

IOM Council
HUNDREDTH SESSION

Geneva, 5 – 7 December 2011

Statement
by
Mrs Cornelia Pieper
Minister of State
German Federal Foreign Office

Mr Chair, Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Germany would like to associate herself with the statement made by the European Union and also to welcome the new Member States of the IOM.

First of all, let me again express our appreciation of the Director-General's management of the IOM as a member-owned organization. Under his leadership, the IOM's reputation and the perception of its work have reached unprecedented levels, a fact which is also reflected in the significant increase in the organization's membership over the past few years.

We thank DG Swing and DDG Thompson for their persistent commitment to implementing structural reforms in their organization. The new structure will allow the IOM to act both more effectively and more efficiently, the latter being of particular importance in times of challenging economic situations like those we face today. Also, Germany would like to thank the Director-General for having taken this into account when preparing the budget for 2012. It is of great importance that the Working Group on Budget Reform continues and boosts its efforts to find durable solutions for a solid funding of the IOM's core structure. Germany will continue to contribute constructively to the Working Group's efforts.

Mr Chair,

Germany commends the IOM for its fast reaction to and thoughtful management of the migration movements subsequent to the Libyan crisis. Germany has substantially supported the IOM with the evacuation of persons in need from Misrata to Benghazi and with the provision of humanitarian aid to Misrata. Further, Germany has supported the IOM in the voluntary return of Chadian nationals from Libya to their home country.

The establishment of a Migration Emergency Fund Mechanism, which Germany explicitly welcomes, will enable the IOM to react even faster to such developments in the future.

Mr Chair,

On the occasion of this Council, we are also celebrating the 60th anniversary of the IOM. Germany has been a member of the IOM since 1954 and is the third-largest contributor. With its expertise and decades of experience in the area of migration management, the IOM is an important partner for Germany. Let me mention the 30 years of continuous and fruitful cooperation with the IOM in the area of assisted voluntary return and repatriation from Germany to the respective home countries, but also the relocation of 2500 Iraqi refugees from Jordan and Syria to Germany completed last year.

In the past few years and especially following the humanitarian crises in Haiti, Pakistan, North Africa and other regions, the world has seen large migration movements. These are evidence of the need for an effective management of migration flows. Also, the political importance of migration, the public awareness of it and the links with other policy areas have been growing steadily.

Germany commends the IOM for its support for the work of the Global Forum of Migration and Development, which has evolved into a truly global platform for an informal exchange on issues of migration and development between governments with the active participation of international organizations.

This calls for a holistic and coherent approach to migration management, not least at national level, as well as for intensified cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination. The IOM, with its global focus on and unmatched experience in migration management, is better able than any other international organization to meet the needs of its member states in this regard.

Against this background, I am pleased to announce that a Declaration on Cooperation between the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the IOM was signed in Berlin in August this year. With this Declaration, Germany and the IOM will continue and deepen their partnership, which has now lasted for more than 50 years.

Thank you, Mr Chair