



UK Mission
Geneva

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100th Session of IOM

09 December 2011

UK delivers statement at the 100th Session of the International Organisation for Migration Council, commending the IOM for its constructive response to the UK's Multilateral Aid Review.



UK Statement at IOM Council, December 2011

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to take the floor at this 100th Session of the IOM Council. The UK fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Let me begin by extending my thanks to the Director-General for his leadership and direction of the organisation. We welcome and continue to support his efforts to enhance the IOM's overall effectiveness. On behalf of the UK I would like to commend also the IOM staff for their dedication and hard work, often in very difficult or dangerous situations. And we join others in welcoming the countries who have just become members of the organisation.

Mr Chairman,

The UK highly values its close partnership with the IOM, which covers a broad range of areas from returns projects to refugee resettlement in the UK, to combating trafficking, and humanitarian work. Much of this work is undertaken in close partnership with other IOM Member States. Just a few of the many examples include working in partnership with the IOM and the governments of Greece and Turkey to support Assisted Voluntary Return programmes for migrants in those countries; co-funding with the Australian government a community action project in Sri Lanka; and working with the IOM to provide post-arrival assistance and reintegration programmes in Afghanistan. The UK has also been a strong supporter of the IOM's efforts to repatriate Third-Country-Nationals from Libya earlier in the year, and like others we highly commend the IOM for its rapid and effective response to the migration emergency we saw in that region.

The UK believes that the IOM's strength lies in its approach to operational service delivery, with its flexible and rapid response capacity. Its experience in the field allows it to develop high quality migration management and capacity building projects that are of benefit to all Member States, whether they are destination, transit or origin countries for migrants. The UK encourages the IOM to further consolidate its position as a leader in this field.

The UK has been a firm supporter of the restructuring and reform process undertaken by the Director-General and Deputy Director-General. The field-level reorganisation, as well as human resources reforms will lead to the development of a stronger, leaner, and even more flexible organisation.

The UK commends the IOM for its constructive response to the UK's Multilateral Aid Review. We have had a close dialogue with the IOM following that review, and have agreed a number of areas for further strengthening of the organisation, in line with the IOM's own priorities. These include: strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacity, strengthening the IOM's cluster leadership role in humanitarian emergency situations, and continued focus on operational service delivery.

Mr Chairman,

In the context of the ongoing extremely difficult global economic climate, the UK is having to take tough measures to control and reduce public spending. The UK's lead agency on migration, the United Kingdom Border Agency, will be reducing its budget by up to 20% over the next four years, which will mean tough choices on expenditure affecting all parts of the agency, including a reduction in staff numbers. The UK will also expect the partners we work with to be actively ensuring value for money and efficiency. In this context we welcome the decision of the IOM to put forward a Zero Nominal Growth administrative budget for 2012-13 and would encourage the organisation to continue to prioritise and ensure efficient as well as effective delivery of its services.

The UK recognises the challenges that a ZNG budget entails, and has been participating fully in the discussion on budget reform. We fully support the proposals of the Working Group to make new members' contributions additive to the assessed budget, and to establish an emergency migration funding mechanism.

Mr Chairman,

We appreciate this opportunity to take part in the discussion of the current and future challenges faced both by the Organisation, and by its members. I would like to conclude by thanking again IOM staff around the world for their continued commitment to delivering for the organisation in often demanding conditions.

Thank you.