

2007-11-29

Swedish statement at IOM Council meeting, 29 November 2007

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by thanking the Director General, Mr. McKinley, and the Deputy Director General, Mme Ndiaye, for their speeches. Sweden aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, but would like to make the following additional remarks on a national basis.

Mr. Chairman,

Sweden appreciates the always interesting and useful discussion of topical issues in the International Dialogue on Migration. We understand well the rationale for having this Dialogue in relation to the Council meeting. Having said this, and in light of ongoing efforts to improve the governing structures of IOM, Sweden would prefer a stronger focus on the Council meeting itself. We would prefer to have the Dialogue either before or after the Council meeting, and not, as is now the case, in the middle of it. The general debate of the Council deserves a more prominent place on the agenda of the Council meeting as does, e.g., a discussion on the programme for next year.

We should also look at how we can link the Dialogue closer to the Council and the deliberations therein.

Sweden welcomes the recently adopted IOM Strategy. It gives us a clearer definition of the role of IOM. In particular, we appreciate the new Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, that we believe will contribute to strengthening the governance structure of IOM. We all, IOM and member states alike have a responsibility to make sure that this new body becomes the vital, inclusive and transparent governing body that we firmly believe we need for IOM. Sweden very

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much hopes that the SCPF will thoroughly discuss not only the administrative matters that the SCBF used to dwell upon, but equally importantly, the policy and operational activities of the organization.

The brief discussions on the cluster approach and IOM's role in the One UN work at the first SCPF meeting were promising in this regard and these are good examples of topics to put on its agenda. We hope that these discussions will continue, and would like to suggest that e.g. the work of the GMG from an IOM perspective could be interesting issues for the SCPF to discuss as well.

Mr. Chairman,

IOM is at a sort of crossroads. After many years of discussions we agreed on a new strategy for the organization earlier this year, providing a framework for IOM's activities. The global attention to migration issues is growing, and clearly, IOM has an important role to play in contributing its expertise and experience to these intergovernmental global efforts. And next year the organization will elect a new Director-General. Sweden is looking forward to a transparent election process.

Thank you Mr. Chairman