achieve concrete results, we need to continue to found our co-operation on principles of partnership, shared responsibilities and ownership.

There is still a lot to do. However, we must recognize also the progress that we have already achieved so far. We have heard many successful examples of that in this room during past few days. Nevertheless, we must continue to build our collective holistic and long-term approach to migration.

As migration is a complex and international phenomenon, we need good cooperation – cooperation with UN organisations as well as with partner states. We believe that better coordination and exchange of best practises give its contribution to more efficient migration management. Estonia therefore strongly supports the role of IOM as a coordinating body for the UN system in migration issues and welcomes the creation of the UN Migration Network.

Furthermore, we are convinced also innovative solutions contribute to more coherent, effective and efficient action. Innovation and digital solutions can help to create favourable conditions for economic development, generating jobs and employment opportunities, improving access to micro-finance as well education, especially among the growing population of young people. We are happy to share our best practices and experiences on e-governance. We believe, digital tools could have a valuable impact on addressing root causes for migration, including by contributing to the enhancing transparency and fighting against corruption.

Last, but not the least - we highly value good bilateral cooperation with IOM. Already since 2015 IOM has been helping us to implement one of the modules of the welcoming programme targeted to the beneficiaries of international protection. We also very much appreciate your expertise and support in setting up resettlement from third countries, as well as in assisting with voluntary returns.

We can assure that we will continue to be a constructive partner in migration issues, including contributing to the negotiations on the EU asylum reform, as well as remain true to our commitments.

Thank you for your attention!