



BELARUS

**International Organization for Migration
Hundredth session of the Council**

General Debate

**Statement by
Representative of the Republic of Belarus**

7 December 2011

Mr. Chairman,

This anniversary session of the Council is marked by impressive developments in the IOM work as a primary result of utmost efforts taken by the Administration. The major reforms of human resources, budget and structure, undertaken in the last years, were met with a restrained optimism and even with some caution at their very beginning. There was a complex task to be tackled jointly by the Administration and the Membership. We commend the transparent and inclusive manner in which the reforms were carried out.

Today while generally observing the changes made in the Organization as positive ones, a long-standing impact of these changes on the IOM future is yet to be assessed later on. In our view, the main criterion for the evaluation of such changes should be the effectiveness of the Organization, including its ability to address migration challenges, especially emergency situations, in a timely and efficient manner, as well as to further strengthening national potentials of Member States in the sphere of migration.

IOM, indeed, stands today the leading international organization on migration issues and we commend the Director General's aiming at further strengthening the IOM credibility and reinforcing the trust of Member States. The membership of the Organization is increasing each year. This hopeful trend for the IOM universalization is a significant one and it proves the growing trust of Member States.

We support the Administration's aspirations to have more flexible mechanisms allowing the use of IOM funds according to top priorities and urgent needs. In this context we can not but firmly support the numerous appeals to donors made by the Administration regarding the need for increase of unearmarked voluntary contributions. We welcome the Director

General's aim to increase the next year the 1035 Facility funds even more. It will be an essential task in the coming years taking into account the growing interest of Member States to the 1035 Facility. This is the important mechanism, which allows IOM to provide quick support for project activities in developing states and states with economy in transition.

Our delegation notes with satisfaction the progressive outcomes of the Working group on budget reform. We consider among them the establishment of a Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism, aiming at reinforcing IOM's operational and emergency response capacity, as a crucial one.

Mr. Chairman,

As for the future role of IOM, we would like to underline the importance of its counter-trafficking activity and even urge the Administration to pay more attention to it. Trafficking in human beings remains the major challenge in the context of illegal migration. We commend active contribution of IOM in the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and its most welcomed participation in the meetings of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, including the recent one held in New York. As a current coordinator of the Geneva Group of Friends, which was established in May this year, Belarus is pleased to reiterate the Group's determination to strengthen collaboration with the Administration on human trafficking issues, especially for assisting IOM in contributing in the effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

We also urge the Administration to think on how the current evaluation of the effectiveness of the work of regional and country offices could be further improved and accommodate views of Member States. In our view it should include, inter alia, such criteria as the quality of project activity and the effectiveness of fundraising.

Belarus closely cooperates with IOM at the country level. In particular, we appreciate IOM valuable support of the International Training Center on migration and counter-trafficking in Minsk and we look forward to broaden this cooperation, especially with regard to regular training courses for government officials from interested states.

Thank you.