



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**Norway**

**delivered by Ambassador Steffen Kongstad,  
Permanent Representative to the UN**

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Mr Chair,

Firstly, we wish to welcome the new member states and observers.

We would also commend the Director-General for his leadership of the organisation and to express our appreciation to the staff of IOM for their dedication, the results delivered on the ground and thank the staff here in Geneva for their openness and accessibility. We welcome Ambassador Strohal as chair of the IOM Council.

The Director General has made a comprehensive report and presentation to the Council. We appreciate his focus on two key questions that we need to continue to actively address. The first question relates to the future of migration and the need to discuss the multilateral framework, and models for future international cooperation. Here we see partnerships, efficiency and effectiveness as key. The other question relates to how we approach migration issues. We strongly support the work to increase our knowledge in order to have a facts based approach, together with strengthened and adequate responses on the ground.

IOM is a leading organisation with a global focus on migration management. This 100<sup>th</sup> IOM Council marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organisation. It provides an opportunity to take stock and, more importantly, to look at opportunities and challenges ahead. The awareness of the growing importance of migration and its cross cutting nature has increased over recent years. Migration will continue to be an issue in connection with other global and multilateral issues as climate, health, labour and human rights. Migration has by nature cross national and cross regional implications that requires the active involvement at many levels by a variety of actors and entities.

The work done by IOM is important both for the countries of origin, the receiving countries and the migrants themselves. In this regard we appreciate the IOMs efforts to further develop the organisation to be able to effectively respond to future demands.

Norway support IOM's structure reform. We are satisfied with the conclusion of the restructuring process. Further implementation of the reform, including the strengthening of

the regional level is important. IOM has commendably managed to avoid growth of the administrative part of the budget. However, we recognise that this is a burden to the administration. Additional financial contributions to secure stable and predictable funding of IOM's core administrative structure must be explored and we encourage IOM to continue to identify new donors and partnership models.

Mr. Chair,

IOM was instrumental in the evacuation of third-country citizens from Libya and North Africa. These operations took place in a difficult situation and we made substantial financial contributions to IOM's operations. We did so in recognition of IOM's competence and capacities. We have also noted the seamless cooperation between IOM and UNHCR.

Increasingly the challenges of migration and mobility management demand rapid and effective response from operators and donors in providing the means to deliver. In Africa, migration crises unfolded simultaneously in several countries. Capacities to respond timely to crises situations where migration is a key element need to be strengthened. We therefore support the IOM Resolution on the establishment of an emergency migration funding mechanism. At the same time we expect IOM to continue to support the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Humanitarian Coordinators at field level.

Mr. Chair,

We appreciate IOM's work on gender-issues and welcome that the organisation has a clear gender policy and is actively engaging in implementing this policy. There is still work to do, but it is our understanding that the Director General and his staff are taking the necessary responsibility to keep this high on the organisations agenda.

Mr. Chair,

IOM is the major partner of Norway in the fight against human trafficking world wide. Against this background Norway took the initiative to an evaluation of IOM's efforts to combat human trafficking. We notice with satisfaction that the recommendations have been reflected in the work plans and policies of IOM.

Mr. Chair,

The preparations for the upcoming UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Migration in 2013 will be an important process towards conclusions and recommendations to effective institutional and policy response. The participation and engagement of IOM in the High Level Dialogue is essential.

We support IOM in further strengthening its cooperation with all relevant UN agencies as UNICEF, OCHA, ILO and UNODC. We look forward to continue and develop our partnership with IOM in order to better respond to migration challenges in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.