

60th Anniversary of the IOM

H.E Ambassador Swing, Director General of the IOM,

**Sir Peter Sutherland, Special Representative for Migration and
Development for the United Nations Secretary general,**

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies, Heads of Delegations and Permanent Missions,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **We were presented this morning with the vision of Ambassador Swing and of his team on how Migration is likely to evolve in the 21st Century; what the likely responsibilities of stakeholders would be and how the IOM would be positioning itself to address the challenges that lie ahead. We would like to commend you, Director General, as well as your team for having a hands-on approach and a long term view of things.**
- **Let me also congratulate the IOM on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. Sixty years of achievement as the only organisation with a global mandate on migration. And 60 years of a rapidly growing membership. In this context, I would like to welcome the thirteen new Member States and the Holy See which joined the IOM yesterday. Most of them are small and vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Most of them are members of the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, the ACP group to which Mauritius also belongs.**

- **As Government membership has become more universal, now grown to 146, the IOM has simultaneously made significant efforts to consolidate relations with civil society.**
- **Whilst Governments remain the first stakeholders of Migration, it is necessary that all other stakeholders support Government's efforts with a view to improving migrant welfare. This also means bringing together the regional consultative processes, the International dialogue on migration led by the IOM and the Global Forum on Migration and Development to ensure a comprehensive view and a broad-based approach.**
- **As the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said at the opening of the High Level Dialogue in 2006,**

" Each of us holds a piece of the migration puzzle, but none has the whole picture. It is time to start putting it together".

- **And in the build-up to the United Nations Second High Level Dialogue in 2013, we must combine our efforts to do exactly that.**
- **A few days ago, Mauritius committed itself to hosting GMFD 2012. As a small island developing state which joined the IOM in 2006, our decision to host GFMD 2012 was not made easily given the financial and logistical implications. But it was a decision made readily, motivated by our trust in the GFMD process; by our wish to give Africa a stronger voice for no African nation had yet had the opportunity of**

hosting the GFMD and thirdly because Mauritius is itself a country of migrants made up from flows from Africa, Asia and Europe.

- We know that as the world gets increasingly globalised, migration will remain a key issue of the 21st century and that this will inevitably assume higher policy and strategic significance for States.
- As the recent economic crisis has shown us, as power shifts, mobility trends will be affected. In the coming decades, those who receive may become senders and those who send may start receiving. Many will probably emerge in the triple role of being countries of transit, destination and sender countries as millions migrate or are displaced for economic or environmental or as a consequence of conflict situations. Africa has had more than its share of migrants resulting from conflict situations and is well placed to contribute to the debate on this issue.
- To-day, we are confronted with multiple questions on migration, and notably whether we have been able to:
 - (i) to address the multidimensional nature of international migration and in so doing promote balanced and comprehensive approaches
 - (ii) to succeed in integrating development issues in a more coherent way

(iii) to examine the regional aspects of international migration so as to provide the missing link between national and global initiatives

(iv) to constructively and collectively approach interaction gaps in both the sending and receiving States

- **In taking over the position of Chair-in- Office of the GFMD process, Mauritius wants to build on previous achievements in Brussels, manila and Athens. It will consult extensively and would like, through a collective approach, to further consolidate the concept of shared responsibility introduced by Mexico and the planning tools such as Migration Profiles and the Global Migration Handbook brought to the fore by Switzerland.**
- **At the core of this approach will be the development dimension and migrant well-being. For those in the room who may not have been at GFMD last week, let me recall that Mauritius has already initiated its consultative process on the themes for GFMD 2012 through the posting of a Concept Note on the GFMD website. This will be refined in the light of feedback from Member States and the refined document will be considered during a brainstorming process in Mauritius on 18 January 2012 with governments. This will be followed by a similar exercise with civil society and international organisations on 19 January. All Governments who so wish may attend the 19th January consultation. The main purpose of these consultations is to prepare for**

the Steering Group and Friends of the Forum Meeting on 6 and 7 February.

- **We trust that with the support of all stakeholders, we will be able to move the GFMD process in the same efficient manner that preceding hosts have done.**
- **Let me seize the opportunity of being within the IOM fold to very sincerely thank the IOM for hosting the GFMD Support Unit, for the IOM's always forthcoming assistance to the GFMD process and to its Chairs. We look forward to a continued constructive dialogue with the IOM and with all Member States and other stakeholders to advance the migration issue, particularly in the context of the UN Second High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.**

Thank You.

Geneva

6 December 2011