



**Permanent Mission of Brazil  
Geneva**

71, avenue Louis Casaf - Case Postale 165  
1216 Cointrin - Suisse

96<sup>th</sup> Session

IOM COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL  
AMBASSADOR MARIA NAZARETH FARANI AZEVÊDO

General Debate

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and the new members of the bureau on their election and to congratulate Ambassador Javier Garrigues for all his accomplishments along this year. I would also like to take this opportunity to greet the Director General, since this is his first IOM Council, and wish him the very best of success ahead of the Organisation. Let me also express our gratitude to the Deputy Director-General for the outstanding work she has dedicated to the Organisation over the last 9 years. Finally, I want to extend a warm welcome to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, IGAD and December 18 as new observer delegations.

Brazil supports the statement made by the distinguished representative of Colombia on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

Discussions on migration should provide an integrated, holistic approach to migration, consider all the factors, as well as its diversified outcomes. It should be taken into account the interests of all countries involved with the issue. But, first and foremost, it should focus on the human rights and the well-being of the migrants themselves, no matter what their status.

Mr. Chairman,

As a country which has welcomed millions of immigrants who have greatly contributed to the development of our culture and economy and to the construction of a plural and diverse society, Brazil regrets the increase of restrictive measures towards immigrants. In our view, this concurs to creating negative perception of migration, which runs contrary to a desired reduction of the obstacles to the free movement and greater interchange of individuals.

The Brazilian Government categorically rejects any association between persons under irregular migratory situation and persons involved in criminal activities. These two situations are different and therefore must be addressed differently. For that reason, Brazil has increased cooperation with other countries to fight transnational crime and migration-related crime, seeking, on the other hand, to negotiate with these nations measures to guarantee the respect of the human rights and dignity of our nationals abroad.

Legitimate concerns of both migrant sending and receiving countries makes the imperative of human rights protection compatible with the need to repress criminal activities. It contributes to preventing the unwarranted association between crime and migration from obscuring the positive aspects of migration and its importance as a factor of development and closer relations between different peoples and cultures.

Mr. Chairman,

Migratory flows are a reflection of asymmetries in international social and economic relations. Massive emigration to developed countries is not only the result of individual choices; it is, above all, the consequence of the constraints imposed by global inequalities.

Lack of economic and social opportunities, as well as development disparities between different countries are the main causes of emigration. It is a shared responsibility that can only be addressed through the fostering of conditions conducive to the development of sending countries. As Minister Celso Amorim stated at the International Conference on Financing for Development, in Doha, measures should be bold and urgent.

Migration is not, therefore, a criminal problem, but mainly an economic, social and political issue which requires dialogue and cooperation to be overcome.

Mr. Chairman,

This Council is taking place at a particularly critical moment. The financial crisis is a harsh reality, many countries are already under economic recession. We cannot overlook the human dimension of the crisis.

As President Lula recently stated, the crisis cannot be regarded as a set of appalling numbers and statistics. It is, above all, a concrete menace to the lives of millions of women and men, their jobs, their income, their plans for the future. As a vulnerable group, immigrants are the first to bear the burden of this crisis, with direct consequences not only to them and their families, but to their countries of origin as well.

As it was rightly pointed out by the Director General, we need to make a concerted effort to prevent the risk of immigrants being singled out and stigmatized as to ensure that public perceptions of migrants are fair and balanced and that their human rights must be respected no matter what their condition in their country of reception.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman,

Brazil is strongly committed to overhauling and updating the multilateral system to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. You can count on our efforts to ensure that the world is better equipped to addressing this important component of globalization which is human mobility.

Thank you.