

## **Chair's "Bullets" on the General Debate**

### **100th Session of the IOM Council**

**7 December 2011**

- This Council meeting, the 100th in the history of IOM, marked the 60th Anniversary of IOM. It proved once more to be a venue for the international community to discuss international and national migration issues. The Council session was characterized by a record participation, with many delegations represented at ministerial or high political level, as well as by a record number of 14 States joining IOM as members at this Session, in addition to 5 new Observers. This is clear evidence of the importance States attach to migration issues. It also reflects States' recognition of IOM as the key global organization in the field of migration, and their appreciation of the work of IOM and the services it offers them with regard to migration management.
- The majority of Member States recognized the increasing role migration as a global megatrend already plays and will play in the coming years, as also pointed out by the Director General in his statement on seven key "migration drivers".
- While a number of delegations acknowledged the contribution of migration and migrants to the socio-economic development of countries, many expressed concern about growing anti-migrant sentiment and xenophobic behavior towards migrants, especially in times of economic downturns. It was emphasized that greater efforts are needed in order to dispel widespread public misperceptions about migrants. The World Migration Report 2011, launched at this Council Meeting, identifies the most prevalent challenges with regard to the perception of migrants, and provides recommendation for actions to be taken by the various stakeholders.
- Member States drew attention to the importance of respecting the human rights of migrants, especially through the use of relevant international conventions.
- The President of the General Assembly as well as a number of delegations referred to the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in the UN-General Assembly. IOM was encouraged to engage actively in the debate leading up to the Dialogue, to make its voice heard in the preparations and to share its rich experience and expertise.
- The SRSG on Migration and Development underlined IOM's unique potential to contribute to a cohesive response to migration challenges. Several delegations welcomed IOM's participation at different migration platforms such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD),

the Global Migration Group (GMG) and Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), and they encouraged IOM to continue to support these processes. IOM's close cooperation with other UN agencies was welcomed by a number of States and IOM was called upon to continue strengthening its partnerships with UN agencies and other relevant actors.

- A number of delegations pointed out that IOM's unique strengths lie in being a responsive, adaptable and flexible partner.
- Member States congratulated IOM on its humanitarian operations and on its emergency response activities in the course of this year in particular. In this regard, a large number of Member States welcomed the adoption of the Resolution on the establishment of an Emergency Funding Mechanism. Several delegations pointed to the nexus between climate change and disaster induced displacement and the challenges resulting therefrom for migration.
- A number of States underlined the importance of migration and development and drew attention to the renamed 1035 Facility, now called the: *Developing Capacities for Migration Management Fund*. The Director General was confident of increasing the fund to 10 Mio. USD in the coming year.
- Several delegations appreciated the work of the Working Group on Budget Reform and encouraged it to actively pursue its deliberations in order to provide options for a more sustainable administrative budget. Outreach to non-traditional, new donors and the private sector was encouraged by many delegations.
- The opportunity to listen to migrants' voices was particularly appreciated. There was clear recognition of the need to listen more attentively to both their success stories and to the difficulties they encounter. Giving them a stronger, clearer voice at national and international levels was identified as a priority assignment for the international community.