

Speaking Notes for
The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

At the 100th Session of the
International Organization for Migration Council

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Good morning, ladies and gentlemen [*acknowledge dignitaries as appropriate*].

On behalf of the Government of Canada and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, I'm honoured to join you all as we come together to commemorate the work of the International Organization for Migration over the past 60 years.

Canada is grateful for the valuable work undertaken by the IOM, which is one of the Government of Canada's key partners, and the foremost international organization devoted to migration.

Today, as we mark the 60th anniversary of the IOM, the organization's commitment to the principle of orderly migration benefits remains as vital as ever.

As we watch events unfold around the world, we can see quite clearly that international migration is growing in volume and complexity. We can see that the globalization of labour markets, demographic pressures, political suppression of basic freedoms, and natural and man-made disasters continue to drive key trends in global migration.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Director General for his effective administration and governance at the IOM.

As you know, the IOM has recently undergone an impressive restructuring process which has been successful in responding to rapid growth in the organization's membership and staff over the last decade. As a result, the IOM's structure is now highly decentralized, with the vast majority of staff – over 95 % – located in the field.

This provides a positive model for achieving efficiency and effectiveness in operations, which is especially important in this time of fiscal restraint.

Considering the ongoing global financial crisis, Canada appreciates that the assessed contributions for member states have remained at zero nominal growth for two years in a row. We recognize this policy as an example of excellence in financial management.

Compte tenu de la crise financière qui se poursuit partout dans le monde, le Canada se réjouit de l'absence, ces deux dernières années, de toute croissance nominale des contributions évaluées pour les États membres. Il s'agit là pour nous d'un exemple d'excellence en gestion financière.

Nous reconnaissons aussi la capacité qu'a l'OIM de répondre efficacement aux urgences humanitaires. Par exemple, en réaction à la crise en Libye, le Canada a offert 10,6 millions de dollars à titre d'aide humanitaire, dont 3,5 millions de dollars à l'OIM. Cette somme a contribué au

rapatriement dans leur pays des travailleurs migrants déplacés par les combats en Libye.

Le Canada et l'OIM ont travaillé ensemble avec succès dans de nombreux dossiers. En 2010, nous avons fourni 24,7 millions de dollars à l'OIM pour financer des projets, et la liste de nos collaborations ne cesse de s'allonger, qu'il s'agisse, pour n'en nommer que quelques-unes, de mettre sur pied des centres de réception des demandes de visa, d'offrir aux réfugiés que nous réinstallons des services d'examen médical, de counselling et de transport, ou d'exercer une surveillance à la frontière et contre la fraude.

We welcome the IOM's approach to promoting managed migration and international cooperation on migration issues, and contributing to the development of practical solutions to our common problems.

As a supporter of the Bali Process, the IOM is our partner in working to improve cooperation among regional law

enforcement agencies to deter and combat human smuggling and trafficking in persons. I would specifically like to highlight the IOM's anti-trafficking projects which put a particular emphasis on prevention programs and direct assistance to victims.

In closing, I would like to say that the sheer number of people on the move around the world today demonstrate the need to manage global migration in a coherent and organized manner.

In this context, countries will look more and more to the IOM for its expertise and assistance. Canada recognizes the benefits of having an organization that addresses this issue of migration from a global perspective, and we look forward to continuing our productive work with the IOM in the years to come.